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A clean sweep

Children on a Coventry estate waged a war on litter and spruced up their neighbourhood as part of a two-day clean up.

Fifteen skips were dropped into Hermes Crescent, Henley Green, as residents, Whitefriars staff and neighbourhood wardens joined forces to end a life of grime and rid the area of fly tipped rubbish.

Following the main clean up on the Friday (October 22) more than 30 children from the YMCA POD, Caradoc Close, joined the clean-team and armed with aprons, gloves and litter pickers, cleared the remaining rubbish under safe supervision.

The event, which saw the young litter busters receive a McDonalds for their efforts, was organised and funded by Whitefriars Housing Group, New Deal for Communities and Area Co-ordination.

Dawn Gibson, YMCA youth and community worker at the POD, said it was a fantastic success: "The kids really enjoyed themselves and it was great that so many turned out and gave up their Saturday morning to benefit the community.

"Now the kids have made such an effort, hopefully the fly-tippers will follow their lead and help keep the area clean and tidy."

Following the clean up the inter-agency team are now working to ensure the estate is kept spick and span.

Measures are afoot to stop individuals using the area as a rubbish dump and the message to fly-tippers is watch out. One new measure soon to be introduced is environmental crime scene tape which will be put around any dumped rubbish.

Whitefriars area services manager Ravinder Kaur, who heads the inter-agency team, said: "Our wardens did a great job in the clean up and we are determined our efforts and the children's will not go to waste. We will be working with residents and the police to put an end to fly-tipping and will do everything in our power to stop those who don't respect the area.

"The crime tape is to show residents that we are taking this issue seriously and to let them know we are aware of the rubbish and will be removing it. Hopefully it will also make the perpetrators feel guilty.

To report fly tipping in your area, call 024 76638202.

Ends

For further information please contact Nikki Newall/Michelle Hallmark at The Bridge Group on 02476 217 398 or n.newall@bridgegroup.co.uk or m.hallmark@bridgegroup.co.uk