

Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

19th June 2006

Janet Triggs, 0151 343 1689

or janettriggs@wirral.gov.uk

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Section One

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes - Area Forum (Heswall and Pensby & Thingwall) Meeting - 28 February 2006

Present	
Chair	O W Adam
Ward Councillors	IJ Mackenzie, Mrs J McKelvie, SL Rowlands
Community Representatives	J Birch (Pensby and Thingwall Community Representative), A Garrett (Heswall Community Representative)
Lead Officer	Chris Batman (Education and Cultural Services Dept)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Janet Triggs
Bebington & West Wirral PCT	Pauline Johnson (Acting Chief Executive), Janet Lees (Project Manager)
Merseyside Police	Sergeant Chris Hitchell
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Myles Platt
Merseytravel	John Smith
Council Officers	Phil Miner (Street Scene Area Manager)
Apologies	Cllr A Hodson, Mrs M Johnson, Councillor PSC Johnson, Stephen Maddox (Chief Executive)

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Minute 1 - Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Adam welcomed 26 members of the public to the meeting and introduced the Forum members.

Minute 1 - The Chief Executive of Wirral Council will be present as part of the Annual Review of Area Forums to invite views, comments and observations on the Forum and any suggestions for improvement or development

The Chair informed the Forum that Wirral Council's Chief Executive, Steve Maddox, sent his apologies. He had intended to attend the meeting to get opinions on the area forums, and welcomes comments on the area forums and possible improvements. If anyone wishes to comment on the forums they can contact Steve or Janet at Wallasey Town Hall.

Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinators Report / Community Initiatives Fund / Area Plan

Minute Text :

The document contains the minutes of the last meeting, which took place on 19th October 2005. Janet highlighted some of the matters which arose from those minutes.

Minute 3 Irby Road Cemetery - Mr Kinlan raised this issue. He was concerned about damage to headstones and the problem of youths congregating in the cemetery of an evening. Janet contacted the Parks & Open Spaces Section who advised her that unfortunately, although gates could be fitted, the Council would not be able to undertake to lock & unlock them each evening. Mr Kinlan has since raised the matter with Merseyside Police. Sgt. Hitchell informed the meeting that there had been no reported incidents since the last Forum meeting. Mr Kinlan said that he would pursue the matter with Health & Safety. Councillor Rowlands also agreed to follow this matter up.

Downham Road South. Mrs Skillicorn raised this issue and submitted a petition regarding the safety of this road. I have been advised that Following a meeting arranged on 11 January with Mrs Skillicorn it was agreed that her petition, along with every other petition received for traffic calming this financial year, be reported to the Councils Environment and Transportation Select Committee on 28 March 2006. Mrs Skillicorn will receive an invitation from the Borough Solicitor and Secretary requesting her attendance, should she wish, at this meeting.

Additionally, Mrs Skillicorn requested that we investigate the upgrading of the street lighting in Downham Road South to which she received a response from our Street Lighting Division informing her that upgrading will occur once funding becomes available.

Bus Service 175. Mrs Pritchard raised concern that the service, which had been operated on a commercial basis, was now operated under a temporary contract from MerseyTravel. John Smith confirmed that a new 5-year contract is waiting Executive Board approval at the meeting on 6th March, after which, tenders will be invited. Mr Garrett added that he felt that a small Mini bus as had been requested by Mrs Skillicorn would not be suitable.

Cars Parked for sale on public highway. This issue has been raised several times at previous meetings. There have been two developments. The introduction of the 'Clean Neighbourhood & Environment Act and the proposal by Wirral Council to make every street a 'Consent Street', which will require anyone trading on the public highway to apply for a permit to do so - further details are contained within the Co-ordinators Report on page 36..

Trees in Greenbank Drive. Mr Kinlan was concerned that following tarmac work, the trees were deteriorating and some roots were exposed. It is understood that the Tree Preservation Officer is looking into the matter.

Following the last meeting.

Mr Garrett raised concerns over resident parking in Heswall Station Car Park and incidents of fly tipping there. There has been some delay in determining responsibility for the property, however, the land is owned by Network Rail and leased to Arriva Wales, therefore, requests for signage will have to be submitted with them.

Also, a letter from Mr Robinson regarding traffic problems in Thurstaston Road has been forwarded to Street Scene for their attention.

Local Updates. On page 23, there is a copy of a Proposed Supplementary Planning Document, concerning Designing for Development by Mobile phone operators. Unfortunately, as there are three Area Forum Meetings taking place this evening, the Senior Planning Officer is unable to be present. However, if anyone would like to discuss this issue with him, he can be contacted on;

Eddie Fleming, Senior Planning Officer
Metropolitan Borough of Wirral, Corporate Services Department
(Forward Planning Section)
Wallasey Town Hall, North Annex, Wirral CH44 8ED
Tel (0151) 691 8129 Fax (0151) 691 8273
email: eddiefleming@wirral.gov.uk

Community Initiatives Fund.

As all of the funds allocated to this Forum, were awarded in September, there was no need to undertake a second round of applications. An update report is contained on page 31.

Local Area Plan.

A Sub-group formed to look at refreshing the plan has met twice since the last forum meeting. It is intended that we shall meet again towards the end of March. A more detailed report regarding the Area Plan is contained on page 32.

Minute 3 - Establish a 'Friends of Gayton Park' Group

Cllr Rowlands stated that following the recent renewal of the children's play area and hopefully further improvements, he would like to see the formation of a Friends Group. This would enable the community to have greater involvement in the future of the park, hopefully helping to improve and maintain it.

Cllr. Rowlands will be looking into the process for forming such a group and requested that anyone interested in joining should contact him. Cllr McKelvie suggested that the Friends of Coronation Gardens were a good example of how such a group could be established.

Minute 4 - Presentation: Local Transport Plan 2

John Smith spoke about the development of the 2nd Local Transport Plan for Merseyside (LTP2), he explained that is a 5 year programme, the final version of which is due for submission in March 2006.

He outlined the national and regional priorities of the plan and how it could support the wider social agenda. The programme will receive approximately £145m over the 5 years, of which £50m will be used for maintenance. The programme priorities are;

- Support for Regeneration
- City Centre
- Liverpool John Lennon Airport
- Mersey Ports
- Investment Areas

- Tourism & Capital of Culture
- Prosperous & Healthy Communities
- Housing Renewal
- Good Accessibility
- Avoid negative aspects of traffic
- Managing Growth
- Avoiding Traffic Congestion

He also detailed the following potential investment for Wirral.

- Bidston – Wrexham Line Electrification
- Detailed studies currently ongoing
- Potential subject of Major Scheme funding application
- Improved Public Transport
- Revised Merseyside bus Strategy
- Rail Station Improvements
- New Station proposals – Woodchurch, Beechwood & Town Meadow
- Continued investment in Merseyferries – Spaceport
- Cycling & Walking
- Merseyside Cycling & Walking Strategies
- Partners developing new implementation plans for active travel
- Expansion of Park & Ride
- New sites in line with Bidston - Wrexham proposals.

Councillor Adam thanked John Smith for his presentation.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that John Smith be thanked for his presentation.

Minute 5 - Consultation on New Primary Care Trust Arrangements in Wirral

Pauline Johnson from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) gave a presentation on the consultation arrangements in Wirral on the new PCT arrangements. She explained that following a government announcement in July 2005, Strategic Health Authorities had asked PCT's to look at new arrangements for their future set up. PCT's in Cheshire and Merseyside have proposed to reduce from 15 down to 7. The consultation period runs from 14 December 2005 till 22 March 2006.

She explained there were 4 options for Wirral:

Option 1 – no change

Option 2 – a new PCT covering the Borough of Wirral

Option 3 – a combined PCT for Wirral, City of Chester, Crewe & Nantwich, Ellesmere Port & Neston and Vale Royal

Option 4 – a new PCT covering Wirral and the County of Cheshire

She explained that the preferred option was a new PCT covering the Borough of Wirral (option 2). Depending on the outcome a new organisation will be established between 1 July 2006 and 1 October 2006.

She explained that the public could make their views known by completing the form in the consultation document, several copies of which she had brought with her. In addition there were consultations on the future of the Strategic Health Authority and Ambulance Trusts and he gave information on their proposals for change.

Councillor Adam thanked Pauline Johnson for her presentation.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Pauline Johnson be thanked for her presentation.

Minute 6 - Public Question Time

Mrs Rafferty asked about the reported reduction in the numbers of police based at Heswall Police Station.

Sgt. Hitchell replied that although 4 officers had now been re-located to Bromborough, they would now be covering 24 hour shifts and would result in improved community policing within the Heswall Area. The remaining 9 officers based at Heswall will now be dedicated to neighbourhood policing within specific wards and they would not be called to other areas.

Mr Clinch asked about CCTV coverage within Heswall. Sgt Hitchell advised him that the main camera was located in Heswall with a further traffic-monitoring camera. Both cameras are monitored by the control room, presently located at Westminster House although soon to relocate to Cheshire Lines building. They are monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Mr Byrne asked if the existing camera had been of use in following up any of the recent serious crimes that had taken place in Heswall. Sgt Hitchell responded that they had not.

A question was asked about whether as a result of new housing developments within the area, the revenue received from Council Tax had increased. Cllr McKelvie advised that as the overall population within Wirral had fallen over recent years, this was unlikely. Chris Batman agreed to look into this and report back at the next meeting.

Mrs Rafferty raised an issue regarding a recent traffic incident on Barnston Road, which caused an obstruction. She said that the police had failed to attend & assist. Sgt Hitchell responded that the police should attend incidents where an obstruction to traffic is an issue.

Mr Kinlan raised the issue of the gates at Frankby Road Cemetery. Councillor Rowlands said that he would look into the matter.

Route 174/5 Mrs Pritchard expressed concern that a suggestion to make Downham Rd South one way would not be appropriate. Cllr Rowland said that upgrading of the Road would be a better option. Mrs Pritchard also suggested that a mirror to assist traffic turning a blind bend would improve safety. Phil Miner stated that the Authority did not erect mirrors.

Mr Byrne thanked the council for banning HGV's on Barnston Road but said that signage was poor. Cllr. Adam agreed to investigate this.

Cllr Rowlands raised an issue regarding the poor signage in advance of the low bridge on Brimstage Road, where HGV's were having to manoeuvre in order to find an alternative route. Phil Miner agreed to look into this.

Mr Garrett raised several issues, they were;
What are the plans for the refurbishment of Heswall Railway Station & Park & Ride extension? John Smith will look into this and report back.

Rocky Lane/Telegraph Rd. Cashier's office moved to Heswall Library & then closed. Are there plans for this vacant section?
Janet Triggs agreed to look into this and report back.

Traffic Lights on Telegraph Rd. Cars are waiting in the Box Junction. Phil Miner has responded to Mr Garrett to advise him that the Box Junction has been inspected and is up to standard.

Golf. What measures will be implemented to ensure that services run smoothly & residents are not inconvenienced, particularly along Telegraph Rd and also Barnston/Pensby Road?

Mr Kinlan asked whether there were any plans to alter the traffic Lights at Downham Road? Telegraph Road in order to alleviate queues. Cllr McKelvie asked Phil Miner to look into this.

A member of the public requested an update regarding the proposal to re-locate the West Wirral GP Practice. Pauline Johnson and Janet Lees responded to several issues during a lengthy debate. Janet Lees reported that regarding the Warrens Nursery site, progress was slow as the PCT were still in negotiation with Wirral Council regarding the possible use of the site. Comments were made that green belt land should not be used in this way. A member of the public also suggested that as the site were so close to Arrowe Park Hospital, patients might choose to go there instead if using public transport. Another opinion expressed was that the proposed site was not accessible, as it was on the far side of the area.

Concerns were raised about a recent survey, seeking patient's views about the use of the Warrens site. This survey was conducted by the Patient Focus Group, purely to ascertain patients views regarding the use of the Warrens site, it did not ask where patients would prefer to see the GP Practice located. Pauline Johnson responded that the Warrens site was the only suitable site, which could accommodate the practice.

Mr Bailey suggested that land might become available following the forthcoming school review, which would not require the use of greenbelt land. Cllr Rowlands suggested that if this were the case, the site might be large enough to accommodate the GP practice and a Children's Centre, which will also be required.

A member of the Heswall Society expressed the view that he disagreed with the use of greenbelt land in this way. He said that he did not accept that the Warrens nursery Site was the only suitable site and feels that the land should not be released for this purpose.

Cllr McKelvie suggested that due to the delays over the West Wirral Practice, the PCT should move on with re-developing the Heswall Practice where there were no problems. Pauline Johnson responded that the size of the site in Heswall limited the level of services that could be located there and it could become overloaded unless services at West Wirral were also improved.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that:

- i. Chris Batman to look into whether the revenue received from Council Tax has increased as a result of new housing developments in the area, and report back on this at the next meeting.
- ii. Councillor Rowlands to look into the issue re: gates at Frankby Road Cemetery and report back on this.
- iii. Councillor Adam to investigate poor signage at Barnston Road.
- iv. Phil Miner to look into issue re: the poor signage in advance of the low bridge on Brimstage Road and report back on this.

- v. John Smith to look into plans for the refurbishment of Heswall Railway Station & Park & Ride extension and report back on this.
- vi. Janet Triggs to look into issue re: proposals for former cashier's office Heswall Library Rd and report back on this.
- vii. Phil Miner to look into issue re: traffic Lights at Downham Road/Telegraph Road and report back on this.

Minute 7 - Dates of Future Meetings / Presentations

The next meeting will be held on Monday 19th June 2006, 7pm at Pensby Recreation Centre

Minute 8 - Any Other Business

There was no further business and Councillor Adam thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9pm.

Matters Arising

Minute i Bus route 175. This contract has now been let to Eazibus. It will run until 2010.

Minute iii Signage regarding the HGV Ban is now in place.

Minute v. John Smith to look into plans for the refurbishment of Heswall Railway Station & Park & Ride extension and report back on this. We received the following response from Merseytravel.

Whilst located in Merseyside, this station is not on the Merseyrail Network, coming under the Arriva Trains Wales franchise. Currently, Merseytravel has no plans to upgrade the station. However, you will be aware that a study has recently been undertaken into electrification of all or part of the Bidston - Wrexham line and if that was to take place, I would expect that intermediate stations such as Heswall would be upgraded.

Minute vi.

- Former cashier's office at Heswall Library. The library service provided the following information.

The proposal at the moment is to return that space to the library to create a meeting area for Reading groups or an activity space which was lost when we created the OSS in the library.

- Golf. What measures will be implemented to ensure that services run smoothly & residents are not inconvenienced, particularly along Telegraph Rd and also Barnston/Pensby Road ?

*Following the meeting, Phil Miner provided the following response
A Transportation group consisting of various bodies i.e. the police, AA, Merseytravel, WBC Traffic Management, R&A, bus operator, car park management company and consulting engineers has been meeting on a regular basis and has developed an overall strategy and plan for the event.*

There are no specific management proposals for Telegraph Road, Pensby Road or Barnston Road other than traffic will be directed from appropriate points to the specific Park and Ride sites.

The main access points for traffic will be via junctions 1,2 & 3 of the M53. All signing and publicity is associated with using these routes or the train service.

Besides the traffic management plan for the event the police will be gathering information from a number of sources during the event i.e. CCTV, mobile police patrols and police helicopter and will respond to any developing situation.

Future meetings

The date of the next area forum is Wednesday 18th October 2006

Section Two

Local Updates

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

Wirral has been chosen as a pilot area for the next round of LAA's. The purpose is to build much stronger links between central government and local partners with outcomes, objectives and targets set for the next 3 years. Key priorities for Wirral have already been established within the Community Strategy and partners own plans and strategies such as the Council's Corporate Plan, and the task now is to draw these priorities together and establish if there are any gaps and include some new additions if necessary.

The aim is to bring together LAA's and Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs) to deliver local solutions to local issues. There is NO additional money with the LAA (apart from a reward grant for delivering 'stretch' on certain targets which replaces the previous LPSA regime) but this is an opportunity for Wirral to achieve more with given/current resources. Basically, the aim is to 'pool' or align current resources across partner organisations. Within the LAA, Government have identified four 'Blocks' as priority areas, and the Council – with their partners in the LSP – have identified key officers to lead on each one, they are:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • Safer and Stronger Communities | Alan Stennard |
| • Healthier Communities and Older People | John Webb |
| • Children and Young People | Chris Batman |
| • Economic Development and Enterprise | Kevin Adderley |

SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES

New community police station opens in Wirral

Press release - 30 January 2006

A new mobile police station opening in Wirral aims to make a positive impact on areas suffering high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Wirral's Community Safety Team has launched a new Community Police Station to help cut crime and anti-social behaviour. The aim of the unit is

for the community to see and feel reassured about the reduction in crime and anti social behaviour in their neighbourhood when the community police station is present.

Funded by Wirral Council and staffed by Police Officers, Community Support Officers, Council Security Patrols - and soon to be the base of a Community Development Officer - the fully functional unit will be deployed into areas suffering high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The unit will be moved approximately 6 times during the year remaining in those communities long enough to make a significant impact on the quality of life of residents in the area.

The station is currently based in Highfield Road, Rock Ferry, following numerous complaints from residents about anti social behaviour in the area.

Acting Area Commander for Wirral, Superintendent John Young said: "We fully support this initiative, it ties into our style of neighbourhood policing in that we are able to move and site the community police station in areas we have identified through intelligence as being 'hotspots' for Anti-Social Behaviour. We want to reassure communities living in these areas that we are taking positive action to address local issues.

"Dedicated officers will work from the station, getting into the heart of the community to address and problem solve local quality of life concerns and issues. We want to encourage local residents to speak with the police officers and use the opportunity to communicate any concerns they have and pass on any information about those involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour activities."

The Community Police Station will bring the work of Wirral's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to the communities that need it most. Equipped with CCTV cameras producing high quality images, a public enquiry office and linked to networked computers, the alarmed unit has all the facilities of a modern office.

Leaflets will inform local communities of the unit's opening hours for public enquiries but the Community Police Station can be open at any time for use by the patrols working in that area.

The work of the Community Development Worker will be to build up public awareness and confidence so residents know where and who to turn to if crime levels rise once the Community Police Station moves on to its next location.

Wirral Council Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Councillor George Davies said: "We see this Police Station as another opportunity to bring the work of community safety into the heart of Wirral's communities and to tackle the local issues that are blighting our resident's quality of life."

Food and garden waste recycling collection coming to Wirral

Press Release - 10 March 2006

The first large scale combined food and garden waste collection in Merseyside will begin this April for 20,000 homes in Wirral.

Residents will receive a brand new brown wheelie bin for both food and garden waste, to

replace the white garden bag. A handy kitchen caddy, small enough to sit on a work-top or under the sink, will also provide a useful container to transport kitchen scraps to the wheelie bin.

The initial scheme, which will eventually be rolled out to other residents, will involve homes in Heswall, Gayton, Pensby, Spital, Bebington, Higher Bebington, Prenton, Oxtun, Caldy, West Kirby, Thingwall and Irby, and is aimed at boosting recycling rates across Wirral.

Residents taking part in the scheme will receive a brown wheelie bin to take food scraps and all the garden waste that was previously placed in the white garden waste bag. The new bin is more durable, easy to move and will hold much more. Over 22% of the average contents of a bin are made up of kitchen scraps and the new service will reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill and help the environment.

David Green, Director of Technical Services said, "This improved service will pave the way for us to really start boosting our recycling rates and reach that national target of 30% in 2010.

"It's essential for us to think more carefully about what we're throwing away and how it impacts on the environment. We're trying in Wirral but still have a long way to go as last year we only recycled 10%."

Carl Beer, Director of Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) said, "Wirral's food and garden collection will be sent to the Authority's In-Vessel Composting Facility at Bidston. The In-Vessel Composter is part of the newly developed Bidston Integrated Waste Management Facility, and is just part of our investment with Districts on

Merseyside to provide new facilities to improve recycling rates."

Not only is the Council introducing the food and garden waste recycling but officers are also working on a dry recyclable collection too. This includes plastics, glass, cardboard, paper and cans. Changes to waste services will be introduced over time from August 2006. The Council will make sure residents receive all the help and information they need to get recycling.

Initially the food and garden waste wheelie bin will be given to areas which have a high recycling rate from the existing white garden bags. All those homes will get information in March and be invited to attend a special recycling roadshow in their areas. The new bin and kitchen caddy will be delivered during April with an easy to follow 'how to' guide, explaining exactly what to do.

In the meantime any members of the public with recycling queries can call the Streetscene team on 0151 606 2004 or email us on streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

Wirral's Mayor unveils report on accessibility of services for disabled people in the Borough

A report and DVD into the challenges faced by disabled people in Wirral will be launched on April 21 at the Lauries Centre in Birkenhead.

The event is being jointly organised by the DARE Foundation, a registered charity whose aims are to work with disabled people to promote social inclusion for disabled people, and Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services.

The report and DVD will be launched officially by Wirral's Mayor, Cllr Chris Meaden, and will feature presentations by six teams of disabled people and service providers who worked together for six months. The presentations focus on how disabled people can overcome challenges and make services more accessible.

Cllr Meaden has followed the work closely since it started in April of last year: "Since I became a councillor in Wirral, I have come into contact with many disabled constituents. I am acutely aware of the challenges they face when trying to use services the rest of us take for granted. I have every confidence that this partnership will lead to significant improvements in services for disabled people in the Borough".

The six teams comprised disabled people and representatives from health and social care providers. Their brief was to explore the challenges around six issues and activities:

- Making a film about access to public amenities entitled "A Great Day Out! (NOT)!"
- Exploring issues around people's perceptions of risk, and how this can limit disabled people's choices and independence.
- Exploring accessible toilets in the Wirral area.

Producing a package to raise awareness of disability among primary school children.

- Assessing local venues, looking at access and attitudes.
- Focussing on "the words we use", which relate to disability issues.

DARE's Chief Executive, Jill Fardell, said: "What these projects clearly demonstrate is that disabled people in Wirral are prepared to tackle head-on issues of concern.

"They've created a solid foundation for working from now on, and I'm confident that their projects will be used widely throughout Wirral".

Jill continued: "DARE has developed and used this model of working across the UK for the past 6 years, but this is the first time a Social Services Department has initiated and collaborated fully in a programme – and what a difference that has made".

Once the Mayor has unveiled the report, there will be an opportunity for people in the audience to put questions to a panel including John Webb, Wirral's Head of Services for Older People and People with Physical and Sensory Disabilities, Chris Smith, the Occupational Team Manager, Roz Davison who facilitated the work of one of the teams and two disabled service-users.

Kathy Byrne is a service-user who has made extensive use of various services in Wirral and has played an active role in this event: "I have been able to teach others directly from my personal experiences.

"As a disabled person, I have been denied opportunities and quality in my life but now feel that society is changing. It is exciting to know that my life has already changed through the DARE Foundation approach. I feel that people are beginning to take an interest in disabled people".

And one positive change in Kathy's life is the DARE Foundation's Step up to Learning Course. The course is accredited by the Open College Network and aims to get disabled people back into education or employment.

Kathy completed the course in March of this year and feels that she has benefited from the opportunity.



Churches Together in Wirral

Representing christian opinion across the borough

Survey of Faith Community Activity in Wirral:

Welcome to the Churches Together in Wirral web site - where you can search our database of religious activity in the Wirral. www.churcheswirral.co.uk

Churches Together in Wirral seeks to unite its members in response to Jesus' prayer that His followers may be one, and to fulfil Saint Paul's vision of the Church as the Body of Christ in the world.

Believing that service to the community is a prime opportunity to put into practice the values of the Kingdom of Heaven which Jesus preached, Churches Together in Wirral is a partnership of different branches of the Christian Church which aims to encourage and facilitate co-operation between the churches themselves and between church and community at every level.

In pursuing these aims, Churches Together in Wirral seeks to represent its member-churches in relations with the Local Authority and other statutory bodies, with voluntary and community organisations and with other faith communities.

The purpose of this website is to enable faith communities on Wirral to work together, and with other statutory bodies and with the voluntary sector.

Via this website you can find [PLACES OF WORSHIP](#), [FAITH ORGANISATIONS](#) and [FAITH ACTIVITIES](#) in Wirral.

(Survey of Faith Community Activity in Wirral: - This survey was undertaken on behalf of Churches Together in Wirral by the Theology and Religious Services Department of the University of Chester. Funded by WVCSN and the Neighbourhood Community Chest the survey covers all faiths and provides a snapshot of religious activity in Wirral.)

Further information and comments can be directed to Norman Polden at office@churcheswirral.co.uk or by telephone on 0151 6780435

This survey was undertaken on behalf of Churches Together in Wirral by the Theology and Religious Services Department of the University of Chester. Funded by WVCSN and the Neighbourhood Community Chest the survey covers all faiths and provides a snapshot of religious activity in Wirral.

One outcome of the study is a web based database www.churcheswirral.co.uk to enable faith communities on Wirral to work together, and with other statutory bodies and the voluntary sector. The website provides information and contact details about places of worship and activities available at each place of worship, faith organisations and faith activities.



Wirral Trader Scheme

Are you looking for a business that cares about its customers?

Do you need ;

a roofer
an electrician
a builder
an accountant
double glazing ?

Are you looking for a trader you can trust to come into your home?

The Wirral Trader Scheme is a Wirral Council initiative managed by the Wirral Trading Standards Service, aiming to create a trading environment where consumers can buy goods and services with confidence from Wirral traders. Traders must have permanent business premises within Wirral Borough and satisfy strict assessment criteria and vetting by Trading Standards.

They must be reputable, demonstrate a commitment to trade fairly, honestly and deal efficiently and effectively with any dissatisfaction. If however, you are unhappy with any aspect of the goods or services you buy from a member, you must first address this with them.

If this cannot be resolved then Trading Standards will take up your dispute with them and where you have a justified complaint this will be rectified by the trader. A warning will be given to the trader and advice to ensure that any failure remains an isolated case. Further breakdowns will result in the trader being removed from the Scheme.

How to find a Trader!

Visit the Trading Standards website at www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/wirral and click on our logo



You can see the Code of Practice that governs members of the Scheme in the business section of the website.

You can also telephone us to check the up to date membership of the Scheme. **Contact Trading Standards on 0151 691 8639 or 0151 691 8535.**

Visit Wirral Council One-Stop Shops or Libraries, Age Concern (Wirral) or local Citizens Advice Bureaux for details of Traders.

Can you recommend a trader to us? If so, you could be helping in our mission to leave the rogues out of work!

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE

£280,000 cash boost for older people's swimming in Wirral

WIRRAL'S older people are set to benefit from a funding boost of £280,000 as part of the Everyday Swim initiative.

It will fund activities over the next two years for older people to access the borough's six swimming pools.

Wirral is one of only seven areas picked by the Amateur Swimming Association to take on the pioneering new scheme.

The scheme, which has been funded by both the Council and Sport England, aims to look at the barriers to swimming and provide best practice examples to affect a culture change across the country.

Wirral will now lead the way in encouraging older people into the pool for leisure, fitness and fun.

The Council's Head of Cultural Services Jim Lester said: "We are delighted to have been chosen as the pilot for the Everyday Swim campaign.

"Our Everyday Swim project will focus on increasing the percentage of older people swimming and swimming regularly in Wirral.

"We will seek to widen access for the increasing older population of Wirral through the introduction of targeted free sessions at each of our six swimming pools."

The seven successful authorities were whittled down from a list of more than 30 applicants and each pilot will focus on a different potential audience who could benefit from regular swimming – including obese adults and children, disabled people and, as in Wirral's case, older people.

Wirral's pilot will be further developed over the coming weeks.

Everyday Swim ambassador and Olympic gold medalist Duncan Goodhew believes the chosen pilots have real potential for making a difference:

"The pilot areas have embraced the concept of a culture change in swimming and I am really excited about seeing the ideas on paper come to life over the coming months."

Stephen Baddeley, Interim Chief Executive of Sport England, said: "Swimming has such great health benefits and we are delighted to be supporting Everyday Swim as part of our drive to get the nation more active through sport."

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Life Education Centres (Wirral)

The Wirral Life Education Centre provides children between the ages of 3 to 11 years with a valuable learning experience that has been designed to provide them with the necessary information and skills to make healthy choices. It provides a mobile classroom which is available to all children in Wirral. It contains a number of valuable teaching aids that have been designed to make a positive impact on the way children make decisions about their own health.

Children attending the unit learn how special their body is and how it should be looked after. They are taught the impact of unhealthy choices on their body so that they will be enabled to make informed choices. They need to know about their own bodies and how they work before they can understand the effects of unhealthy eating and the use of drugs on their bodies.

Children attending the unit find out about medicines, alcohol, and nicotine. The older children discuss which drugs are legal and illegal and what effect they can have on their bodies and life style. An important part of the experience allows them to think about relationships and how to build successful friendships.

Whilst in the unit they take part in role-play centred upon their relationships with others and ways in which bullying can be dealt with. They gain the confidence to approach adults for help and advice. In addition they are equipped with the skill to say "no" to their friends and therefore avoid peer pressure that could lead to unhealthy choices.

The whole learning experience is enhanced by the design of the unit. A life-size doll enables them to learn about the working of their bodies and the way in which alcohol, nicotine and food can affect it.

Harold, a giraffe puppet, is used to help the younger children think about how adults can help them to use medicines safely. Harold also has an amazing effect upon the children that enables them to think about their friends and how they should be treated.

Interactive video presentations allow the children to discuss the impact of drugs on their bodies and develop their understanding of relationships and how to say no!

During the school year which started in September 2003 the mobile classroom has visited over 40 schools and provided a valuable learning experience to nearly 10,000 Wirral children. In addition many parents have attended the unit and can offer enhanced assistance to their children. The value of the service we provide can be measured by the fact that schools have requested return visits for this current year. We are hoping to reach even more children this year.

Of course our service is not without cost. Each visit is highly subsidised by the Life Education Centre. In order to continue with this valuable work Life Education needs to raise £42000 annually.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE

Tourism partners announce plans for The Open Championship 2006

The Open Championship returns to the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake, in July this year for the first time since 1967. The Championship is expected to deliver a major boost to the local and regional economy.

A report recently issued by the R & A revealed that The Open Championship held at St Andrews was worth £72 million to Scotland last year.

Wirral Council today, Thursday 9th February, announced a range of activities designed to maximise the benefits of The Open Championship for tourism businesses in Wirral, Merseyside and across the Northwest region. These activities are the result of a partnership between the Council, The Mersey Partnership and the Northwest Regional Development Agency and include work with the national and international media, new signage both on and off the course, a guide for visitors and inward investment activity.

The Guide to The Open Championship will provide tourism information for the 200,000 expected visitors to visit Wirral in July. Available from April, it will provide restaurant, attraction and hotel listings, and travel information.

Martin King, Director of Tourism for The Mersey Partnership explains:

“We are pleased to be working in partnership with Wirral Council and the NWDA on the projects announced today. In excess of 200,000 visitors will arrive in July and this guide will ensure that they have a fantastic experience during their stay. Even more importantly we want to encourage as many of those visitors as possible to return after the Championship.”

Global television coverage of The Open Championship is a key opportunity for the region. 174 hours of images of St Andrews, Fife and Scotland were shown on television screens in over 194 territories, equivalent to £40 million of media value.

Emma Degg, Head of Tourism and Marketing for Wirral Council, said:

“Over 300 journalists will be here in Wirral to cover The Open, some of whom will be visiting in advance of the Championship. They will all receive all the information they need including facts on the local area, our great golfing history and importantly, where they can go to get a drink and a great meal. We are also already working with the R & A and the broadcasters of The Open Championship to ensure television viewers across the world see the best possible images of Wirral, Merseyside and the wider Northwest.”

The Open Championship also represents an opportunity to showcase the area to potential inward investors. 11.5% of visitors come from overseas, 44% of overseas visitors from the United States. Activity will also be focussed upon bringing new investors to The Open Championship to experience at first hand what Wirral and the wider Northwest has to offer.

Peter Mearns, Director of Marketing for the Northwest Regional Development Agency explained the significance of the Championship to the whole of the Northwest:

“This fantastic event provides us with a great opportunity to place the whole region in the spotlight. The NWDA is proud to support this unique campaign that will ensure England’s Northwest benefits from the lasting legacy of The Open Championship, further showcasing the region as a leading destination for major sporting events.

“Along with our partners, the NWDA is now delivering a Major Events Strategy to capitalise on the substantial economic benefits of hosting great events such as this. Developing sport is an excellent way of improving the image, economy and tourism potential of the region. “

Attractions in Wirral scoop tourism awards

Spaceport, Thornton Hall Hotel & Spa, Peel Hey Country Guest House and Nigel Piper from Lino's Restaurant have all emerged as Wirral's winners at this year's annual Merseyside Tourism Awards ceremony.

Representatives of the region's hotels, visitor attractions, conference venues, bars, pubs and restaurants were among 500 guests at a lavish Black Tie Awards Dinner at St George's Hall which took place on Friday, May 19.

Liverpool-born TV celebrity Les Dennis hosted the evening with assistance from BBC Radio Merseyside Presenter Roger Phillips.

Emma Degg, Head of Tourism and Marketing in Wirral congratulated the four winners: "This is an impressive showing by any standards. The evening's success demonstrates the excellent quality of service visitors receive from our hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions.

"The success also serves to prove that service providers are fully prepared to respond to the needs of the thousands of people who will visit Wirral for the Open in July".

The Awards are organised by The Mersey Partnership, the region's designated Tourist Board, and sponsored by Merseytravel in association with the Northwest Regional Development Agency, Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Liverpool Culture Company and ITV Granada. The Awards' official media partner is the Liverpool ECHO.

Martin King, Director of Tourism at The Mersey Partnership said: "Tonight is another memorable landmark for our Tourism Industry that is now worth more than £1billion to the Region's economy. We salute and celebrate the achievements of those who are making such a fantastic contribution to our efforts to ensure Merseyside becomes a genuinely world-class destination for visitors".

Wirral's Winners:

LARGE HOTEL: Thornton Hall Hotel & Spa, Wirral.

Award sponsored by Liverpool John Lennon Airport and presented by Robin Tudor, General Manager, Corporate and Community Affairs, LJLA.

BED & BREAKFAST OF THE YEAR: Peel Hey Country Guest House, Wirral.

Award sponsored by Liverpool Empire theatre and presented by Hannah Collins, General Manager.

TOURISM FOR ALL: Spaceport, Wirral.

Award sponsored by Northwest Regional Development Agency and presented by Nick Brooks-Sykes, Head of Tourism and Marketing, NWDA.

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARDS:

Nigel Piper, Lino's Restaurant, Wirral.

Award sponsored by Liverpool Culture Company and presented by Cllr Warren Bradley, Leader, Liverpool City Council.

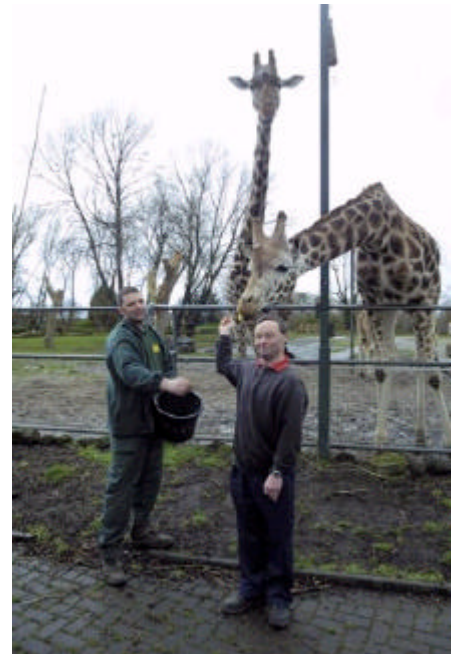
CROSS CUTTING

Wirral projects recognised in environmental 'Oscars'

Community clean-ups, school eco councils, scarecrows and giraffes – just some of the Wirral projects recognised Merseyside's annual environmental 'Oscars.'

Wirral-based schools, community groups and businesses were winners or runners up in eight of the 16 categories of the Merseyside 21 Awards. Organised annually by Groundwork on Merseyside, the awards recognise organisations that are working to improve local health and environment in sustainable ways.

In the community category Bidston & North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group (BNBEAG) won both the Changing Lives award and the overall award of Community Project of the Year for changing a severely deprived area through involving youngsters in litter picks, clean ups, fun days, and environmental awareness days.



Chief Executive of Wirral Council, Steve Maddox said: "It is tremendously encouraging to see schools, communities and businesses in Wirral taking positive action in their local areas. Grove Street is a glowing example of a school that engages and inspires everyone to take responsibility for their environment, and BNBEAG have shown what is possible when a community gets together to bring about change.

I would like to congratulate the winners, and to thank those who are also working to protect and improve Wirral's environment."

Grove Street school won the Sustainable Schools Award while runners up included the Local Agenda 21 Forum for their Fairtrade in Wirral campaign, and Thornton Hough Village Trust for environmental improvements linked to the Scarecrow Festival.

In the Business Awards, Wirral Independent Recycling Enterprise (WIRE) won in the community stewardship category for recycling furniture. Several Wirral Council projects were recognised with runners up awards going to the Warm Homes and Cosy Homes projects, the Council's road safety section for its work with children. Runner up in the prestigious Environmental Innovation & Technology Award was Hoylake based company called OmniQ who make an innovative refillable 'Airpac' gas capsules.

One of the most unusual projects to be honoured was the Royden Park Project – a partnership between Wirral Council's Social Services, Friends of Royden Park and Chester Zoo which provides gourmet meals for giraffes as part of a woodland management plan!

Local Agenda 21 Awards - Wirral Winners February 2006

Wirral had some success yesterday at the LA21 Awards, notably in the community category where the Bidston & North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group (BNBEAG) won the Changing Lives award and the overall award of Community Project of the Year.

Grove Street School won the sustainable schools award while runners up in the daytime ceremonies included the Local Agenda 21 Forum for their FairTrade in Wirral campaign, and Thornton Hough Village Trust for the Scarecrow Festival.

Wirral Independent Recycling Enterprise (WIRE) were winners in the community stewardship for business category, while runners up in the business categories were Wirral Warm Homes and Cosy Homes projects (both Regeneration), Technical Services road safety section, the Royden Park project and a Hoylake based company called OmniQ who make an innovative replacement for gas capsules.

Shortlisted projects over all categories were:

Surestart Birkenhead North - Brassey Gardens
Dee Estuary Voluntary Wardens - Wild Birds on West Kirby Beach
Wirral LA21 Forum - Wirral Opposes Waste event
Woodlands Primary School - school grounds development
Wallasey School/Acacia Horticultural - Compass Point Gardening Club
Greasby Infant School - the Greasby Growers
West Kirby Grammar School - Outreach Sustainability
Upton Hall School - FairTrade Action Group
Friends of Hilbre Island - Hilbre Island Website
MBW/Maritime Housing - Environmental Wardens
Regeneration - Wirral Landlord Accreditation Scheme
Parks & Open Spaces - Hilbre Island Wind Turbine
Recoplas- new business granulating post consumer plastics
Technical Services - Hoylake Park & Ride scheme
Parks & Open Spaces - Wirral Way Restoration
Peel Hey Country Guest House- green tourism
The Learning Lighthouse - The Wirral Green Machine

Unfortunately we didn't manage to retain the overall Merseyside 21 Award - that was won this year by St Helens.

If anyone would like any information about any of the projects, please contact me.

Thank you

Sue Weldon

Local Agenda 21 Co-ordinator/Metropolitan Borough of Wirral

Sueweldon@wirral.gov.uk/tel: 0151 606 2364

Royal approval for new park pavilion

HRH The Duke of Gloucester will officially open Birkenhead Park's new £1m pavilion on Monday (April 10).

The new pavilion is expected to attract visitors from across the UK and beyond when it opens to the public later this month.

It is intended as a modern day showpiece for the park - which been refurbished and renovated over the past two years, with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), European Regional Development Fund, Single Regeneration Budget and English Heritage.

The building will house a café, classroom and an exhibition gallery and will also provide educational opportunities for both school children and adults on historic and environmental issues.

Its glass design took inspiration from the park's original architect Sir Joseph Paxton who also designed the famous glass house at Crystal Palace.

The Duke, a former architect, has requested to see the building and talk to those who built and designed it.

Welcoming the visit, Steve Maddox, Chief Executive, Metropolitan Borough of Wirral, said: "We are delighted that HRH the Duke of Gloucester is to officially open the new pavilion at Birkenhead Park.

"The pavilion is an impressive centrepiece to this exciting regeneration scheme which will see the park restored to its former glory. As well as welcoming visitors and acting as a focal point for information about the park and its surroundings, it will be an important community facility, with meeting rooms and exhibition space for local people.

"We hope that the Duke, with his interest in architecture, will be as happy with the progress of this ambitious scheme as we are," he added.

The Duke will be given a guided tour of the park, including the lakes, Swiss Bridge, Boathouse and Grand Entrance.

He will also meet local children who will display artwork at the pavilion, before unveiling a plaque to commemorate the official opening.

HLF's regional manager, Tony Jones, said: "We've committed £7.4 million towards the restoration of the park and we are pleased to see work progressing to ensure the park reaches its full potential as a haven for local people."



Community Project Grants

Details will shortly be announced about new grants and support available for community and voluntary groups, schools, youth groups, sports and social clubs as part of a new borough-wide campaign running from May to September.

'Wirral – open to all' aims to encourage all sectors of the community to take a pride in Wirral and get involved in improving the environment. Small grants of up to £250 will be available to projects which address the project's aims.

Aims:

- encourage agencies, businesses and – most importantly – local people to take a pride in Wirral
- get people involved in improving the environment
- present the best possible image of Wirral to visitors to the Open Championship
- have a lasting impact on the borough

There'll be a wide range of activities as part of the campaign from council departments, agencies, businesses and community groups - from operational improvements, clean-ups, and awareness-raising campaigns, to arts and environmental projects and celebrations.

Partners include Merseyside Police, Merseytravel, Wirral Local Agenda 21 Network, Wirral Partnership Homes, Wirral Investment Network and local churches

There will also be a special **Wirral Environment Week** from 24th June - 1st July.

How to get involved:

- Organise an event or activity during the campaign, or especially during Wirral Environment Week, in keeping with the aims
- Use the **Wirral – open to all** branding for relevant activities
- Help to raise awareness about the campaign and its aims

For more information about the 'Wirral – open to all' campaign, including grant applications and resource packs (available from the end of April) contact Clare Naylor on 691 8255 or clarenaylor@wirral.gov.uk

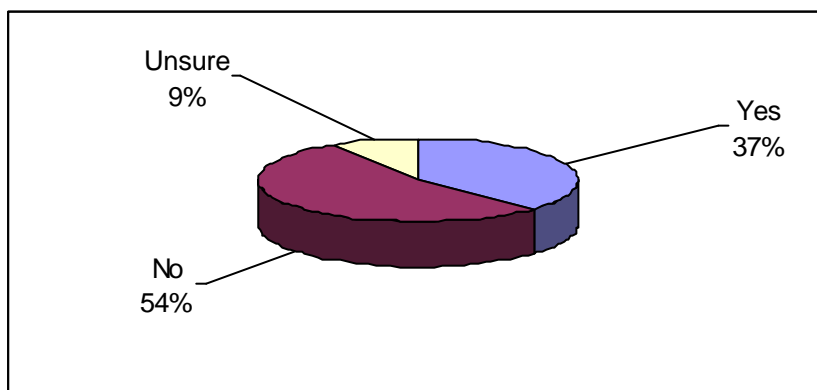
Results of Citizens Panel Consultation Questionnaire on the Area Forums and Community Initiatives Fund

Wirral Citizens Panel is a consultation vehicle that enables the Council and its partners to seek the views of a cross section of Wirral people. The Panel was established in October 1999, and currently has around 2400 members from across Wirral. It is funded by the Council, Health (Primary Care Trusts) and Police, is steered by Wirral's multidisciplinary Research Group and administered by Mott MacDonald Merseyside Information Service.

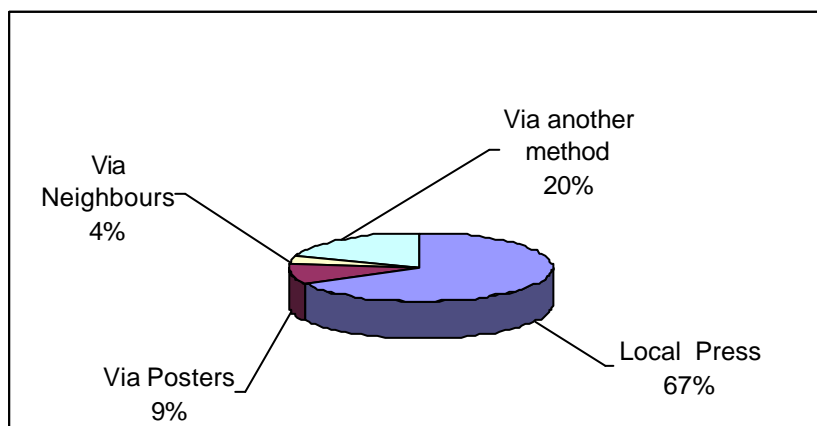
A questionnaire was sent to the panel members in October 2005 that included a number of questions relating to the Area Forums and the Community Initiatives Fund. Overall, 1155 questionnaires were returned from the Wirral Panel members, of the 2074 questionnaires sent out, giving a response rate of 55.7%. Some of the results from this are shown below:

Area Forums – General

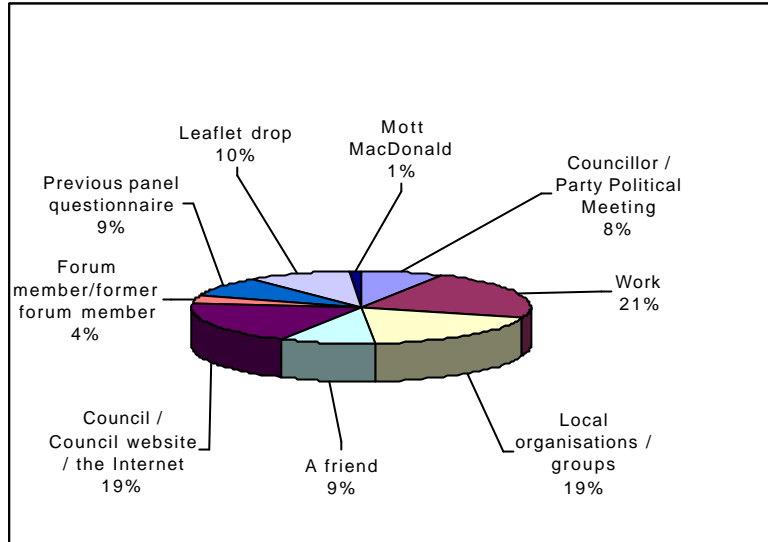
Had you heard about the Council's Area Forums before receiving this questionnaire?



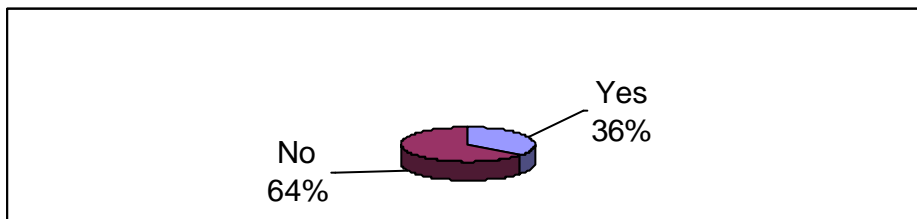
How did you hear about the Area forums?



How else did you hear about the Area Forums?

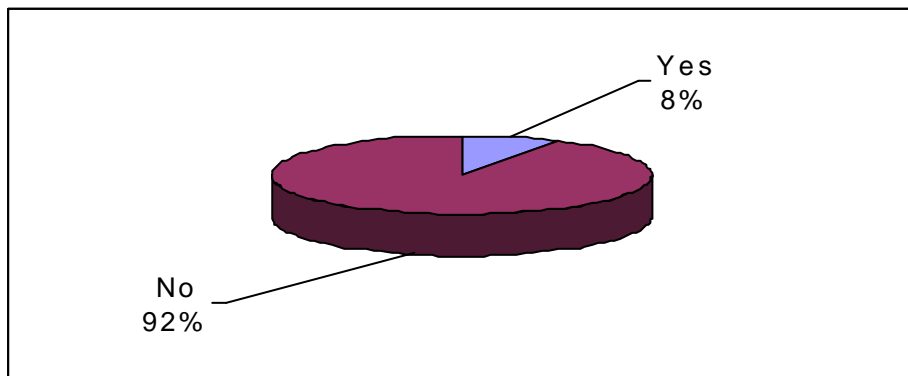


Are you interested in getting involved in decision making in your local area through Area Forums?



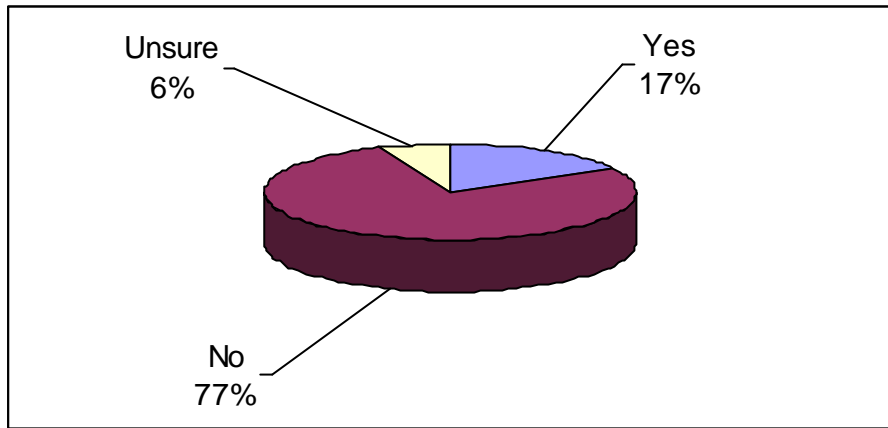
Area Forum – Specific

Are you interested in the Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall Area Forum?

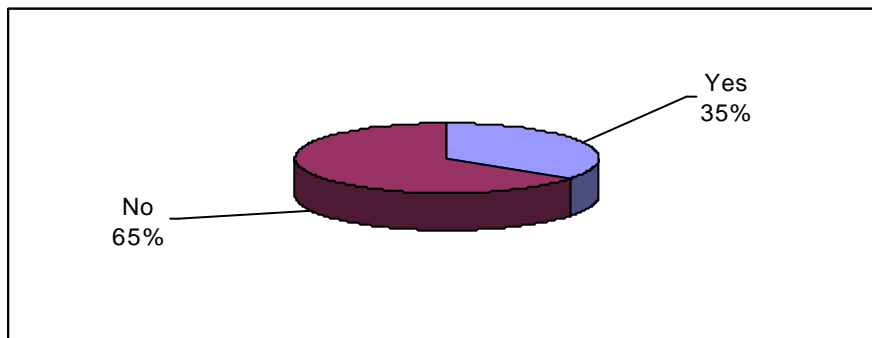


Community Initiatives Fund - General

Had you heard of the Community Initiatives Fund before receiving this questionnaire?

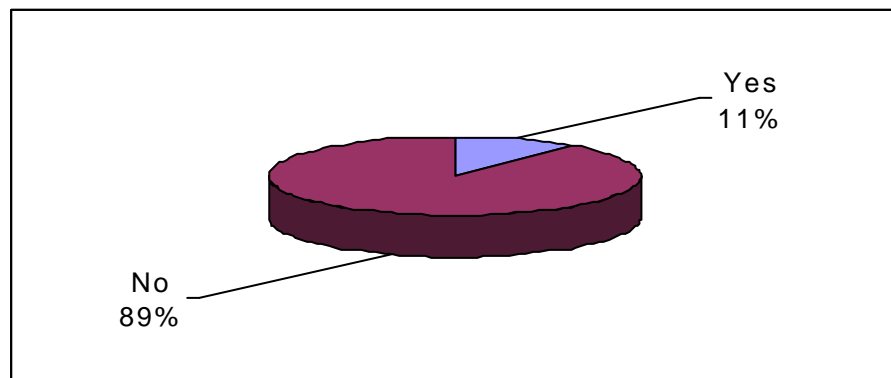


Are you interested in getting information about the Community initiatives Fund?



Community Initiatives Fund – Specific

Would you like to receive information about the Community Initiatives Fund for Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall?



Section Three
Community Initiative Funding

Community Initiative Funding

The funding allocation for 2006/7 is £15,500
Comprising-
£11,000 Community Initiative Funding
£3,000 Community Safety Fund
£1,500 LA 21 Forum Fund.

An assessment panel considered applications for this funding on 16th June. Cabinet will consider the recommendations of this panel on 12th July.

The following table shows progress of projects funded previously by the forum.

Heswall / Pensby and Thingwall

Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
£500.00	Wirral Tuesday Club	To help cover costs associated with running the club, including transport costs, hall hire, presents, trips and providing / updating music.	Report received from Wirral Tuesday Club - March 2006: Your very generous grant enables us to subsidise both transport and hall hire, enabling us to minimise what our members have to pay. We are also able to celebrate each members birthday and arrange outings and celebrations at Christmas and Easter.
£1,085.00	Heswall Squash Rackets Club	To purchase equipment and run courses to encourage sport and fitness in adults and school children in the local community.	<p>Report received from Heswall Squash Rackets Club - December 2005: The courses have enabled us to introduce pupils from schools in the area to squash and give the newly qualified Junior coaches experience of running an intensive day of coaching with an experienced adult coach as their mentor.</p> <p>The sessions were very successful, and have led to the introduction of a Saturday morning mini squash sessions that have been well attended by about 30 children.</p>
£900.00	Richmond Hall Club	To contribute towards the cost of repairing flat roofs at the hall.	Report received from Richmond Hall Club - March 2006: Work has now been completed on the roof and the Richmond Hall Committee are most

grateful for this support.

£750.00	Stepping Out Group - Wirral	To plan several social activities for the group.	Report received from Stepping Out Group - Wirral - March 2006: Thanks to the funding the group has had several social events, including a trip to the Blackpool Lights in September, a trip to the Trafford Centre and a Christmas meal.
£95.00	Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)	To purchase a PowerPoint projector and a small water urn for use by local community and charitable groups.	Report received from Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) - December 2005: Thanks to the grant we have been able to purchase an urn.
£1,000.00	Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) - Playschemes - Heswall & Pensby	To contribute toward playschemes run for four weeks over the summer holidays.	Report received from Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) - December 2005: Thanks for the grant, which was used to fund 2 playworkers, 1 at Irby and 1 at Pensby.
£250.00	Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) - Volunteer Bureau	To contribute toward publicity materials and travel expenses incurred by running a project to encourage youth volunteer work within Pensby High Schools.	Report received from Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) - December 2005: Thanks for the grant, which has been used towards the costs of telephone and internet access, travel and copying of material for the project.
£500.00	Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	To publicise the organisation and its services on Buzz FM Radio over a 12	Report received from Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre - March 2006: We have begun a good

month period.

working relationship with Buzz FM and the adverts began being broadcast in January 2006. As a direct result of the funding from the forums Buzz FM have begun working closely with us on other projects promising support and promotion.

£1,000.00 Heswall Youth Fellowship

To contribute towards providing lighting equipment for three youth groups.

Report received from Heswall Youth Fellowship - March 2006: The lights have been purchased, are easy to assemble and use, and the young people are delighted with them. They have been used by the Fellowship at an event where young people put on a cabaret for charity.

Section Four

Local Area Plan

The 2006 update for the Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forum, Area Plan is now almost complete after consultation with Area Forum Members on the issues that should be prioritised for attention by Wirral Borough Council and its key partners.

The Area Plan adopts the themes as set out in the Council's Local Area Agreement and focuses on issues that the Area Forum can have a positive effect on.

The four main themes in the Area Plan are:

- Safer and Stronger Communities.
- Children and Young People.
- Economic Development and Enterprise.
- Healthier Communities and Older People.

In addition there is a cross cutting theme Roads & Transport.

By working with Area Forum Members and key partners including Community Representatives, Police, Health & Fire services and Local Councillors, the most important issues in the New Bebington & Clatterbridge area are being identified and addressed.

It is also important to know that the Area Plans are working documents, which will constantly be monitored and updated to ensure that the issues included are still relevant for the area and that they are as up to date as possible.

A working group of forum members has met on several occasions to help develop the plan. This group will continue to meet over the next twelve months to continue with this process.

Section Five

Youth Update

Heswall/Pensby and Thingwall

Pensby Youth Club operates Monday and Wednesday evenings and offers a range of opportunities and activities for young people in the Pensby area.

Deeside Young People's Project operate in the area using the Kontaktabus and accesses young people to wider opportunities and activities in the area.

A UKYP representative from this area has participated in a debate in London on Sex Education in schools as well as attending a regional residential. UKYP representatives also spent a day shadowing Steve Maddox, Chief executive of Wirral Borough Council.

Young people from this area also access advice and support from Response Agency.

The Response Agency has carried out Preventing Homelessness Workshops in Pensby Boys School.

Wirral Youth Theatre

Offers various participatory arts workshops and projects to young people Monday to Thursday evenings 6-9 pm. Young people gain access to a range of activities and opportunities including drama, dance, performance opportunities, music, new media, Technical theatre set building, sound and lighting skills etc. Also on offer are peer education opportunities and training where young people can gain a BTEC qualification in Peer Education.

Wirral Youth Theatre also works in schools in the area.

Young people from this area access opportunities at Wirral Youth Theatre.

As well as the above small grants are available to youth groups and are awarded by the local youth forum.

Section Six **Streetscene update**

Review of disc zone parking

WIRRAL Council has carried out a major consultation exercise with residents and businesses in Birkenhead – over plans to scrap disc zone parking regulations.

Increased traffic, evolving Government policies and changes to the commercial, retail and residential elements within Birkenhead have prompted the review.

Phil Black from Parking Services said: “The present scheme confuses motorists from outside the area who are unfamiliar with the regulations and it is extremely difficult to enforce. We want to encourage motorists to make more use of alternative modes of transport, and think twice before taking a journey by car. This review is aimed at freeing up parking spaces for those who have no option but to travel by car. It should also help local businesses, by encouraging a faster turnover of parking spaces which makes it easier for customers and visitors to find a space.”

The Council has written to more than 900 residents and 600 businesses, appealing for as many as possible to respond to a survey. This will enable officers to gain a full understanding of parking requirements and help them to identify a solution that best meets the needs of the local area.

The following options are being considered as part of this review:

- Increased on-street parking provision.
- Introducing resident parking schemes.
- Charging for on street parking within the current disc zone.
- Reviewing the current controlled parking boundaries.
- Reviewing days and times of operation of the controlled zone.

The results from this questionnaire will help prepare a report outlining proposals for the Environment and Transport Select Committee. Once this has been considered, the proposals will be formally advertised for comments, with notices displayed on street and in the local press.

Traffic ban for rural routes

A TRAFFIC ban restricting articulated vehicles from passing through Barnston and Thornton Hough in Wirral has now come into effect. Council highway engineers have been putting up regulatory traffic signs along Barnston Road, Thornton Common Road and Neston Road as the local authority has completed the necessary legal procedures to introduce an eagerly awaited Traffic Order. The move was prompted in response to public concern over the opening of a large distribution centre outside Neston on the A540. The centre had been expected to generate an increase in the number of HGVs using these routes.

The Order affects:

- Barnston Road (A551) from its junction with Brimstage Road to its junction with Thingwall Road East.
- Neston Road and Thornton Common Road (B5136) from its junction with Parkgate Lane to its junction with Clatterbridge Road.

Red circled signs reading 'No articulated vehicles' now feature at these junctions. Blue information signs are also being installed along side roads. The Council proposed the Order in the interests of road safety, traffic management and to preserve the existing character of Barnston village and Thornton Hough, both of which are Conservation Areas. Merseyside Police will be responsible for enforcing the ban. In the meantime Council officers have fitted specialist traffic counting equipment along both routes to check articulated vehicles are adhering to the new restrictions.

Road improvements along Saughall Massie Road

WIRRAL Council has started work on a £300,000 road improvement scheme along Saughall Massie Road in West Kirby. Work began at the end of February and the road is currently closed from its junction with Black Horse Hill to its junction with Gilroy Road.

The project is expected to take twelve weeks to complete allowing for the road to be rebuilt, widened and have parking bays installed. The scheme will reduce congestion and improve road safety along one of the main thoroughfares to and from West Kirby. In the past parked cars have disrupted the flow of traffic in the area, particularly outside Black Horse Hill primary at the start and finish of the school day. The scheme will create new parking bays when the road is widened.

Overhaul of road signage

HIGHWAY experts in Wirral have started work on the largest overhaul of road signage the borough has ever seen. More than 300 road signs are being upgraded or replaced as part of a £70,000 initiative. Signs with directions, warnings and speed limit information are all being reviewed as part of the exercise. The overhaul is aimed at improving road safety, reducing pavement clutter and ensuring that motorists will be able to find their way around Wirral easily – in readiness for The Open Championship in Hoylake this summer.

Director David Green said: "Schemes that improve road safety are a high priority for this Council. The Open will see thousands more motorists on Wirral's roads making their way to The Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club this July.

Many will be unfamiliar with the local area – and we've carried out this review of signage to make sure drivers can find their way about as safely as possible. We want motorists to be clear about the speed limit and alerted to any potential hazards, such as bends in the road. We've also used this exercise as an opportunity to tidy up our pavements, and remove redundant signs."

The scheme covers all priority routes in Wirral. Key 'A' roads that have already been reviewed and improved include Birkenhead Road, Market Street, Meols Drive, Grange Road, Column Road, Telegraph Road, Barnston Road and Brimstage Road. Over the coming weeks traffic officers will be concentrating their efforts on main roads in Birkenhead and Wallasey. Faded and damaged signs are being replaced with those using the latest reflective materials. This reduces the need for illuminated signs and improves the Council's energy efficiency. Wherever possible, separate signs are being merged on to a single column. This minimises clutter along Wirral's pavements, and reduces the risk of signs creating an obstruction for people with disabilities.

New Food and Garden Waste recycling initiative

THE first large scale combined food and garden waste collection in Merseyside began this April for 20,000 homes in Wirral.

Residents received a brand new brown wheelie bin for both food and garden waste, to replace the white garden bag. A handy kitchen caddy, small enough to sit on a work-top or under the sink, also provides a useful container to transport kitchen scraps to the wheelie bin. The scheme, which will eventually be rolled out to other residents, currently involves homes in Heswall, Gayton, Pensby, Spital, Bebington, Higher Bebington, Prenton, Oxton, Caldy, West Kirby, Thingwall and Irby, and is aimed at boosting recycling rates across Wirral.

People taking part in the scheme have received a brown wheelie bin to take food scraps and all the garden waste that was previously placed in the white garden waste bag. The new bin is more durable, easy to move and holds much more.

Over 22% of the average contents of a bin are made up of kitchen scraps and the new service will reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill and help the environment.

Not only is the Council introducing the food and garden waste recycling but officers are also working on a dry recyclable collection too. This includes plastics, glass, cardboard, paper and cans. Changes to waste services will be introduced over time from August 2006. The Council will make sure residents receive all the help and information they need to get recycling.

New roundabout for Leasowe Road / Gardenside

WORK has begun on a major road improvement scheme in Wallasey. Technical Services is building a roundabout at the junction of Leasowe Road and Gardenside. The scheme is aimed at improving road safety and reducing congestion at one of the busiest junctions in the area.

Director David Green, said: "The Council has carried out a number of major schemes this year – along Thornton Common Road, at Arrowe Park and in Saughall Massie. We hope this latest project at one of Wallasey's busiest junctions further demonstrates our commitment to improving road safety, reducing congestion and lowering accident figures for the borough. Residents and motorists have shown great patience in waiting for this roundabout – we've had to follow lengthy legal procedures to buy additional land, needed as part of the scheme. Our highway officers are delighted that work is now starting on site and will do their utmost to minimise disruption for the local community while it is carried out."

Work started at the end of April and is expected to take up to four months to complete. The project involves building a 9-metre roundabout and new pavement, improving street lighting, upgrading bus shelters and introducing pedestrian crossing facilities. This will make crossing the road much safer for children attending the nearby Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School.

BT and Manweb have been working in the area for a number of months, carrying out essential diversion work – ahead of Council contractors starting on site. The scheme is being funded by central government as part of the Merseyside Local Transport Plan settlement for the area.

A41 footbridges are removed

WIRRAL Council has started work on a £1m package of environmental improvements for the A41 corridor, including the removal of footbridges in Eastham and Bromborough.

Mill Road footbridge in Bromborough was removed by crane, during an overnight road closure from 9pm on Saturday, March 4. A second bridge at Carlett Park was removed during a closure the following weekend.

Built in the 1960s, the Council faced costs of up to £70,000 to repair the two structures. Highway officers consulted with residents and monitored use of the two bridges. Both had low pedestrian usage and nearby pedestrian crossing facilities were being used in preference to the footbridges. The structures were also perceived by some people to be unsightly with the potential for attracting anti-social behaviour. Contractors were appointed to remove them on behalf of the Council and officers requested that materials recovered were sent for recycling. The bridges, their ramped walkways and stair cases, where possible, were removed the same night. Any necessary repair works to the pavements were also carried out.

Upgrade to some of Wirral's best loved promenades

A MAJOR refurbishment of some of Wirral's best-loved stretches of promenade gets underway this month (May).

Three kilometres of coastline, stretching from West Kirby to Hoylake, is in line for an £85,000 facelift. Promenade railings and shelters along South Parade, North Parade and Meols Parade have been earmarked for upgrading, with work expected to start within the month.

The scheme is being funded as part of the Council's annual coastal maintenance programme. Work is scheduled for completion as part of the 'Wirral – Open to All' campaign, aimed at improving the appearance of the local environment in time for The Open Championship at Royal Liverpool this summer.

The railings along South Parade in West Kirby endure some of the most extreme forces of nature being both abraded by sand and corroded by saltwater. They are now due to be coated in a new specialist hardwearing marine paint.

A total of six shelters in the area will be given a complete overhaul – with repainting, re-roofing, and new panels fitted to shelters where needed.

Work is also being done to reduce the amount of windblown sand along the promenade, with replacements to mesh panels being put in place, preventing sand from getting on to the road.

Section Seven

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service update

A verbal presentation will be given at the meeting.

Section Eight

Community Safety

Making Wirral Safer.

Our work as the Joint Community Safety Team (JCST) is showing good performance against our targets to make Wirral safer. As a partnership, we are required to achieve a 20% reduction against a number of indicators by March 2008. Wirral performance for the first half year of the target period (April - October 2005) has shown an 11.3% reduction compared to the same period in our baseline year 2003/04. We therefore have a further two and one half years in which to make a further 9% reduction in order to achieve the target. Based upon our projected performance the chances of us achieving our annual milestone target are very good.

Our performance compared to our most similar family of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) places us in fourth position out of 15 other areas and below the most similar family average.

C.C.T.V. developments;

The council have supported the development, through various funding streams, of the CCTV system into digital which enables police officers to obtain CCTV images more efficiently and enables staff to be more proactive in its use. We have also kept abreast of developments within the industry and have utilised the latest mobile CCTV systems to place in 'hot spot' areas.

What are we doing to reduce burglary (dwelling)?

Our performance to reduce the numbers of domestic burglaries continues to be at a high level. During the period April - October 2005 (which includes this quarter's performance) there has been a 14.4% reduction in burglaries compared to the same period last year. This means 148 fewer victims of this offence.

- Alleygates continue to be installed in the more vulnerable areas for burglary across the Borough
- 167 properties target-hardened through Victim Support Service.
- Burglary campaign on road hoarding signs, buses, radio (Buzz FM & Community Radio – Leasowe).
- Burglary reduction marketing campaigns featuring Crimestoppers
- Property mark using Smartwater technology in homes and schools
- Smartwater leaflet distribution through Youth Offending Service and the Alleygating programme
- Financially supporting Victim Support (through Government funding streams) to improve security in vulnerable homes which has lowered repeat victimisation.
- The Joint Community Safety Team organised and hosted a conference entitled 'Friend or Foe' to highlight the issues surrounding doorstep crime, particularly targeting the elderly
- Operating closely with Merseyside Police 'Pier Project' which targets Persistent and Prolific Offenders.

Domestic Burglary is an area subject to an LPSA target with a target not to exceed 4,700 offences of burglary over the two year life of the agreement which ends in March 2006. Our projected March 2006 performance predicts a level of 3,523 burglaries which equates to a total of 1,177 burglaries below our target of 4,700.

What are we doing to reduce business crime?

The team works closely with Trading Standards, Business Crime Direct, the Wirral Chamber of Commerce and independent traders. Some initiatives include;

- The number of Pub / Shop-Watch schemes mushrooming with the latest areas of Hoylake, West Kirby and New Brighton coming on line.
- Radio Watch schemes also being established Wirral-wide
- Development of CCTV Broadband monitoring within Shop-Watch Schemes
- New Web-based Ringmaster which alerts businesses to crime trends

- CCTV Broadband monitoring system placed in two Birkenhead nightclubs which will also address violent crime linked to Council Control Room

What are we doing to reduce vehicle crime?

Vehicle Crime represents a further good news story in terms of performance against targets. During the period April - October 2005 the number of vehicles;

- Vehicles stolen have fallen by 40.8% compared to the same period last year and are 53.3% below our performance during the baseline year 2003/04. Against a quarterly target of 453 vehicles being stolen we have recorded only 278 incidents
- The numbers of vehicles broken into has fallen by 8.3% this year compared to the same period 2004/05 and has fallen by 22.3% compared to the same period within our baseline year. During the last quarter against a target of 510 vehicles being broken into we have recorded only 440 incidents.

Initiatives, following on from extensive research on car crime on the Wirral, include: -

- 'Roadshows' throughout the Wirral in which Neighbourhood Police Inspectors have assisted to raise public awareness of Car Crime through their staff.
- Marketing communications campaign, this was launched in November in line with the seasonal trend of increased offences for car crime. The campaign will continue until February 2006 when the Home Office Car Crime Campaign will commence.
- Tri-band signs erected on lamp columns in areas of greatest risk in order to remind people to lock and secure their vehicles and are careful with their property.
- CCTV placed on various buildings to link through Council Broadband systems, which monitor vulnerable car parks.
- Mobile CCTV cameras deployed to various locations to deter car crime.
- 'Talk Boxes' (which give an audible car crime reduction message) placed in four sites where they would have the maximum benefit.
- Signage in local 'beauty spots' where there have been sporadic thefts from vehicles.
- Crime reduction leaflets and posters distributed via Wirral Chamber of Commerce to businesses addressing car crime. This also includes leaflets given by retailers to customers at the point of sale when making purchases of items such as Satellite Navigation Systems.
- Leaflets with specially designed crime reduction message placed under car windscreen wipers distributed by Police, Community Support Officers and volunteers.

What are we doing to tackle anti-social behaviour?

Reported incidents of anti social behaviour have shown a 9% reduction during the last quarter. This quarter comprised Mischief and Bonfire nights both generators of high levels of anti social behaviour but this year,

- Due to the joint work between the JCST partners. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service saw a 35% reduction in calls on Bonfire Night compared to 2004/05.
- In the year to date we have also seen 12 Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) obtained against an annual target of 4 ASBO's.

- The CDRP is actively working through the Youth Service and voluntary agencies to engage young people resulting in the provision of diversion activity across the Borough
- New projects will address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) with the help of additional support from Government to target alcohol-related violence.
- More co-ordinated response to 'hotspot' areas. An important outcome of this work has been a steady fall in the number of incidents of disorder being reported. There were over 4,500 less incidents reported in 2004-05 compared to 2003-04.
- The above, together with joint support of new anti social behaviour legislation, has been evaluated as successful in reducing disorder in areas critically affected by such problems.
- Wirral's Youth Offending Service has been ranked 15th out of 155 authorities. This places the team in the top 10% of best performing youth services in the country.

What are we doing to reduce the impact of drug and alcohol abuse?

Operation Hawk is a nationally acclaimed enforcement operation jointly funded by the Local Authority, DAAT and Merseyside Police which involves education and community support aiming to tackle the availability of drugs. Since the start of this operation:

- Over 150 warrants have been executed
- 180 persons arrested and charged for drug offences
- £120,000 cash assets seized
- Drugs to an estimated street value of £1 million seized.

Violent crime

Violent crime remains an area in which we do not anticipate reaching our overall target. Half way through the first year of our three year target for the more serious incidents of violence we remain 0.9% above our baseline year. In the second category of violence offences, assaults in which less serious injuries occur and in which a Police Officer is assaulted there has seen an increase on the baseline year of 68.7%. Whilst this increase is significant it is exaggerated by the small numbers of this type of offence.

What are we doing to help victims / survivors of domestic violence?

A Family Safety Unit was opened at the end of November at the Old Court Building, Manor Road, Wallasey. It will improve services, focusing on risk assessment, earlier intervention and practical support to victims / survivors to assist them through the criminal justice process and reduce the threat to their safety. The Unit will also co-ordinate responses based on the experience gained in dealing with Race Hate Crime. For more information about the Family Safety Unit email familysafetyunit@wirral.gov.uk or call 0151 606 5440.

Section Nine

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE DIVISION

STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2006/07

Name of Road	Limits	Ward	UKPMS Ranking	Other Priorities	Estimate	Category	Description of Works
Gayton Parkway	Part	Heswall	100		£55,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Oaksway	All	Heswall	100		£30,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Ambleside Close	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83		£63,000	Structural footway & Carriageway	P/L kerbs as required Remove flags & construct flexible footway
Belmont Drive	Part	Pensby & Thingwall	83		£13,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Cestrian Drive	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83	*	£35,000	Structural footway & Carriageway	P/L kerbs as required Remove flags & construct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Derwent Drive	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83		£40,000	Structural footway	P/L kerbs as required Reconstruct flexible footway
Elmswood Drive Hawthorne Drive Ashcroft Drive	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83 83 50		£5,000	Surface Treatment to footway	
Parkway Close Parkway	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83		£53,000	Structural footway & Carriageway	P/L kerbs as required Reconstruct Flexible footway Resurface Carriageway
Ryland Park	Part	Pensby & Thingwall	83		£37,000	Structural footway & Carriageway	P/L kerbs as required Remove flags & construct flexible footway

							Resurface carriageway
Seven Acres Lane	Part	Pensby & Thingwall	83		£27,000	Structural footway	P/L kerbs as required Remove flags & construct flexible footway
Seven Acres Lane	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83		£35,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Woodland Drive Low Wood Drive	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83 50		£134,000	Structural footway & Carriageway	P/L kerbs as required Reconstruct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Buffs Lane	Part	Heswall	83		£8,500	Surface Treatment to carriageway	
Gorse Hill Road	All	Heswall	83		£2,500	Surface Treatment to footway	
Hillfield Drive	All	Pensby & Thingwall	66		£11,000	Structural footway	P/L kerbs as required Reconstruct flexible footway
Heswall Mount	All	Pensby & Thingwall	33	*	£93,000	Structural footway & Carriageway	P/L kerbs as required Remove flags & construct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Townshend Avenue	Part	Pensby & Thingwall	--	*	£6,500	Surface Treatment to carriageway	
Forest Road	All	Heswall	--	To complete scheme	£24,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Park Road	All	Heswall	--	*	£7,500	Surface Treatment to carriageway	
Riverbank Road	All	Heswall	--	F	£25,000	Surface Treatment to footway & carriageway	

Section 10

TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK

BRIEFING NOTE PREPARED BY THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR AREA FORUMS IN THE JUNE 2006 CYCLE

1. Cabinet on 25 April 2006 considered a report from the Director of Technical Services on the Integrated Transport Block element of the Transport Capital Programme. The relevant minute is reproduced below:-

Minute 569 - TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE: TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/7 INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK

The Director of Technical Services had identified specific schemes for inclusion in the 2006/07 Transport Capital Programme within the specific headings of Speed Reduction, Road Widening/Parking, Aids to Movement (Dropped Crossings, Central Refuges and Signposting for Pedestrians), and his report also suggested a way in which Area Forums could be included in drawing up programmes within the Integrated Transport Block. The Environment and Transportation Select Committee on 6 April, 2006 supported the recommendation.

A decision was required to approve the proposed programme which was part of the Local Transport Plan process (LTP), identified in the Forward Plan as a key decision.

The Leader requested that a further report be brought to the Cabinet on the issue of delegated funding to Area Forums and that measures be put in place to ensure that Area Forums had all the relevant information, advice and guidance on the issues involved.

Minute Decision :
Resolved -

(1) That the programmes for 2006/07, as set out in paragraph 3 of the report, be approved

(2) That the Director of Technical Services engage with all Area Forums prior to drawing up the Integrated Transport Block programme for 2007/08.

(3) That the following proposed programmes for the Integrated Transport Block for 2006/07 be approved:-

(a) Speed reduction programme - Individual schemes be undertaken as listed in Appendix 2 - £70,000

(b) Road widening / Resident Parking - Stanney Close, Eastham - £20,000

(c) Pedestrian Dropped Crossings - Programme devised in conjunction with WIRED including consideration of sites listed in Appendix 7 - £40,000

(d) Central Refuges (Aids to Movement) - Individual schemes as listed in Appendix 6 - £40,000

(e) Pedestrian Sign Posting - to complement public transport initiatives - £10,000

(4) That in the event it proves impractical to proceed with an approved scheme or unallocated finance becomes available, the Director of Technical Services be authorised to select a suitable alternative from the reserve list in consultation with the party spokespersons.

2. I would therefore seek the views of the Area Forum on the composition of the Integrated Transport Block programme for 2007/08 and the extent to which funding decisions could be delegated to Area Forums.

Members will see from the above minute that the 2006/07 programme comprises:-

Speed reduction programme	£70,000
Road widening/residents parking	£20,000
Pedestrian dropped crossings	£40,000
Central refuges	£40,000
Pedestrian sign posting	<u>£10,000</u>
Total	£180,000

3. I would anticipate that the allocation for 2007/08 would be of a similar order.
4. At the Cabinet meeting a number of views were expressed as to how Area Forums could best be engaged in the process. The Cabinet also considered whether each Area Forum should be given an equal share of the Integrated Transport Block (£180,000 for 2006/07) which they would allocate as they choose or alternatively the money should continue to be spent on a borough wide basis but the views of the Forums be fed into the decision making process.
5. I would comment that the sum of money involved, if allocated to each Forum on an individual basis (for example £16,300 for 2006/07), would be unlikely to allow for the introduction of a speed reduction scheme. Similarly only a very modest road widening scheme could be undertaken, although possibly a parking area of approximately 4/5 spaces could be provided within an existing grass verge.
6. Dropped crossings to assist pedestrians are currently programmed in conjunction with Wirral Information Resource for Equality and Disability and £40,000 would allow for 65 – 70 crossings to be provided. A typical central refuge scheme would cost about £10,000 and therefore probably one could be provided subject of course to the intended carriageway having sufficient width which would need to be a minimum of 10 metres.
7. Individual pedestrian sign posting would be likely to cost in the order of £200 per sign.
8. It can be seen therefore that if the Integrated Transport Block funding is allocated to individual Area Forums it would be possible to undertake a modest programme comprising some elements of parking schemes, dropped crossings, refuges and sign posting. Alternatively, Forums may prefer for the sums to be

used on a borough wide basis as at present but to nominate areas where funding could be allocated.

9. An officer from the Department of Technical Services will be present at the meeting of the Area Forum and would be pleased to learn the views of the Forum and answer any questions.

19 MAY 2006