

# AREA FORUM (OXTON AND PRENTON)

Wednesday, 23 June 2010

Present:

Councillor P Williams (Chair)

In attendance:

Councillors A Bridson  
S Holbrook  
S Kelly  
A Brighthouse  
D Realey

Community Representatives Alan Dollery, Sarah Goulding, Patrick Toosey

Older Peoples Parliament Jack Cuffe

Lead Officer Rob Beresford, Head of Regeneration

Area Service Co-ordinator Louise Harland-Davies

Street Scene Manager Chris Jones

Community Safety Mike Collins

NHS Wirral Martin McEwan

Wirral University Teaching Hospital  
NHS Foundation Trust Gary Doherty

Merseyside Police Inspector Brian Griffiths

Merseyside Fire and Rescue  
Service John Davies

In attendance Ema Boddison (Minute Taker) Michelle Gray,  
Helen Gallagher, Martyn Clarke, Monty Shields

Apologies Jack Cuffee (Older People's Parliament), Cathy  
Gritzner (NHS Wirral) Inspector Roy McGregor

## 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Pat Williams, welcomed forum members and 14 members of the public to meeting.

The Chair asks if a letter could be sent to Cllr Paula Southwood and Cllr Frank Doyle for the years of service they have put into this forum.

## 2 **YOU DECIDE**

Rob Beresford gave a presentation on **You Decide** and explained each area forum has an extra £20,000 to spend on additional services in the local community. Cards would be available for the public to vote for their local priorities.

**Q (Public Member)** – You Decide is a good idea but I would like to query the prices. Where do they come from? Are the prices subject to competitive tender?

**Chris Jones (Streetscene Manager)** – We go to competitive tender for likes of trees yes.

**Public Member** – Well does that apply to all prices?

**Chris Jones** – Certainly from Technical Services.

**Q (Public Member)** – Why don't you use young people to get work experience to fulfil the activity list? It would utilise waste services and save money.

**Chris Jones** – I agree that would be a good idea.

**Q (Public Member)** - £20k is a reasonable amount of money but there are only 14 people to vote. How widely was this forum advertised as 14 people is not enough to vote?

**Rob Beresford** – We can provide voting cards for people to take away.

**Q (Public member)** – How would people living in Oxton have got word of this meeting?

**Rob Beresford** – Area forums are advertised through the local press, internet, local information points including One Stop Shops and libraries and through local contacts and organisations. If you have a suggestion how we can expand then please let us know.

**Alan Dollery** – People will turn up if they have an interest in it. We cannot drag people in off the streets.

**Public member** – Why don't you put adverts in other places like post offices, hospitals etc – people would be interested in spending money. Get notice boards for each area.

**Rob Beresford** – We will carry on with the voting how it is at the moment and take all your comments on board.

**Q (Public member)** – Is You Decide going to beat the cuts?

**Pat Williams** – This funding has already been allocated for this year.

**The Chair** then proceeded to give a 10 minute break to give people time to vote.

**Rob Beresford** informed the forum that the results for You Decide will be available at the next forum in October.

### 3 **AREA FORUM BUSINESS:**

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Cllr Simon Holbrook and Denise Realey proposed that Cllr Pat Williams remain as chair of the forum– this was agreed.

### 4 **MINUTES & AREA CO-ORDINATORS REPORT**

**Louise Harland-Davies**, Area Co-ordinator presented her report and highlighted partner updates within the report and explained there was an opportunity to vote for road safety schemes up to the value of £18,200 through the Integrated Transport Block funding and also a chance to request additional grit bins up to the value of £5,000 through the Winter Resilience funding.

These requests would be collated and shared with Technical Services and final locations and schemes would be confirmed at the next area forum in October.

The Area Co-ordinator added that the results of ‘Have your say’ questionnaires around living in Oxtun and Prenton from the last area forum were available at the meeting.

Minutes from the last meeting were then agreed as a true record.

### 5 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Q (Public member)** – The vehicle activated sign by the bus stop in Woodchurch Road is not effective. Cars go past fast and it does not come on!

**Chris Jones** – They are activated by speed of the traffic.

**Public member** – These vehicles were speeding.

**Chris Jones** – I will take your details at the end and look into it.

**Q (Public Member)** – everytime I ring Streetscene I am not given an incident number. I mentioned this at the last area forum and I have today brought along evidence of the same. I only got an incident number when I asked for one.

**Chris Jones** – I will take that back with me and look into for you.

**Public Member** – That is what Mark Smith (Head of Service, Streetscene) said!!

**Cllr Pat Williams** – Mark Smith actually asked if there was any evidence and then he would look into it.

**Cllr Stuart Kelly** – It is impossible to investigate without evidence of log and reference number as the searches are done by numbers.

**Public member** – The matter I am raising is that some people were not actually offered this number.

**Chris Jones** – I appreciate that and the only way we can investigate is to have an evidence trail so we can establish who is was and offer further training.

**Public Member** – I started actually asking for a reference number as everytime I was ringing they could trace my previous calls. I just find it strange that public had to gather evidence. The call centre needs to be told to give a reference number.

**Cllr Pat Williams** – I expect a report back for the next meeting.

**Public member** – Retail organisations have a mystery shopper and I think it would be a good idea for the local authority to have something like this.

**Alan Dollery** – In relation to the last meeting and parking on pavements, I contacted Inspector Griffiths and they went around Prenton. I have been back in touch with Shaun Brady who sent me a letter which states that they are going to make Prenton a test to investigate these vehicles parked on the grass verges. I would like to see further action.

**Inspector Brian Griffiths** – Shaun Brady, myself and Community Support Officers went around the area. If there is that sort of parking it would have a traffic calming affect.

**Sarah Goulding** – When police see obstructions are they obliged to stop and deal with it? There is a van in Woodchurch Road always parking on the pavement causing an obstruction.

**Inspector Brian Griffiths** – Local officers should it depends what they are deployed to do. Give me your details at the end

**Sarah Goulding** – I don't want to do that. If I can see the van then surely you can.

**Cllr Denise Realey** – it is the same on Borough Road, people treat the pavement as if it is a car park.

**Cllr Ann Bridson** – Also people driving into their properties when they haven't had the pavement adapted.

**Chris Jones** – It is actually an offence under the Highways Act of unauthorised vehicle access. We will write to them and offer them an estimate for the work to be done. There is a policy we follow.

**Cllr Ann Bridson** – Need to think of the knock on effect of damage to pavements, Two elderly people have had falls

**Mike Collins** – Community Patrol have service level agreement with Wirral Partnership Homes so they are involved.

**Public Member** – Where we live the landlord ripped out the hedges and wall and just left the front open and now has three cars parked on the drive. There is no dropped kerb and there are double yellow lines that people ignore.

**Q (Public Member)** – Can we report people who continuously park on pavements.

**Chris Jones** – Yes it comes under Section 58 of the Highways Act – duty of care to check safety inspection, service ability inspection and street scene inspection.

**Public member** – Opposite the Co – op on Borough Road some one has knocked a wall down to park 2 cars. This is taking away public parking spaces.

**Chris Jones** – This time last year it was ruled that you now have to have planning approval to open up your front.

**Cllr Simon Holbrook** – The area of land needs to be a minimum area, you get exemption if the surface you put down is porous.

**Cllr Alan Brighthouse** – Some roads have continuous dropped kerbs, can you park there?

**Chris Jones** – It depends on the structure behind to see whether it can take a back wheel without smashing.

**Q (Public Member)** – I have asked in Lloyds Bank about changing their access to allow parking. The Oxtan side of the road is about 20 feet wide, do we need it this wide as people cannot park? If people cannot park then they will eventually stop shopping there – Prenton is dying because of this.

**Cllr Pat Williams** – There is a great deal of concern here. We need a report and presentation for the next meeting please.

**Louise Harland-Davies** – I had an e-mail from Mr. Lennon this morning. Would you like to expand?

**Mr. Lennon (Public Member)** – There are certain things that I wished to be placed on the agenda that are not. How is it decided whether agenda items are allowed?

**Rob Beresford** – The Area Forum is conducted according to the operating protocols and the constitution. So everyone is aware, Mr. Lennon feels that he has put issues forward to the forum that have been barred from a hearing. We have made provision

for issues in question time where questions can be asked. I am happy to have a further discussion with Mr Lennon over his concerns.

**Mr. Lennon** – People take time and trouble to come here so people should be able to know what is on the agenda.

**Cllr Pat Williams** – Could you explain to me what you think has been barred?

**Mr. Lennon** – The Authority failed to respond in a conventional way of written correspondence. I have not had any explanation.

**Louise Harland-Davies** – A response had been sent to address issues you raised ahead of the previous area forum meeting.

**Cllr Simon Holbrook** – I am not sure what answers you are looking for, we do not understand?

**Rob Beresford** – Mr. Lennon has a problem with speediness of response to his queries, he has raised another 2 since. I am happy to talk to Mr. Lennon after the meeting.

**Public Member** – it needs to be resolved with discussions with Officers. It is not possible or appropriate to sort at a forum.

**Cllr Pat Williams** – I did encourage you to go through the Councils complaints procedure.

**Mr. Lennon** – I have had no response.

**Cllr Pat Williams** – As discussed Rob Beresford would be happy to talk to you after the meeting

**Q (Public Member)** – Is it still possible to find public tennis courts in Prenton and Oxtan?

**Cllr Pat Williams** – I know there are tennis courts in Bidston.

**Alan Dollery** – there are tennis courts in Birkenhead Park, Arrowe Park and Irby.

**Q (Public Member)** – with regards to the 20mph scheme, I applied for it on Elm Road North as a pilot scheme!

**Chris Jones** – It was a considerable amount of money to fund. These are now being reviewed through our traffic system.

**Cllr Simon Holbrook** – Cabinet put money in the budget for that so over 4 years they would be put where people wanted them in every non major road.

**Chris Jones** – That was the information I have received earlier today.

**Public member** – we had a 20mph for 3 or 4 months and it was useless as they are not enforceable they need to be enforced. I am concerned to hear a senior officer is saying that the money is being withdrawn. Can we clarify this for the next meeting?

**Cllr Pat Williams** – Yes.

## 6 PARTNER UPDATES

**Mike Collins, Community Safety** – Urged people to be careful and lock windows and sheds as these are being broken into. Has been involved in a number of incidents and dealt with £2,500. Will try and get a report for each individual forum for next time. Announced a new dog fouling enforcement team start this week under the future jobs fund.

**Alan Dollery** – With regards to anti social behaviour, are you working jointly with Wirral Partnership Homes as you can now contact their own number instead of ringing the Police.

**Mike Collins** – It is Community Patrol and we will respond.

**Alan Dollery** – The number needs to be advertised more.

**Mike Collins** – you can contact WPH who will contact us 24 hours a day.

**Inspector Brian Griffiths, Merseyside Police** – I have newsletters from various areas which I will hand out.

**Cllr Ann Bridson** – Page 21 of the papers – 2 new older people’s wards in Clatterbridge. I would just like to say I have been to see them and they are a vast improvement. They are lovely and ideal for people with dementia.

**Cllr Pat Williams** – I would just like to point out that there is a typing error on page 29 of the area co-ordinators report with regards to the Mayor of Wirral it says ‘June 2001’ – should be ‘June 2010’.

## 7 FUTURE MEETINGS:

**Next meeting will be Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, venue to be confirmed.**

**The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9pm**