

Pemberton means **BUSINESS**

the Pemberton community association and business partnership are establishing themselves as a major force supporting their town

IN A RECESSION it's often the local shops that suffer first. Lacking the backing of the major chains they struggle to compete. But one business community is fighting back – by working together.

Live and active, in their community and online at pembertonlocal.co.uk, the Pemberton community association and business partnership are establishing themselves as a major force supporting their town.

"It's a great way to get to know the local people, and spread the word about what the shops and services have to offer," says Alison Glover of Pemberton Lighting. She and business partner Allison Pike have been trading for nearly 30 years, having bought the business a few years back from their old boss.

The business partnership meets monthly and is creating a local map to list all that the town has to offer for distributing to residents.

Cllr Paul Prescott, local councillor and member of the council's cabinet, believes this fits in with the council's 'buy local' campaign.



Allison Pyke and Alison Glover of Pemberton Lighting.

He says: "Success comes when businesses and communities come together. Issues like parking, speaking with one voice to those who want to dig up the roads and how we can get a local loyalty card running are discussed, and things get done."

Allison and Allison are very conscious of the current economic struggles facing small businesses. They see the group as a good way to get people to spend locally – and wisely.

Allison adds: "The relationship and trust with customers that a local shop has is really important. Anyone can read what's on a box when a customer asks how something works, but we take pride in helping, and even saying to people if something would be a bad choice for them."

Adds Alison: "Working together we can ride out the recession, give people a high quality local service – and they will keep coming back."

Charity starts at home

A WIGAN CHARITY is seeking two new borough residents to serve on its board.

Douglas Valley Community Charity was set up more than a decade ago to look after community centres in parts of Wigan that previously had City Challenge regeneration cash, although since then it has broadened its work to other parts of the borough.

One board member needs to represent volunteers and be active in a local community group, while the other should understand about local business and contribute financial knowledge.

Board secretary Hilary Simpson said: "The board has a mix of community, council and business representatives. Our aim is to empower local communities to manage their own resources."

For more information contact Hilary on 01942 705656 between 10am and 2pm Mon-Fri or email hilary.simpson@dvcommunity.org.uk

Help us to keep up standards

THE council has a vacancy for one of the five independent members of its Standards Committee.

We're looking for someone with a high level of personal integrity who can work with elected councillors and officers. Borough Solicitor Kevin Lawson explains: "The role of the Standards Committee is to assess complaints against councillors and decide what action is appropriate.

"But increasingly it is also taking on a proactive role in maintaining high standards.

"What's really important is an ability to assess conflicting evidence, arrive at a fair and balanced view and communicate that view."

You can't be considered for the role if you've

been a councillor or employee of Wigan Council within the past five years, if you're a relative or close friend of a councillor or officer and if you are currently a councillor or working for another council. Being actively involved with a political party isn't desirable.

The Standards Committee meets 6 to 10 times a year and an allowance is payable along with travel expenses and training.

You can get an application form and further details from Kevin Lawson, Borough Solicitor, Wigan Council, Town Hall, Library Street, Wigan WN1 1YN, tel: 01942 827026 or email k.lawson@wigan.gov.uk. The closing date is October 2.