



Karen Nickel – Wigan Council

The activities we ran

Gazetteers @ GIS Day on Wednesday 15th November 2017 was celebrated at our first 'putting Wigan on the map' GIS Day event. All staff were invited to attend in work time to find out how to put GIS at the heart of everything and focus on gazetteer use for properties and addresses. No previous experience was required.

The 'Marvellous maps and other stories' one hour demonstrations included historic maps, open data, Story Maps, smart mapping, interactive maps and field collection apps, Google Earth and Google Maps, mapping the Council's Report It, healthy routes, car sharing and recycling data and the address life cycle.

We also held 'Maps, Apps n Snacks' drop-in sessions sponsored by Agilisys, our IT service partner.

Attendees were invited to improve their GIS skills and win prizes in a competition based on plotting holiday destinations onto a specially created web application.

A GIS Gallery included a display board showing what gazetteers are and what they do and explaining address creation. Other resources were kindly provided by GeoPlace and Esri UK.

The connections we made

The presentation we made to the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team in order that GIS Day could be a corporate event was well received and we have benefited from their continued support.

GIS Day has also helped to build and nurture a GIS community and the organising team has now evolved into an active Council wide GIS user network group.

Our 2018 event will include sessions for elected members and for schools by way of a mentoring offer to teachers through their Geography Curriculum Network.

The outcomes from the day

We are already seeing benefits in terms of service improvements and greater efficiency due to less duplication, more integration and the development of our existing software.

Data that had a geographic location but was not already mapped has been captured and used for visual display and analysis, supporting place-based working.

We are still following up the many requests and suggestions including providing bespoke on-site training and the development of new applications, crowd sourcing projects, dashboards and insights.

There is now greater awareness of the statutory street naming and numbering legislation when it comes to changing the name of a building officially.

Ian Lynch – Wolverhampton Council

The activities we ran

A drop-in session for Directors and Managers. I sent them a direct email each, inviting them along. Was pleasantly surprised how many came to have a look and understand some ways they could benefit from using and supporting Gazetteers, the GIS offer and ICT Development. (Offering free chocolate and pens helped sway them... 😊)

The connections we made

We made some good connections which stood us in good stead in coming months when certain projects came forward and we'd already convinced the managers where to find the appropriate data/capability in-house... US!

The outcomes from the day

A realisation how few of our management team understood that the Gazetteers were available, had been maintained and improved for over 10 years and how they could be utilised to drive/develop their own projects for the benefit of the whole council.

Even if it was just a small percentage, it felt like a positive step.

James Young – Welwyn Hatfield Council

The activities we ran

I ran a "How well can you identify parts of your District" - got people to mark on maps where they thought the places were, had a lot more people through the door than expected.

The connections we made

Middle and upper management buy in is essential

The outcomes from the day

Got a good write up in our local newsletter and people have asked if I am going to do another one. I have Nov 14th marked in my diary so looking forward to posters and the toolkit arriving.