

## Blowing the whistle

THE council has a hotline people can use to report anything untoward when it comes to its services, facilities or employees.

Residents, visitors, employees, councillors, contractors and suppliers are encouraged to call a 24-hour whistle blowing hotline on 01772 625251 if they have any suspicions about fraud, irregularities or malpractice.

All information left on the hotline will be investigated and although the Internal Audit Team would prefer callers to leave their contact details so that further clarification can be sought when necessary, information can be left anonymously.

## Fraud hotline

**08000 56 56 03**

DO you have information about anyone who is claiming benefit that they are not entitled to?

If so, please telephone the council's Freephone Fraud Hotline on: 08000 56 56 03, 24hrs a day, seven days a week.

Or, you can speak to one of our trained Investigation Officers on 01772 625287 between 9am and 5pm, Monday-Friday.

All calls are treated in strict confidence.

If you think you may be eligible to receive council tax or housing benefits, visit

[www.southribble.gov.uk](http://www.southribble.gov.uk) or call 01772 625518 to find out more.

## We're taking the initiative

SOUTH Ribble Borough Council has a duty to protect the public funds it administers and to this end may use the information you have provided to the council for the prevention and detection of fraud.

The council may also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes.

For more information please visit [www.southribble.gov.uk](http://www.southribble.gov.uk) or call Elizabeth Phillipson on 01772 625214.

## An apology

IN the last edition of Forward the story 'Fraudsters pay the price for cheat crimes' referred to a 25-year-old man, of Skipton Close, Bamber Bridge, being found guilty of benefit fraud.

We have been asked to point out that this article didn't refer to resident Andrew Daniels.

We apologise for any confusion and inconvenience this has caused.

# Singing the praises of the 'eco-congregation'

**WHEN it comes to reducing carbon footprints; community groups and businesses in Leyland are singing from the same recycled hymn sheet.**

From big jobs like overhauling central heating systems and installing solar panels, to simple measures such as switching to energy-saving bulbs and reducing the need for paper, people are doing their bit to be more environmentally-friendly.

On the back of the hugely successful 'Save it for South Ribble' campaign, a number of organisations from Leyland contacted FORWARD to share their carbon-neutral ambitions. Leyland Trucks has done a lot of work with the Carbon Trust, as has the Leyland Hotel.

The hotel has a new boiler, has changed the way it does its laundry and now only uses energy-saving bulbs, which certainly adds up considering the number of rooms and corridors. Future developments include the installation of key cards, which will turn off all the electricity in a room when the guests are out, and sensors to cut power to air conditioning if windows are opened.

Businesses aren't the only ones trying to be greener. Leyland Cricket Club is installing an energy-efficient boiler and solar panels.

Few though, are doing more than worshippers at Leyland Methodist Church, who since September have branded themselves an 'eco-congregation'.

Members have set up an environment policy and taken a green pledge. They have participated in dedicated environment services and adopted new environment prayers. They have also taken practical action, by installing a more efficient heating system, sending greetings cards electronically and projecting notices onto the church wall, rather than distributing printed copies.

Before switching to the projector, notices were printed on recycled paper. All was well until a church volunteer put new packets of the printer paper neatly away. It was several days before the white paper was found among the reds, blues and yellows. It was labelled 'green paper'. Maybe the company would have been better putting 'recycled paper' on its packaging!



After the response the 'Save it for South Ribble' campaign received across the borough, we know it's not only people in Leyland trying to make a difference – so we want to hear about carbon-busting in Penwortham, the Western Parishes, Bamber Bridge and anywhere in between! Get in touch on 01772 625201.



● Leyland Methodists eco-congregation committee members Jeff Whittle and Jean Lyon.

## A new 'landmark park'

A SECOND phase of improvements to one of the borough's landmark parks and playgrounds is nearing completion.

The revamped playground at Withy Grove Park in Bamber Bridge has certainly been a hit since it opened two years ago. Now a £400,000 project is almost finished, which will give the area facilities worthy of it becoming South Ribble's third 'major park'.

New, tree-lined pathways, benches, two football pitches and additional car parking will be finished by the end of the summer. The park will also boast new bins, enabling visitors to recycle while out and about.

The planting areas are expected to take a bit longer to finish, and they should be completed in the coming winter and spring.

Most of the cash has come from developers in Bamber Bridge through the planning process, with £50,000 coming from Biffaward landfill tax grants. More funding will be sought to pay for improvements to

the western side of the park, once phase two is done.

Rangers are keen to hear from anyone who would like to get involved with the improvements through the Friends of Withy Grove Park. If you're interested, or would like more information, you can get in touch with South Ribble's Ranger Service on 01772 422316.

● The borough's first litter/recycling bank opened at Longton Brickcroft, and it proved very popular with residents.

Visitors will also be able to dispose of their litter and recyclables separately at Withy Grove. As part of the council's commitment to recycling and diversion of waste from landfill, bins will have separate compartments for litter and glass, with one section for plastic and cans.

The new style of bin will be rolled out across South Ribble to ensure people can recycle on the move as well as at home.

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