

Streetwatchers scheme wins award

A scheme where volunteers work with Brent Council to fight environmental crime in their local neighbourhoods is celebrating ten years of success.

The Streetwatchers scheme was first set up in 1999. There are now 197 members spread across the borough, acting as the 'eyes and ears' of the council.

They give up their own time on a voluntary basis to report environmental problems in their neighbourhoods. Many Streetwatchers have also worked with the council on other projects designed to improve the borough.

The council today thanked the volunteers for all their hard work and paid tribute to what they had achieved.

Cllr Daniel Brown, Lead Member for Highways and Transportation at Brent Council, said: "On behalf of Brent Council and local people, I want to thank Streetwatchers. They work really hard and show tremendous community spirit.

"They play a crucial role in helping the council reduce the amount of flytipping and graffiti locally and ensuring our streets are cleaner than they have ever been. Many have also become community champions, ensuring that the views of local people are heard and helping make Brent cleaner greener and safer."

Brent's Streetwatchers scheme was one of the first in London, and has since been copied widely.

The volunteers are asked to report problems to the council such as:

- * overflowing recycling banks
- * flytipping
- * graffiti
- * dirty streets
- * abandoned vehicles.