

LOCAL FIRM DONATE THEIR SERVICES TO KEEP THE CHILDREN OF BLACKBURN ACTIVE ALL YEAR ROUND

Aldrock Surveyors offer their services free of charge to give the local Scouts access to their outdoor activity centre 365 days a year

20 DECEMBER 2016, BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

SUMMARY

Blackburn based Aldrock have offered their services free of charge to their local Scouts group to help them get planning permission for a change of use for their outdoor activity centre. The group were previously only allowed to use the recreational centre for 28 days a year, however now thanks to Aldrock, the Scouts can use the area all year round. This has benefited around 140 young children from the BwD area and has enabled them to get outdoors and stay active. This is especially important as the local council aim to implement their 'Eat Well, Move More, Shape Up' project in 2017 and to tackle the 18.5% of children aged 10-11 who are classified as obese in BwD.

[20/12/16] A survey carried out by Public Health England shows that almost 20% of children aged 10-11 in Blackburn with Darwen were classified as obese in 2015, a statistic that falls just above the national average. Despite December being a notoriously hectic time of the year for the construction industry, Aldrock have found time to give back to their local community and help to tackle these problems. The Blackburn based Chartered Building Surveying and Energy Assessing company have offered their services to their local Scouts & Guides group, St. Georges Mill Hill, and helped them gain planning permission for a change of use of their Canal Side Outdoor Activity Centre. Without their help, the group were only allowed access to their outdoor recreational area 28 days a year. Thanks to Aldrock, they now have full access all year round, enabling around 140 young Scouts to get outdoors and get active.

Stuart Parker, District Explorer Scout Commissioner for Blackburn District Explorers, said:

“We knew we had to apply for planning permission but we didn't know how to go about it. I put a message out on Facebook to see if anybody could help and Guy saw it and said it's something he'd love to get involved with and he really has been a massive help for us. We're now able to provide a safe environment for young people to run around and get fit and healthy in a safe, outdoor environment 365 days a year.

We no longer have to travel long distances to do all the fun activities our Scouts & Guides love, which

has made it loads easier for those who don't have easy access to transport. We're extremely grateful for Aldrock's help and we're excited to develop the centre further."

Before the planning permission was granted, the group had to travel 45 minutes to Great Harwood to do many of the activities they can now do just a short 5 minute walk from their meeting point. Fire pits for cooking and fire lighting, a tomahawk range, a catapult range and archery rings are just some of the facilities available at their Canal Side Outdoor Activity centre. The change of use ties in well with Blackburn with Darwen's 'Eat Well, Move More, Shape Up' project that is currently being developed for the local area. The three year plan is to be published in 2017 and aims to encourage positive lifestyle changes from the people of BwD and get them moving more and eating better.

Guy Shorrocks, Director at Aldrock, said:

"We offered our help because we think it's important that kids are still able to play outdoors and stay active, especially with the UK's growing obesity crisis. I grew up in Blackburn myself and I'm delighted to be able to give back to the local community. It was a pleasure working with Stuart and I hope the group are able to make great use of their new outdoor activity centre."

The centre is also used for additional activity days at the weekend, where other young people who aren't members of their Scouts and Guides group are able to use the area and take advantage of all the facilities it has to offer.

ENDS

For further information please contact –

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NOTES TO EDITOR

- The lease for the land was originally taken out in May 2016 by St. Georges Mill Hill Scouts & Guides group, but will also be available for Blackburn scouts to use as well.
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- Blackburn with Darwen's public health profile 2015- <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=1716...>
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- Article about BwD's three year plan for a healthier community- <http://www.blackburnwithdarwenccg.nhs.uk/three-yea...>
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- Link to Aldrock's website- <http://www.aldrocksurveyors.co.uk/>

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- Guy is an experienced Building Surveyor, qualified Energy Assessor who has specialised in energy efficiency for all types of domestic, commercial and public buildings. Within the practice he's responsible for building surveying, conducting energy assessments as well as ongoing business development and client relationship management. Guy is also the Founder and Director of Just Construction & Property Networking. This is a network of well-established quality Construction & Property related companies.
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- Aldrock Surveyors are a multi-disciplined practice of Chartered Building Surveyors and Energy Assessors based in Blackburn who offer a range of services and offer advice within the construction and property industry.
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RELEVANT LINKS

 [Blackburn with Darwen's public health profile 2015](http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=171647)

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 [Article about BwD's three year plan for a healthier commu...](http://www.blackburnwithdarwenccg.nhs.uk/three-year-plan-healthier-blackburn-darwen/)

<http://www.blackburnwithdarwenccg.nhs.uk/three-year-plan-healthier-blackburn-darwen/>

 [Link to Aldrock's website](http://www.aldrocksurveyors.co.uk/)

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QUOTES

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IMAGES





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3ManFactory is a creative design and communications company. Some call it integrated marketing and that's fine, but what it really means is that we can plan it, design it, build it, market it and measure it. Social, web, graphics, PR and marketing. It's what we do best.



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