



Maidenhead - Woodcote



"The biggest problem is getting around to doing the work; we needed a solution where we could all take part and help"

"We found the solution we wanted which did not require any special computer skills and we could all help"



The Challenge

'I had been a Neighbourhood Watch street co-ordinator for a number of years before the internet arrived. After ten years about half of my neighbours in Woodcote were connected and I wanted to build a simple website to pass small items of information around without having to do a manual post-drop to every house every time. This meant that for those with the internet I could provide a lot more with little extra effort.

We also wanted to be able to share information but I was the only one with access to the name and address list so we decided to look at alternatives. We wanted a system which we could all use easily and be able to distribute information quickly among ourselves.

The basic requirements we chose were:

- News Page
- e-mail capability
- Names and addresses

Today only two houses are still not connected. For the remainder the system is now our online community where we share ideas about things such as the street party and local developments.

Project Details

There are 24 houses in Woodcote which is located close to the centre of Maidenhead. It is mixed residential including families with young children, working couples and retired people.

With quite friendly neighbours there is always something happening which might be of interest to everyone but, because of typical British reserve, there is a need for someone to organise events which get everyone to know one another.

We had a new neighbour who organised the first of the very successful street parties and now they have become a regular occurrence and are posted on our news pages along with some great photographs.

If anyone wants a tool, a ladder or a helping hand then a quick message can be sent around the neighbourhood – its amazing what turns up!

Entering information is easy- we only require the house number and the e-mail address.

As a result the efforts of the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator have reduced to only a few minutes work each month.

Our committee pay £25 per year for the hosting service happy in the knowledge that we have not spent that on printed paper and shoe leather!

Objective Internet the Objective Choice

Conclusion

"We tried a variety of solutions; this seems to suit us best"

The major benefit is easier communications with 23 houses in the street. Ringmaster messages and sheets are only required to be hand-delivered to two addresses.

Although we need only their house number and an e-mail address, our members can add more personal information and become better known. They have complete control on their stored details and can make their own changes.

We have added the local councillors to our contact list so they are aware of our activities and can give us their views where they can make a contribution.



To visit Woodcote web pages go to.
www.activityForum.co.uk/clubs/woodcote

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