



Cllr Peter Riggott with North Wingfield Primary School pupils, Tyler Bond and Jessie Lambkin, and Steve Cole from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Safety first!

More than 1,500 pupils from 50 schools across NE Derbyshire and Chesterfield were faced with a range of dangerous situations - and given advice on how to avoid them - as part of the 2009 Safety Crew event.

Representatives from a range of organisations, including NEDDC, Derbyshire County Council, Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire Police, and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service used purpose-built sets to recreate a range of scenarios.

Topics covered included road, electricity, fire and water safety - as well as the consequences of anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Peter Riggott, NEDDC Member with responsibility for Community Safety and Health, said: "This event is a valuable opportunity for children to learn how to avoid and deal with dangerous situations.

"The dramatised scenarios really bring the situations to life and get the young people thinking about what could happen if they don't consider the potential dangers in front of them."

The dangers of fire, electricity, drugs and alcohol were among those spelled out to schoolchildren in the 2009 Safety Crew event.

Safety Crew winners

Well done to quick-thinking pupils from Staveley Junior School who raised this year's Safety Crew Cup!

The top prize is awarded to the school which notches up the most points in a quiz to test the safety knowledge they have built up during the programme.



Bethany Shuttleworth-Bland, Chris Beaney, Amelia Rogers and Kieran Roberts.



Callum Goodwin with Cllr Peter Riggott

Meanwhile, the artistic talents of Callum Goodwin from Deer Park Primary School in Wingerworth earned him a new mountain bike after his design for a new Safety Crew strapline was picked as the winner of an art competition.



Young people take part in the event, held in NEDDC's Council Chamber

Question time!

Tackling litter and graffiti, providing free bus travel for under-18s and MP's expenses were among the topics which councillors were grilled on at a Question Time-style event.

Young people from across the district quizzed a panel of North East Derbyshire District councillors during the event, which was held in the Council Chamber.

Other topics up for discussion included:

- Improving drainage and lighting at the park on Tennyson Street, Mickley
- Including facilities for young people in the regeneration of Clay Cross
- Tackling underage drinking in Killamarsh and Eckington

- Improving the health of young people in the district

You can view all the questions and responses in full on the Council's website at www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/questiontime

Since the event some of the young people have also taken up their issues with their local parish councillor.

Jointly organised by NEDDC and Derbyshire County Council's Youth Service, the session was the latest in a series of similar events held over the last 18 months.

New youth leaders

Elliot Wright has taken up his seat as the new North East Derbyshire representative on Derbyshire Youth Council, taking over the role from David Smith.

The 15-year-old from Eckington is a member of local youth group, Eckington UFI and has been involved in many local issues and campaigns.

If you have a question or issue that you would like Elliot to raise, you can contact him via email at paul.richardson@derbyshire.gov.uk

Meanwhile, 15-year-old Josh Morley from Mickley has taken over as Chair of North East District Youth Forum, managed by Derbyshire County Council Youth Service, replacing outgoing Chair Euan Gill.

Bright young speakers take centre stage

Budding young councillors in North East Derbyshire voiced their views on a range of issues as part of an annual public speaking contest.

Pupils from Cutthorpe and Walton Holymoorside primary schools took the floor in North East Derbyshire District's Council Chamber for the 2009 Brampton and Walton Ward Speaking Competition, organised by NEDDC councillor, Martin Thacker.

'How could we bring more fun to where we live?' was the topic for Year Five pupils, while those in Year Six were asked to discuss 'what could be done to improve lives for young people in this area?'

Suggestions from the children in their presentations included film clubs for young people in local village halls; culture events to promote astronomy and history and community fund-raising events to pay for facilities for young people.

Councillor Martin Thacker, who represents the Brampton and Walton ward, said: "The children came up with some really good, original ideas about improving lives for young people that are worthy of serious consideration.

"Judges were also impressed by the quality of speeches, demonstrating

that children in this area can be great communicators!"

The winners and runners-up were:

Year Five

Winner: James Cleaver from Walton Holymoorside Primary School

Runner-up: Georgina Kaslian from Cutthorpe Primary School

Year Six:

Winner: Tom Graus from Walton Holymoorside Primary School

Runner-up: Dominic Newman from Walton Holymoorside Primary School

Blowing NE Derbyshire's trumpet!

Young musicians flew the flag for North East Derbyshire on a twinning trip to Germany.

Members of two Wingerworth-based bands, Undone and Firing Blanks, travelled to Darmstadt - which is in NE Derbyshire's twin district of Dieberg - to take part in a one-week music camp. The event was planned and organised by Derbyshire County Council Youth Service.

The group of nine, who are all aged between 15 and 17, performed gigs including Derbyshire County Council's 'Kick Racism out of Football' event, to raise funds for the trip.



Young musicians took centre stage in Germany during the twinning trip