

Press Release – For Immediate Release

From: Ben Gill, Low Carbon Wolvercote, 48 Jackson Road, North Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 7TS (Contact on: 07742317017/ bjsgill@hotmail.com)

24th September 2008

Wolvercote reclaims its streets in a vision without oil

The village of Wolvercote created a vision of life without oil in the Saturday autumn sunshine as they replaced the car on its streets with hopscotch, an outdoor café and a van covered in wrapping paper. It was 'reclaim the streets' day in Lower Wolvercote, inspired by community action group, Low carbon Wolvercote. As Ben Gill from LCW explains, "In our battle to reduce our village's carbon footprint, we wanted to reclaim our streets from the car, instead filling them with fun, games and a strong community spirit. At the same time, we wanted drivers to consider the impact of their journey and pay a voluntary contribution to drive through our village".

The Wolvercote café enticed villagers and passers-by into the street for hot drinks and homemade cake, sharing village gossip around tables, complete with the odd vase of flowers! Meanwhile, children brought the street to life with po-go sticks, football and hopscotch. This brought a number of confused faces from passing cars. LCW representatives stopped cars, explaining the reasons for the event and asking for a voluntary contribution towards solar panels for Wolvercote Village Hall. The event raised over £500 towards the cause. A villager exclaimed, "It's a truly empowering experience reading my newspaper sat in the road!" Others pleaded for it to become a regular event. LCW would like to express a big thank you to all those that donated.