

Praise for offenders working in community

THE work of offenders sentenced to community service has been highlighted with a new community award.

Leigh Town Council made Essex Probation's Community Payback team one of the first recipients of its new Good for Leigh awards, which are handed out to businesses, groups and individuals who have contributed to making the town a more pleasant place.

Council chairman Margaret Cotgrove handed out the awards to recipients including Vanity Fur pet boutique, the Green Grid Task Force, and pupils at Fairways Primary School.

Former chairman Hilary Davison, who launched the Good for Leigh campaign, said: "Leigh is a lovely place, and every one of you has in some way helped to make Leigh an even better place and helped keep it nice."

By KATY ISLIP

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Jan Owens, who manages the unpaid work supervisors in the area, said: "We're delighted to receive recognition of our efforts to help Leigh Town Council make their town a safer and more pleasant place to live.

"Offenders have put in a lot of work in Leigh over some considerable time.

"We've cleared up all around the town - near the station, in the skateboard park by Two Tree Island, clearing the paths, roads, picking up litter, strimming - in fact, anything messy and untidy gets the Community Payback treatment.

"Normally we're in Leigh every week, but in the summer months it has to be cut down to once a fortnight as everybody is clamouring for our services."



■ Good work - Margaret Cotgrove with Wendi Snelling of the Probation Service