

## COMMUNITY

### Kidsgrove Town Council

## Improving Our Environment – The Kidsgrove Ranger

With the creation of Kidsgrove Town Council's first five-year plan in 2018, the Council resolved to improve not just the appearance of the Town Centre, but to give the population a renewed pride in all of its villages across the whole of the Parish of Kidsgrove.

In June 2018, Kidsgrove Town Council engaged with the local second tier authority, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, to explore the possibility of engaging additional time for cleaning of both its urban and rural areas after residents had start to complain about the appearance across the Parish. As discussions progressed, it became apparent that Kidsgrove needed more than a street cleaner, it needed someone willing to go that extra mile.

### What we did

The Town Council worked with the "Green Team" at Newcastle Borough Council to identify an operative who would not only sweep and generally clean the local Town Centre but someone that would be able to take on additional tasks such as clearing fly tipping, liaising with local community groups and working with schools to establish a pride in our local community. After an extensive search, Kidsgrove Town Council was delighted to second 'Mark' from the Borough Council to become the Town Council's first "Kidsgrove Ranger".

### What happened

Mark quickly established long lasting connections with various community groups (including the Covid-19 Vaccination Team) not only across the Parish, but wider a field venturing into Stoke on Trent and Newcastle under Lyme amongst other places. He also established a local media profile which not only allowed him to show the positive effects he was making in the Parish but also allowed residents to interact with him on a daily basis.

As well as establishing an established pattern of cleaning across the Towns and Villages on a fortnightly basis, the Town Council also established a phone number where residents could update the Council on areas of concern and after early reticence, the Park Ranger is now active across the whole of the Parish on a daily basis.

During the planting season, Marks turns his attention to bolstering the appearance of our Town and villages centre, planting additional shrubs and flowers in support of Newcastle's efforts whilst also

maintaining the public rights of way and footpaths, many of which had fell into disrepair overt the last decade.

Due to his status within the Parish, Mark is almost daily asked to work with various community groups. Some days it will be a Litter Pick with the local walking group, another will be a Britain in Bloom engagement event at a local school, but all have a basic understanding that we all need to take care of our Environment and have pride in our home town of Kidsgrove.

---

**For further information contact:**

Cllr Mike Stubbs

CCIN Lead – Kidsgrove Town Council

[cllr.stubbs@kidsgrovetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.stubbs@kidsgrovetowncouncil.gov.uk) | 07500 091504 | [www.kidsgrovetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.kidsgrovetowncouncil.gov.uk)