



Meden Valley Making Places (MVMP), Market Warsop, Nottinghamshire
MVMP is a not for profit public sector company and jointly owned by the Homes and Communities Agency, EMDA, Bolsover District Council, Mansfield District Council.

Ken Barker, far left.

Home Truths for Better Houses



Meden Valley Making Places (MVMP) aims to address the issues of run down and empty properties, low demand, and poor housing mix and tenure, by engaging and working closely with residents and other partners to deliver thriving, sustainable communities. It has purchased 800 properties in north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire.

“I was asked to be a representative for Upper Pleasley because I've lived here a long time - 73 years in fact!” says retired resident Kenneth Barker.

“The village had got really run down and many of the houses were in a really bad state so of course, we were very pleased that something was finally going to be done about it.

“Because I've been here so long I'm very familiar with the the village and the people who live here so I suppose I'm an ideal person to keep an eye on what's happening.

“The village became something of a building site as new houses were built and old houses were renovated there was a danger that it could have looked a bit derelict and become a target for vandalism, fly tipping or other anti-social behaviour. Obviously we didn't want any of that; we wanted to make the village better.

“I've been to a lot of meetings and I've learned a lot about how things work. I enjoyed the meetings and found out about stuff on behalf of the community and that was an important part of my role. I've known a lot of the people here for a long time and they trust me - I can go round to their houses and tell them what's happening. That's very important for some of the elderly people who can't get to the meetings.

“A lot has been achieved - I've got a new home and a lot of older houses in the village have been greatly improved. I feel I've done a good job for the community and people here are very pleased with what's been achieved. The housing and the streets are much better than before so it's been money well spent. It was very run down a few years ago and I wanted to help do something about it.”

Results

- 130 poor quality properties significantly improved
- 250 new homes completed or under construction
- More than 700 derelict or poor quality houses demolished.



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