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Neighbourhoods and Communities

Warrington Borough Council

Warrington Community Researchers

- Initially established to support the delivery of area working and neighbourhood management.
- It was recognised that high quality community engagement and participation was essential in the development and delivery of neighbourhood area plans.
- In 2009 WBC commissioned Mind the Gap to train 20 residents in Participatory Appraisal.
- In 2010 WBC secured funding from NWTWC. Members of the group undertook a 'training the trainers' course and established a social enterprise within the Orford Neighbourhood Project. (TONP)

Warrington Community Researchers

- Participatory Appraisal Warrington (PAW) established 2010.
- PAW received initial research commissions from WBC, Golden Gates Housing and Sure Start.
- Further funding received from NWTWC to purchase VOXUR video recording equipment and undertake a shared learning opportunity with partner sub regional authorities.
- Equipment used by PAW and partners as a research tool.

Commissions

- Surestart – Why don't local residents in the most deprived area use the centres?
- Golden Gates Housing – 800 properties consulted on physical improvements to exteriors
- Job Centre Plus – 'Work Clubs' What services and activity should take place in a local work club?
- WBC Place Survey – 300 questionnaires completed in inner wards.

Outcomes

- Twenty members of the community actively involved in the social enterprise.
- New cohort of residents awaiting training.
- Neighbouring authority requesting PAW to deliver Participatory Appraisal training course in four communities and establish community researchers.
- Genuine high quality engagement with residents.