

## Plymouth has community spirit

Serious work was made fun for 100 residents from the Crownhill area of Plymouth, when Westcountry Housing joined with stakeholders in holding an open air event.

Terry Leech, Westcountry's Resident Involvement Worker for Communities, said: **"In a week when it felt like the rest of the country was rioting, more than 100 residents and staff showed a great sense of community spirit and willingness to work and play with our neighbours"**.

A review of a gardening contract on a scheme with four different landlords isn't something most people could usually look forward to, but this review was made special.

Westcountry worked in partnership with Spectrum, Signpost, Sovereign, the Ministry of Defence and a host of other stakeholders to make an afternoon of fun for both children and adults at Tailyour Road.

Kids were invited to take part in Mental Money – a basic maths quiz, with a family trip on the Plymouth Eye as the prize for the best entry. Meanwhile, residents filled out questionnaires on the gardening contract.

Children had their faces painted, make a work of art from scrap, took part in a Junk Band performance. Young people were invited to sign up to a Youth Warden Scheme based on rewards for carrying out community activities like litter picks. The queue for the fantastic BBQ lasted the entire day with most people coming back for seconds and thirds, so those in the queue were able chat to staff, get advice and support and do housing services surveys – with a reward at the end!

The Fire Service raised the fire fighting aerial platform which could be seen for miles around and the Police brought along vehicles and gave out advice while the MOD Police encouraged their residents to get involved too.



**Notes to editors:**

As a social landlord, **Westcountry Housing** strives to work in partnership with local authorities to meet the needs of local people in the greatest need of housing. Westcountry Housing is a member of Westward Housing Group which provides more than 6,500 affordable, high quality homes and housing related services across Cornwall and Devon. Visit: [www.westcountryha.org.uk](http://www.westcountryha.org.uk)

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