



## Area Forum (Oxton and Prenton)

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, 7 October 2008</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Williamson Art Gallery, Slatey Road, Birkenhead CH43 4UE</b>

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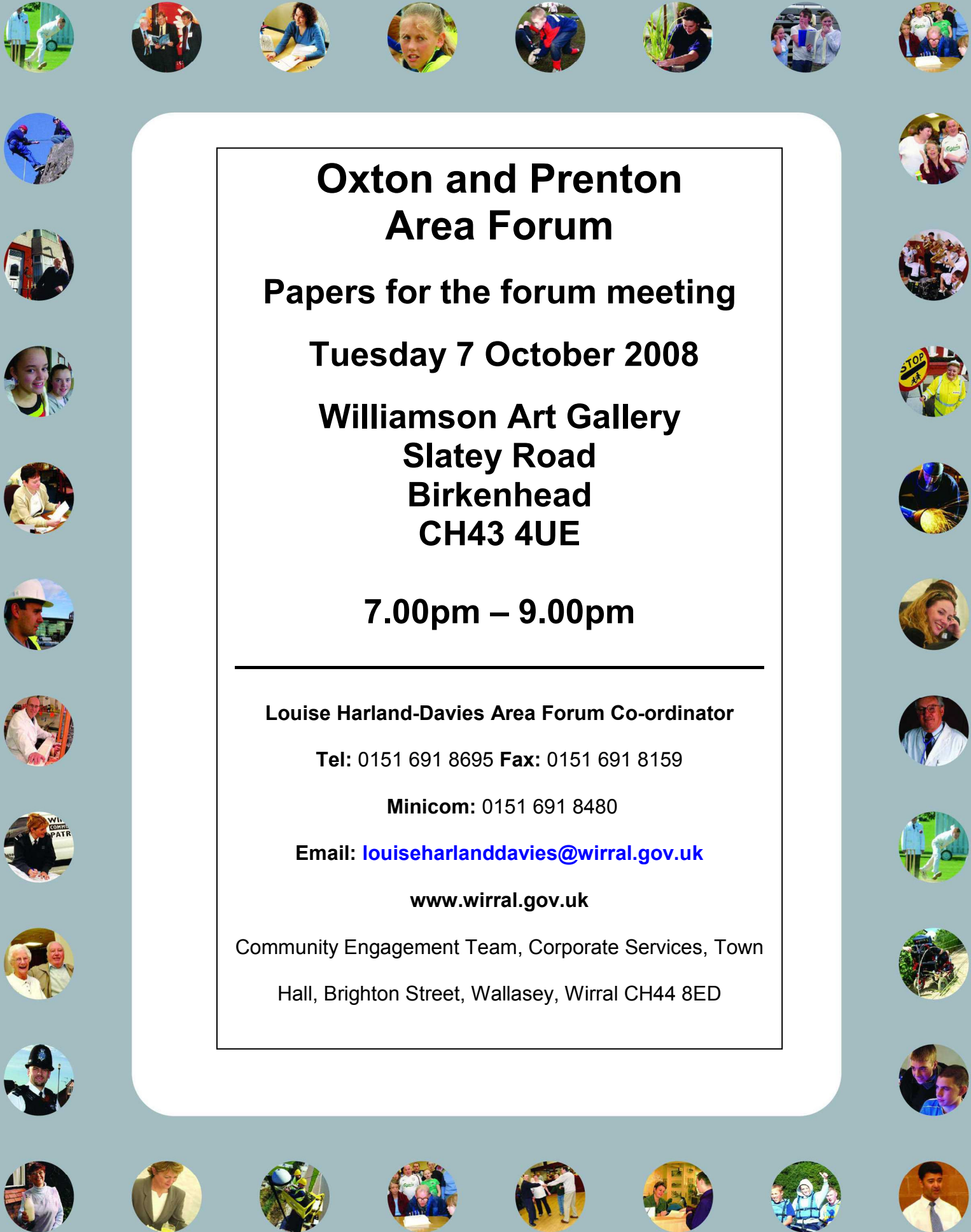
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## AGENDA

Drop in session 6.30pm - 7.00pm with Councillors, Streetscene, Community Safety and Wirral Partnership Homes

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIIES
2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS FORUM
3. AREA CO-ORDINATOR' S REPORT (Pages 1 - 38)
4. DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM (DAAT)
5. YOU DECIDE RESULTS
6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
  - 3 February 2009 (venue to be confirmed)

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**Oxton and Prenton  
Area Forum**

**Papers for the forum meeting**

**Tuesday 7 October 2008**

**Williamson Art Gallery  
Slatey Road  
Birkenhead  
CH43 4UE**

**7.00pm – 9.00pm**

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Community Engagement Team, Corporate Services, Town  
Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED

# **Oxton and Prenton Area Forum**

Tuesday 7 October 2008 7pm – 9pm

Williamson Art Gallery, Slatey Road,  
Birkenhead, Wirral CH43 4UE

Drop in session 6.30pm – 7pm with Councillors, Streetscene,  
Community Safety and Wirral Partnership Homes

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies
2. Minutes and matters arising from June forum
3. Area Co-ordinator's Report
4. Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)
5. You Decide Results
6. Public Question Time
7. Future meetings: Tuesday 3 February 2009, venue to be confirmed

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## Introduction: Membership of the area forum

Area Forums involve local ward councillors, Merseyside Police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service representatives, along with nominated local community representatives and officers from various departments of the Council, who regularly attend to support the work of the forum.

### Oxton and Prenton Councillors all belong to the Liberal Democrat Party

#### **Councillor Simon Holbrook**

(Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group)  
Prenton Ward  
0151 513 5656  
simonholbrook@wirral.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Ann Bridson**

Prenton Ward  
0151 201 7310  
annbridson@wirral.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Frank Doyle**

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#### **Councillor S.E. Kelly**

Oxton Ward  
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stuartkelly@wirral.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Paula Southwood**

Oxton Ward  
mobile: 07718 582 397  
paulasouthwood@wirral.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Mrs Patricia Williams (Chair)**

Oxton Ward  
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#### **Louise Harland-Davies**

**Area Co-ordinator**  
Tel 0151 691 8695  
louiseharlanddavies@  
wirral.gov.uk

#### **Alan Stennard**

**Chief Officer** Director of Regeneration, responsible for housing, regeneration, regulation and cultural services in the borough. **0151 691 8395**

#### **Rob Beresford**

**Lead Officer** - Robert Beresford is Head of Regulation and has responsibility for Licensing, Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Community Safety in the borough. **0151 691 8208**

#### **Patrick Toosey**

**Community Representative, Oxton**  
Oxton Society

#### **Sarah Goulding**

**Community Representative, Oxton**  
Friends of the Arno and Oxton Fields

#### **Robbie Bell**

**Community Representative, Prenton**  
Devonshire Park Resident's Association

#### **Alan Dollery**

**Community Representative, Prenton**  
Chair of Prenton Tenants & Residents Association, Chair of the Prenton Partnership, Member of Wirral Federation of Tenants & Residents Association

#### **Inspector Paul Harrison (Oxton)**

**0151 709 6010**

#### **Inspector Brian Griffiths (Prenton)**

**0151 709 6010**

#### **Merseyside Fire and Rescue**

**Birkenhead Fire Station**  
**0151 650 0422**

**All Ward Councillors can be contacted by post or via their email. They represent all residents regardless of political persuasion. You can write to your local councillor at Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 8ED**

# Section One

## Minutes and Matters Arising

**Minutes - Area Forum (Oxton and Prenton) - 17 June 2008**

Present	
Chair	Mrs P M Williams
Ward Councillor	A Bridson , SA Holbrook
Community Representatives	Robbie Bell (Devonshire Park Resident's Association) , Alan Dollery (Prenton Tenants & Residents Assoc.) , Sarah Goulding (Friends of the Arno and Oxton Fields) , Patrick Toosey (Oxton Society)
Older People's Parliament Representative	Jack Cuffe
Lead Officer	Bob Beresford (Deputy Director of Housing & Environmental Protection)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Louise Harland-Davies
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Tina Long (Primary Care Trust)
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Gary Docherty
Merseyside Police	Inspector Brian Griffiths , Inspector Paul Harrison
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Ben Ryder
Council Officers	Steve Atkins (Technical Services) , Carol Sharratt (Minute Taker) , Mark Smith (Head of Service, Streetscene and Waste) , Mike Walker (Community Safety Officer)
Apologies	Cllr FM Doyle , Cllr SE Kelly , Councillor PM Southwood

### **Index to Minutes**

Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies

Minute 2 - Minutes and matters arising from February forum

Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinator's Report

Minute 4 - Public Question Time • Representatives from Traffic Management and Parking Services in attendance

Minute 5 - Partner Information

Minute 6 - Future meetings

Minute 7 - Any other business: Area Forum Funding DVD

### **Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Councillor Williams informed the forum that she would be the new Chair for the area forum, and thanked Councillor Doyle for chairing the forum previously, and welcomed approximately 40 members of the public to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillors Southwood, Doyle and Kelly.

The Chair informed the forum that a DVD on area forum funding would be shown

at the end of the meeting.

## **Minute 2 - Minutes and matters arising from February forum**

The Chair raised the following points re: the minutes of the last meeting:

Minute 5 (P9) - Holm Lane parking - The Council will be sending letters to households for views on this issue and will then decide if any enforcement action needs to be taken.

Minute 5 (P8) - Osmaston Road - Councillor Holbrook informed the Forum that the matter has been passed to the Technical Services section who have agreed to look at the possible introduction of traffic regulations in the area. Mark Smith added that an invitation to attend a site meeting to look at some possible options / solutions has been sent to a number of residents in Osmaston Road and the surrounding area, and he requested that if anyone would like to attend the meeting to add their name to list available at the meeting.

Minute 5 (P8) - Parking at Tranmere - Inspector Griffiths informed the forum that he had raised this issue with Tranmere Rovers FC and it has been agreed that coaches will do traffic enforcement in the local area on match days up to 10 minutes to the second half, as part of match plan.

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

## **Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinator's Report**

Louise briefly highlighted sections of her report, copies of which were available at the meeting, including the following:

Page 15 - Young People - information on the Blaze project that took place last year.

Page 20 - Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy in place.

Page 21 - Partner updates.

Page 27 - Local PCT Links Group, involving patients and the public.

Page 29 - Oxton Society, details on Annual Secret Garden event from Patrick Toosey.

Page 34 - Civic Parking Enforcement - frequently asked questions (if anyone would like this information sent out via e-mail please contact Louise at [louiseharland-davies@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:louiseharland-davies@wirral.gov.uk)).

The Chair thanked Louise for her report and the following questions / issues were raised by members of the public:

LinKs was set up by Statute, and is independent from the Hospital and the PCT. Tina Long - this is correct, but the PCT is working closely with the Local Authority to establish links with this important new initiative.

More papers are required for the meeting.



Minute Decision :

Resolved that Louise Harland-Davies be thanked for her report.

#### **Minute 4 - Public Question Time • Representatives from Traffic Management and Parking Services in attendance**

The following questions / issues were raised:

Traffic Management / Parking Services

1. Andrew Taylor - requested a response from Technical Services Department to a query raised in March on residents parking schemes: new residents parking schemes will be subject to a set up fee and an annual fee. If an existing parking scheme (set up 14 years ago that was brought in by the Police to control parking at matches and has been subsidised by residents through the issue of visitors permits) is changed would this be liable to set up fees?

A. Mark Smith - the Council has limited capital funding and has a policy on such schemes. Criteria have been set re: size of scheme, kerbside parking. There is no budget available for new and amended schemes, so if an amended scheme involves capital expenditure then we do look for residents to fund up front costs for the capital revenue required.

2. Andrew Taylor - was this accepted by Councillors and Cabinet and do the changes to the scheme requested by the Police need to be charged to the Police (i.e. are they subject to the same charges as residents)?

A. Councillor Holbrook - these are operational decisions and were not quite within the remit of the agreed policy. He apologised for the delay in answering the question, and added that a report clarifying the policy is required.

3. Member of the public - does this mean that people will be charged for parking on match days (clarification is required for residents)?

A. Councillor Holbrook - no, the only additional costs will be for items such as road signs etc. New residents parking has to be funded by residents making the request. Mark Smith added that the Council has no allocation for the capital expenditure involved in new or amended schemes. This principle does not apply to the ongoing operation of schemes.

The Chair added that there is clearly still confusion over this issue and requested that anyone who would like a written response to this to leave their details at the end of the meeting.

4. Andrew Taylor - why was the 20mph zone signage request submitted turned down, what criteria was applied and why did the estate not meet the criteria?

A. Mark Smith - a number of reports went to Council's Cabinet. No absolute criteria applied but a number of factors were taken into consideration, including the following:

- residential areas that were self-contained and could be influenced by the initiative
- road safety records (number of enquiries / petitions)
- presence of schools / those developing school travel plan
- local community groups willing to take active control.

Mark was not able to check specifically on discussions re: this case, but this matter was called in for scrutiny on 7th January 2008 and was given careful consideration. Mark agreed to share a copy of the Committee Report with Mr Taylor at the end of the meeting. The Chair added that she had attended a

presentation on the pilot areas and there was a good justification for Oxton Village and an objective decision was made by Councillors. Mark informed the forum that there will be a report feeding back on the seven pilot areas, and that these are a starting point and that believes that there is a strong likelihood will be rolled out to other areas and will feed this into the process.

5. Dave Pearson - Has any consideration been given to the affect of these schemes on visiting home and away fans?

A. Mark Smith was not aware of any specific consultation or feedback from fans. Councillor Holbrook added that Osmaston Road is not part of a residents parking scheme and falls under traffic regulations, where there are no parking charges.

6. Patrick Dowling - is it too early to give an assessment of the effectiveness of signs / expenses of schemes, as have not noticed a change and believe speed bumps are more effective?

A. Mark Smith - at present we are carrying out monitoring / evaluation of schemes looking at traffic speeds and getting views from residents and will be reporting back to Council. We have to follow rigid criteria, set by the Department of Transport, on what we can spend on traffic calming schemes. If a scheme does not meet the criteria we can still try and make an impact by trying involving local communities and trying to change people's mindsets.

7. Alan Dollery - about two years ago a request was made to try and alleviate problems in Palmwood Close, by Asda, is there any information available on this?

A. Councillor Bridson - there have been discussions about this and the issue has been raised with Asda. The narrowing of the road has made matters worse. We need to ask Technical Services to look at this again. Mark Smith added that the Council has managed to secure a Section 106 Agreement for traffic improvement in the area, he agreed to report back further on this.

8. Trevor Eastwood - there is a parking and safety issue at Waterpark Road. Surveys show speeding is considerable in the road, causing problems for people coming out of their driveways. The Chair added that an e-mail had been received from Richard Neal about the same issue and requesting that a 20mph zone be set in the area. A member of the public added that safety problems for residents getting out of their driveways have been being raised since October.

A. Mark Smith - extensive discussions have taken place on this problem. Resurfacing work has been programmed for this area, but we are waiting for statutory undertaking works to be completed. We are looking at what improvements can be made to the area, but it wouldn't meet the criteria for traffic calming as there are low statistics on accidents. We are looking at low cost improvements and working with the Police on enforcement measures to alleviate problems. Inspector Griffiths added that he will continue to sent Officers and PCSOs to the area to enforce regulations and issue fixed penalty notices where applicable. Councillor Holbrook thanked Mark Smith for making a commitment to this.

9. John Wallace - in Osmaston Road there is a problem with parked cars near the end of the road and drivers taking the bend quickly causing oncoming traffic to stop as there is no room to get passed. The bend gets flooded and is far too easy to take at high speed and needs to be looked at.

A. Mark Smith - will look at this issue at the site meeting.

10. Raymond Brannan - a problem with speeding traffic in Prenton Dell Road was

raised two years ago and has still not been resolved.

A. Mark Smith - agreed to look into this.

11. Fiona Doyle - how will restricted parking affect Osmaston Road, as residents in Woodchurch Road have to park there.

A. Councillor Holbrook - this will form part of the discussion to find a solution to the problem, making sure that everyone is involved. Introducing restricted parking will still mean that residents from Woodchurch Road will still have to park away from their property.

12. What is the timescale for the consultations?

A. Mark Smith - the consultations will take place over the next few weeks.

The Chair ended discussions on traffic issues and the following issues / questions were raised:

Colin Higgins - there is a notice at Walker Park saying that alcohol is prohibited in the area outside the park, does this mean that it is ok to consume alcohol in the park?

A. Inspector Griffiths - will get the sign moved as that is not the intention. Alcohol Free Zones are part of an initiative in tackling youth and alcohol problems, but often find that this just moves the young people from one place to another. Walker Park is usually a place visited by young people in the Summer, they migrate from the Dell to the Rugby Club and on to Walker Park. If anyone has any information on where the young people are congregating please let us know as we are trying to eliminate demand and reduce their effect on the community.

David Bird - was the item in the Area Co-ordinators report on the Health and Well Being initiated by the Trust or included following a request from the Area Forum? Could fuller reports be given on issues such as dementia and what the NHS is doing about this?

A. Gary Docherty - I am not fully aware of the history of how the Trust became involved in area forums, but do wish to attend the forums to make the Trust more accountable to the community. Councillor Bridson added that mental health is an important issue and needs to be acted upon. Tina Long - will take this issue up with the Trust, on the Forum's behalf, and get a response on this.

Dave Pearson - could more information be given on the crime statistics for our area?

A. Inspector Griffiths - each Inspector publishes a monthly newsletter on our website breaking down information into the local area. Crime levels are reducing but the fear of crime is not reducing. If there is a particular problem in an area we will publicise this. People can sign up to receive copies of the newsletters.

Dave Pearson - thanked the Forum for the funding received but requested that the application process not be made too complicated and ensure that people are informed of its availability.

A. Louise Harland-Davies - the DVD being shown at the end of the meeting will give more information on funding and will be used to promote the funding.

Shirley Higgins - what are the coloured targets and to whom do we contact to report minor vandalism (broken wing mirrors and garden ornaments etc) carried out between 11pm and 3am to?

A. Inspector Griffiths - there is no such thing as minor vandalism and all incidents should be reported on our 24 hour central number (0151 709 6010). We operate

a graded response policy on sending out patrols, and Friday and Saturday nights are our busiest time. Our big drive is separating youths from alcohol as this is major cause of assaults on / to individuals, criminal damage, sexual assaults etc. We are working towards acceptable behaviour contracts, involving individuals, parents and schools - 90% of those involved do amend their behaviour, and we need to go to this before issuing anti-social behaviour orders. If we think there is a particular problem with premises (off-licences / pubs etc.) we can look at licensing enforcements. We are working with off-licences to avoid alcohol seizures from premises and can sometimes get some types of alcohol taken off the shelves (e.g. Frosty Jacks cider has been removed by a large chain).

Bob Beresford added that the Trading Standards team works closely with the Police and premises selling alcohol to young people can be reported on 08454 04 05 06 or sent to [tradingstandards@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@wirral.gov.uk) and requested that people report such incidents and help us to target premises. Inspector Griffiths informed the Forum that people had complained about a particular off-licence and Trading Standards and the Police set up an operation with young people, resulting in the off-licence reporting an adult, who received an £80 fixed penalty, for purchasing alcohol for young people.

Robbie Bell - requested that it be remembered that there are many good young people and asked if the Council have a policy on how many days it should take to respond to queries received from residents and community groups?

A. Bob Beresford - all responses should be issued within 15 days and the Council monitors this. If there are any specific instances where this has not been achieved please let Louise or myself know and we will look into them.

Patrick Dowling - are there any plans to replace the trees that were felled along Mendip Road / Mount Road two winters ago?

A. Councillor Bridson - the trees were felled due to high winds and there is still work to complete in the area (the brick escarpment needs replacing). Discussions are still taking place with officers and residents, who would like the fence replacing. The replacement of the trees has been considered but the embankment is not very wide and we don't want to end up with the same problem. Mark Smith added that he has met with Shaun Brady on this. It was agreed that Louise Harland-Davies to get an update on this for the next meeting.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved that:

- (i) Mark Smith to send a written response on residents parking scheme policy to Andrew Taylor and to all those who requested this at the meeting.
- (ii) Mark Smith to report back on traffic improvements planned for the area around Asda and Palmwood Close.
- (iii) Mark Smith to pick up issue of traffic problems, raised by John Wallace, in Osmaston Road at the site meeting.
- (iv) Mark Smith to look into problem of speeding traffic along Prenton Dell Road.
- (vi) Tina Long to raise issue with NHS Trust on its policies and plans for tackling dementia and to report back on this.
- (vii) Louise Harland-Davies to get an update on issue re: tree replacement at Mendip Road / Mount Road for the next forum.

## **Minute 5 - Partner Information**

### **Police**

Inspector Griffiths informed the forum that an update was included in the Area co-ordinators report, and on the police website, on anti-social behaviour (youths and alcohol) and crack house closures. He offered to print out a copy of this and asked if people would see him at the end of the meeting to request this.

Inspector Harrison informed the Forum that he covers the Laird Street Neighbourhood (part of Oxton) and that an update was included in the Area Co-ordinators report showing that crime levels are going down. A big focus is being placed on anti-social behaviour, as this is what the public are saying bothers them most, and we are directing patrols to these hot-spot areas and striving to provide a good service. He requested that people see him at the end of the meeting to discuss problems in the area.

The Chair thanked the Inspectors for their updates and for the work done in the area.

### **Fire and Rescue Service**

Ben Ryder informed the forum that an update was included in the Area co-ordinators report and requested people see him at the end of the meeting to discuss any issues relating to this. We are continuing with Home Fire Safety Checks and these are available to everyone on Merseyside. The Fire Fighters Games are taking place in August / September and volunteers are needed, for more information please visit [www.wfg08.com](http://www.wfg08.com)

Alan Dollery asked if the Summer scheme (Blaze) is still going. Ben informed the forum lots of strategies and events are running, with other partners e.g. Grass Fire Strategy - working with the Police and other agencies, and there are more details of these in the report, and would be happy to answer any specific questions at the end of the meeting.

The Chair thanked Ben Ryder for his update.

### **Primary Care Trust**

Tina Long informed the Forum that an in depth update was given at the last forum meeting and that the Trust had received 8,000 responses to their consultation (London only received 5,000 responses). We are taking the responses seriously and are planning a wrap around in the local papers on 30 June 2008 with more information on this. The Chair thanked Tina Long for her update.

### **NHS Trust**

Gary Docherty informed the Forum that a report on the challenges / services was included in the Area co-ordinators report. Copies of application forms, for anyone wishing to become a member of the Trust, were available at the meeting along with additional information on the hospital.

A member of the public added that the public can also become a member of the Partnership Trust and Councillor Holbrook requested that application forms for this be brought to the next meeting.

The Chair thanked Gary Docherty for his update.

### **Community Safety**

Mike Walker informed the Forum that information on the Ice Cream Vehicle (launched three months ago) was included on page 18 of the Area Co-ordinators Report. The Youth Service and Partners are involved in organising youth activities during the Summer holidays for young people. The Chair thanked Mike Walker for his update.

### **Older People's Parliament**

Jack Cuffe informed the Forum that several working groups have been looking at various issues, including Safety in Streets, Home Service and Hospital Discharge. If anyone has been in hospital during the last year and would like take part in a survey being carried out on this please contact Brian Christian on 0151 666 2220. The latest newsletter was not available at the meeting, and he apologised for this. On the 17th July a meeting will be held at the Lauries to look at crime and respect from an older person's point of view. On 17 September a meeting will be held on housing on Wirral for older people. The Chair thanked Jack Cuffe for his update.

### **Prenton Tenants and Residents Association**

Alan Dollery informed the Forum that the Association held a fair on Saturday. We have been working with the Prenton Rugby Club in looking for facilities for young people in the Prenton area to take up sports. Hopefully, within the next 3/5 years we will have a place where young people can play safely. We held a Viking Day, which was very successful thanks to help from Patrick Toosey. We have also been involved in a nature study with Groundwork. The Chair thanked Alan Dollery for his update and added that it is good to see community representatives being able to help each other.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Inspector Griffiths, Inspector Harrison, Ben Ryder, Tina Long, Gary Docherty, Mike Walker, Jack Cuffe and Alan Dollery be thanked for their updates

### **Minute 6 - Future meetings**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th October 2008 at Woodchurch Road Primary School

### **Minute 7 - Any other business: Area Forum Funding DVD**

Sarah Goulding - could we look at how we can engage parents to tackle young people / alcohol / anti-social behaviour?

Inspector Griffiths - we have done this and met with differing reactions from parents. We refer them to the Youth Service where one-to-one help is given to the individuals and their parents. The PCT have an Alcohol Harm Reduction Policy and this involves working with parents and young people suffering with health problems. The Youth Service can engage with young people and lots of joint work is aimed at separating young people from alcohol.

The Chair agreed that a representative from the Youth Service be invited to the next meeting to take part in a session on the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

Member of the public asked if there could be a resume on the Friends of the Arno.

Sarah Goulding, Friends of the Arno and Oxtan Fields, informed the Forum that the group was set up last June and have 70 members. We cover a 25 acre site and produce a newsletter. We have held a public meeting, that was advertised in the local press. We have held two litter picks (February and June) and collected less rubbish in June. We have applied for funding, to help make it more welcoming and making it clearer to people that they are entering a park, and are waiting for the results. More litter bins and new signs / noticeboard are being placed in the area. Please contact me if you would like to become a member.

Patrick Dowling asked if the Friends used local noticeboard to advertise their events, not just the local press and added that the Oxtan Society would be willing to place posters in Oxtan?

Sarah Goulding replied that the Friends were getting a noticeboard form the Council, but the supply of this has to be rotered into a timetable.

The Chair thanked Sarah Goulding and added that she was delighted that the Friends have been formerly established, that it is being promoted by the Oxtan Society and herself and requested people to join if interested.

#### Area Forum Funding DVD

Louise Harland-Davies informed the Forum that local groups can apply for funding and recommendations are made by a panel made up of forum members then ratified at Cabinet. The DVD was filmed and edited by local schools and was co-ordinated by Andy Brannan, Community Engagement Co-ordinator, and the Learning Lighthouse. This will be put forward to the film-show being held at Weatherhead School. She then played the DVD for the Forum.

The Chair hoped that everyone found the film interesting and thanked them for attending the meeting. There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved that:

(i) Louise Harland-Davies to include a session on the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy to the agenda for the next meeting and to invite a representative from the Youth Service to the meeting.

#### **Matters arising**

**Minute Decision (iv) to (v):** Awaiting update from Technical Services.

**Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust:** Tina Long from Wirral PCT and Area Co-ordinator have requested report for future forums.

**Minute Decision (vi):** Area Co-ordinator to update at forum meeting regarding tree replacement at Mendip Road/Mount Road.

# Section Two

## Local Updates

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services.

They involve local ward councillors, police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, fire safety representatives along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council. Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.

This section covers relevant news under the Council's Sustainable Communities Strategy themes *strong local economy, sustainable appropriate housing, life chances for children and young people, health and well being and living and working environment.*



## **Strong Local Economy**

### **Council Leader to deliver key speech at International Conference in Suzhou, China**

The Leader of Wirral Council, Cllr. Steve Foulkes has been invited to deliver a key speech to a prestigious international conference in Suzhou next month. While in Suzhou, a private meeting will also take place between Wirral Council's Leader, Cllr Steve Foulkes and Mr Yan Li, the city's Mayor.

Currently, Suzhou has a number of sister city relationships throughout the world, but no significant relationships with cities in the United Kingdom. Renowned for its culture, history and tourism, Suzhou believe that a beneficial relationship can be developed with Wirral.

Cllr Foulkes says that the visit has been planned down to the finest detail:

"We recognise that establishing a productive working relationship with Suzhou will be mutually beneficial for both regions.

"During our visit, we'll be examining the possibility of working very closely on four key areas; education, trade, culture and tourism and port-related activity.

"If you take education as just one example, our schools have already recognised the significance of China. They are involved in significant initiatives to enable students to capitalise on the opportunities that China is likely to generate in the future. For example, Calday Grange Grammar School has been awarded a prestigious role in the development of Mandarin teaching through the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and has been chosen to be the "Confucius Classroom" for the North West of England.

Cllr Foulkes added: "And schools are just one example of how we in Wirral are positively engaging with China. In addition we are keen to progress discussions with Peel Holdings to deliver a significant link between businesses in Suzhou and the Wirral Waters project. The Government of Suzhou has expressed a strong desire to establish formal links with Wirral and I am confident this visit will be the start of a relationship that will deliver significant benefits to the children and businesses of Wirral."

Lindsey Ashworth, Development Director at Peel Holdings who is leading the delivery of the Wirral Waters project said:

"The significance of this potential relationship cannot be under estimated. I have been impressed already by the commitment shown by both Wirral Council and the Government of Suzhou. Our ambition for Wirral Waters is to deliver a truly world class waterfront and the significant interest already shown by China must be capitalised upon to help us achieve that."

## Life Chances for Children and Young People

### **£880,000 Lottery boost for play projects**

Wirral Council and Wirral Play Partnership - with the support of hundreds of Wirral children and young people - have successfully secured a massive £881,208 for children's play from the BIG Lottery Fund.

The money will fund seven play projects across Wirral over the next three years, and will help deliver Wirral's Play Strategy and provide more and improved play opportunities across Wirral.

Projects include:

-An extensive Community Play Ranger scheme to provide outreach play sessions in parts of Wirral where no formal opportunities currently exist. The rangers will facilitate play in local parks, open spaces and informal play spaces, and encourage participation in active play.

-The development of four exciting Adventure and Nature play areas incorporating natural landscapes and new fixed play equipment.

-A Play Practitioners project to provide supervised open access play sessions in five identified locations across Wirral

-An inclusive 'Play For All' project which will encourage children to access local free play opportunities and engage other children through play

It is estimated that nearly 15,000 children and young people aged five-16 years will benefit from the new play projects and facilities across Wirral.

As part of the projects' development, the Council consulted with over 1,000 children and young people through surveys and focus groups. This involved nearly 60 schools, as well as representatives from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies who attended Play Strategy seminars to develop a Play Policy and Strategy for Wirral.

Children highlighted a number of issues including safer routes to play, the need to feel safe in their play space with the support of qualified staff, more challenge and risk in equipped play areas, and better access to natural play environments. They suggested more localised play places designated for play within short walking distances so they could 'see and be seen'. They also wanted increased access to free play through inclusive play provision for vulnerable children and young people and more opportunities to access local play facilities, including use of local schools for play and playschemes which are open all year round.

Welcoming the big Lottery boost, Cllr Chris Meaden, Wirral Council's Play Champion said: "This money means that more children and young people will be able to access free play and socialise with friends on their doorstep. Children need space to play in the community and play is nature's training for life which is essential for a healthy and happy childhood. We want Wirral children to be afforded the best possible play opportunities and facilities and the award will enable a number of play projects to

come to fruition"

## Wirral Youth Service update

Wirral Youth Service provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

The Service works with young people aged 13-19 years, and specifically targeted young people aged 20 until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday who have additional needs and need support with transition into adult life/services.

The Youth Service in Wirral works with many young people in a variety of different settings, these include:

- Youth clubs
- Street work projects
- “Kontaktabuses”
- “Wirral Youth Theatre” and Youth Arts
- “Response” – Advice, support, advocacy and information service and Substance Misuse Service
- International exchanges
- Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
- Outdoor activities
- Projects in schools

The Service is flexible and able to respond to the needs of young people and offers opportunities that are both universal and targeted. Youth work on Wirral is delivered through joint working between the Local Authority, voluntary organisations and other agencies.

Youth workers work with young people in many different localities in Wirral. Having a variety of youth clubs and street work projects allows youth workers to work with young people in their neighbourhoods, meet their specific needs and respond to issues that are important to them.

Much of the work of the Youth Service takes place in one of sixteen open access youth clubs located across the Borough. Street work teams of youth workers make contact with young people who do not access the service elsewhere, build relationships with them and in negotiation with the young people, develop programmes which address their specific needs. This work is delivered on the streets, through project work and on mobile Kontaktabuses.

### Response

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty.

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

## International Work

Each year the Youth Service runs a comprehensive programme of International Youth Exchanges. Young people from Wirral take part in a number of international opportunities including, Hong Kong and the Azores.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 450 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

The Award is available to all young people aged between 14 and 25 with the emphasis being the development of young people's leisure time. By taking part in the Award, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

During the summer holidays the Youth Service was able to offer an adventure activity programme to youth clubs and associated organisations. Over 160 young people took part in sailing, canoeing, rafting, climbing and adventure course activities which were delivered by both licensed operators and our own staff. Despite the inclement weather there was a 90% take up on the activities offered.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children in a bid to help them successfully complete their Bronze Awards. In August, most of this group attended a 3 day residential course at The Oaklands Centre where they engaged in a wide variety of outdoor activities. One young woman in particular was identified as having the potential to take a future lead role and will probably be invited back and given a work experience opportunity.

Wirral's D of E Open Award Centre is due to move premises again. Following a decision to vacate the Somerville Site at Gorse Lane we have entered into negotiations regarding the use of the Wirral Alternative Schools Programme new premises at Solar Campus.

In our drive to make the Award available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units to run the Award. This includes Meadowside Special School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with complex learning difficulties.

## Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts

Wirral Youth Theatre operates across the Borough to enable young people to access a wide range of performing arts related activities. Art forms such as drama, dance, music, technical theatre and new media are used to help young people to develop personally and socially as well as developing theatre and media related skills. Currently 'swings and roundabouts' a play helping young people to examine risk taking behaviour has toured in some of Wirral's parks and Youth clubs and will be going into school next term

## Oxton and Prenton.

**Shaftsbury Youth Club:** The current regular programme includes Tae Kwon-do, Football training/coaching/fitness, Badminton, Volleyball, Basketball, Table tennis, I.T. Art, Residential work, Group work/Issue based discussions and outings. The Club is open from Monday to Thursdays. (6.00 – 9.00)

A focus group has been established within the membership to look at preparing a bid for "My place" this is working with members of the management to ensure the bid

reflects the ideas and needs of the locality. A questionnaire has been composed by the young people to widen the area of consultation. Recent workshops have included discussions on sexual health and alcohol abuse.

**Noctorum Young People's Project:** works with young people in public places that include the Noctorum Estate, the Townfield Lane vicinity and the Arno. Links have been made with Noctorum Community Centre, which is used for activities to develop the young people's fitness. The young people enjoyed visits to Manley Mere and a Go-Karting session.

**Deeside Young People's Project:** has engaged with young people who congregate in the vicinity of Duck Pond Lane. These young people regularly attend the Youth Forum and have made a successful application for a Youth Forum Award to fund a programme of positive activities.

## Safer Communities

### Wirral leads the way in reducing volume crime

The level of reported volume crime is reducing faster in Wirral than almost any other area of England and Wales, figures have shown.

In the first quarter of this year, Wirral reported the second biggest reduction in crimes such as burglary, vehicle crime, violence and criminal damage compared to the same period last year.



And these figures are just a further demonstration of what is more than three years of achievement by Wirral's Joint Community Safety Team in meeting the Government's PSA1 target for crime reduction; achievements that were recently acknowledged by the Home Office, who invited members of the Wirral team to a reception celebrating the most successful crime reduction partnerships in the country.

The facts speak for themselves.

Volume crime in Wirral dropped by 32% in the first quarter of this year, compared to the same period in 2007. Only the crime reduction partnership in Mid-Devon bettered this performance out of 424 partnerships in the country.

Over the last three years, Wirral's Joint Community Safety Team, which brings together staff from Wirral Council, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, probation and Wirral PCT, has far exceeded its PSA1 targets - the target was 20%, but the figures showed a 40% reduction.

Since April this year there have been the lowest monthly recorded totals since 2003 for burglaries to people's homes and the theft of motor vehicles.

Between May and July 2008, Wirral has been the best performing local authority of all 19 North West authorities according to the British Crime Survey comparator crime figures.

Steve McGilvray, Manager of the Joint Community Safety Team, puts the success achieved in the area down to the ability of staff from all the agencies to work together.

“The fact that we are all under one roof, I’m sure, has been a big factor in the level of crime reduction in Wirral. Our work is intelligence-led where all the agencies share and analyse crime data and target our attention on the areas where it is most needed, that’s how we get results.”

### **Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team June 2008 – September 2008**

In addition to ongoing enforcement action against the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, specific activity has included:

Anti-Social Behaviour Advice Surgeries - A six-month programme of advice surgeries for residents in the private sector suffering with anti-social behaviour is continuing (launched May 2008) by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team. This sees the Team’s Respect Bus taken into communities and staffed with Enforcement Officers who can take complaints directly from the public and provide comprehensive advice. The full timetable can be found at:

**[http://www.wirral.gov.uk/News/Archive/200804/news\\_0000601.html](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/News/Archive/200804/news_0000601.html)**

**Respect Watch Scheme for Overchurch** (launched July 2008) Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, in partnership with Merseyside Police and landlord Wirral Partnership Homes, has designated part of Royden Road as a Respect Watch Scheme area. The initiative is designed to protect residents who have already suffered at the hands of anti-social individuals and includes a Local Lettings Agreement with residents. The scheme will run for 12 months.

**Wirral Show (July 2008)** Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team’s hoard of displays drew the crowds at this year’s Wirral Show. Visitors were attracted to the Team’s Respect Bus staffed with officers giving advice and information about tackling anti-social behaviour; not to mention the ‘Love Your Neighbour’ competition which required visitors to guess the number of love heart sweets in a jar. The team’s ice cream van attracted both adults and young people, with its realistic mannequins styled to support the Department of Health campaign around binge drinking themed “you wouldn’t start the night like this, so why end it like this?”. Finally, the team’s marquees drew in huge numbers focusing upon the theme of graffiti. A graffiti wall was used to interact with young people highlighting the consequences of committing graffiti, including Fixed Penalty Notice and prosecution, up to the penalties of eviction and ASBO.

**Celebration for Seacombe young people** (July 2008) - A Celebration of Achievement night, hosted by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, saw thirty-one young people from Seacombe who had just completed Sport Leadership programmes, receive their awards. The presentations were made by Wirral’s Mayor, Cllr. Adrian Jones, at Wallasey Town Hall. Young people aged between eight and nineteen took part in three courses, each lasting eight weeks. The courses, which have been run by an organisation called 'Play Like Brazil' for two years now, were staged at the Soccer Dome, Seacombe. The programme is supported by a range of partners, including the Live Wirral Wardens, Wirral Partnership Homes, RegendaFirst (Maritime) Housing Association, Riverside Housing Association, Seacombe Residents' Group, 'Play Like Brazil' and Wirral Council's Community Sports Development Unit.

**Operation SafeSpace** (launched July 2008) - A partnership initiative, led by Merseyside Police, which aimed to increase the use of parks and open spaces. This involved, throughout the summer months, enforcement activities across hot-spot parks by the police and diversionary activities throughout the summer in parks, open spaces and multi-use games areas.

Challenge & Support Respect Project launched (September 2008) - A multi-agency early intervention process for dealing with young people engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, anti-social behaviour. The process takes a twin-track approach of both 'challenge' (in terms of enforcement action for unacceptable behaviour) and 'support' (in terms of intervention to tackle the underlying causes of their behaviour and/or to divert them from anti-social behaviour). Between 750-1,000 children and young people (aged up to 19 years) are expected to go through the process over the next year. Wirral has received £250,000 over three years from the Department for Children, Schools & Families to support the project.

**3G CCTV** As discussed, the 3G CCTV system is owned and operated by Wirral Council with two laptops which are loaned to Merseyside Police for access to the cameras within their Neighbourhood. At present we have the following cameras situated at the below 'hotspots' -

**Tranmere:** Church Road, Bedford Road / A41, Rodney Street, Well Lane / Victoria Park

**Woodchurch:** Hoole Road, Pemberton Road, 2 new cameras to be sited soon -, Big Meadow Road, Eltham Green shops

**Others:** Stadium Road, Bromborough, Hillburn Drive, Birkenhead, Grange Road West, B'head, Illford Ave, Poulton

The cameras within Tranmere and Woodchurch (4 in each) have been purchased using Neighbourhood Management funding and cameras are deployed through the 'hot-spotting' process through their Neighbourhood Action Groups operated through Merseyside Police and their respective Neighbourhood Management with data supplied through the Joint Community Safety Team and Police Intelligence. That is the agreed protocol so that there won't be a precedent set by anyone 'shouting loudest' and there is a clear rationale based upon data mapping.

Camera deployment for the rest of Wirral is determined through the same process as above in respect of data however it is through the Joint Agency Group which consist of a variety of agencies which have signed up to the Data Sharing Protocols.

## **Merseyside Police (September 2008)**

### **Upton and Prenton**

Crime over the area for the past few months has been relatively low with only a couple of trends to report. One of these is the theft of vehicle number plates of which there have been four instances. Number plates are easily removed from most vehicles and can be used to disguise a vehicle for the purposes of crime. Security screws are available from motor dealers for a small cost and can prevent this type of theft.

We have had a reduction in all classes of reported crime except theft of motor vehicle. The vehicles taken fall into two categories : older cars without immobiliser keys and mopeds. The numbers of vehicles taken are small (April – August 07 - 20

cases and April – August 08 22 –cases There have been some significant arrests of offenders but it is still a rise and therefore disappointing.

Considering the fact that all areas have had the additional demands of leave periods allied to Force wide commitments such as the Open Golf Tournament and the Tall Ships all held in the traditionally busy time of school summer holidays the number of reports of Anti Social Behaviour have reduced from last year. (See table below) I am sure that the weather has more than played its part as well as work done by my staff along with Youth Services and the ASB Team.

Operation Alliance targets those young people as being identified as responsible for ASB and works with them through Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. Work is done by Youth Services and the Wirral Borough Council ASB Team. Currently there are 13 contracts running with 6 impending and 10 completed. To be completed the individual has changed their behaviour and not come to notice or attention. It is pleasing to see that some of the individuals who were “on the brink” of criminal behaviour now have jobs. Everyone wins – the individual who is not criminalised and the community who get reduced ASB.

Work has continued in those areas where young people gather and all staff - police officers, PCSO (Police Community Support Officers) and Special Constables have all continued to seize alcohol from young people and to gather evidence against those supplying alcohol to those underage.

One significant case was one where information was received that alcohol was being supplied from a private house to young people. Observations were kept and the offender arrested. He was later fined £380. As alcohol and young people is a major cause of anti social behaviour we continue to try and break the link. Officers work with Trading Standards and target licenced premises with test purchases to ensure that the staff are not selling to young people.

We also work closely with youth services and the voluntary organisations in providing diversionary activities. One such event was held in August and was organised by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and was held in Arrowe Park. Operation Safespace has been running in Arrowe Park also with the aim of allowing all persons to enjoy the park in safety.

One of the Special officers who works from Upton S/Sergeant Danny Chu received the “ Volunteer of the Year Award ” from the local Council of Voluntary Services. Danny does a great deal of work at Upton with a number of Special Officers particularly targeting ASB and underage drinking and I am pleased that his work has been recognised.

As a guide to crime figures on the area I have compared April – August 2007 to the same time this year with the following results.

Crime	Last Year (Apr-Aug)	This Year (Apr-Aug)	Number Difference	% difference
All Crime	776	653	-123	-16%
Violence	154	139	-15	-10%
Robbery	5	4	-1	-20%
Burglary Dwelling	27	19	-8	-30%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	51	39	-12	-24%
Theft Of Motor Vehicle	20	22	+2	+10%
Criminal Damage	187	110	-77	-41%



Anti Social Behaviour Reports	1071	890	-181	-17%
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The table shows the Theft Of Motor Vehicle issue that I have already mentioned but also shows how such small numbers of offences can have dramatic effects on the crime figures. (Robbery reduction of 1 crime giving a reduction of 20 % because we only had 4 offences against five last year over the same period).

Police and PCSO staff have continued to target speeding motorists and on average 15 prosecutions occur every month. This does not include figures from the dedicated Roads Policing (Traffic) department or camera enforcement. These figures relate to the roads identified by the public to us via the community meetings as problem roads.

## Health and Well Being

### Wirral Primary Care Trust

#### 1. NHS Constitution

##### Introduction

1. Alongside Lord Darzi's review of the NHS, the Government published in July 2008 a draft UK-wide constitution setting out NHS values and the rights and responsibilities of 'people who pay for, use or work for the NHS'.
2. The PCT is supporting this consultation.
3. The 12 week consultation began in August and will end on the 17 October 2008.
4. During this time the PCT will be:
  - Raising awareness of this draft national consultation through our communications network, ie via our and partner websites, press releases and advertorials.
  - Briefing any LINK meetings and Area Forums which take place within the consultation period on ways to respond. The draft consultation was presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) meeting on 2 September 2008. The OSC will consider their response at their October meeting.
  - Inviting a group of people from those who have said they wish to be actively involved with us to an event to provide them with a specific opportunity to generate some responses.
  - Contacting partner organisations who work with hard to hear groups such as Black & Racial Minority, disability and faith groups to ask them to publish the consultation to ensure people in these groups have their say.

- Undertaking staff briefings to ensure those of us working in the organisation can contribute.
  - Making a formal response on behalf of the PCT.
5. Should anyone wish to contact the PCT on this matter they should do so via our 'Have Your Say' team (telephone number 0151 647 4251).

#### Summary of the Consultation

**6. The constitution poses 17 questions, and is summarised in a quick guide document .**

7. There is a lot of supporting information on the Department of Health (DH) website e.g. 'handbooks' explaining some of the detailed thinking behind the values, rights and responsibilities proposed.
8. In addition, the PCT has a limited amount of literature supplied to us by the DH which we are able to send out on request.

## **2. PCT Advertorial Programme**

An 8 week programme of full page advertorials has been placed in both local papers each week commencing on the 3/9. These cover service development areas or stories relating to the positive steps being taken by the PCT to promote good health and or treat ill health. The topics covered are:

Small Grants Programme: small amounts of money have been given to community groups to enable them to improve what they do.

AMD (age related macular degeneration): a new service has been commissioned which is helping to stop people going blind.

Stop Smoking: Stopping smoking can make a real difference to your life and the PCT are promoting the uptake of stop smoking services wherever it can

Waiting Times: PCT are increasing investment into services to ensure waits between gp appointments and hospital appoints are reduced.

Stroke services: There will be increased investment into preventing and treating strokes.

Better mental health: Healthy living can improve your mental health, the PCT are investing in early identification and treatment of mental health

Advice Services for young people: PCT have made an investment into on-line counselling services through Kooth.com

Plus 1 more campaign to be confirmed

## **3. Annual report**

Copies of the Annual report to be launched at the PCT AGM on the 26/9 will be available at the meeting. The PCT will briefly report on some of the achievements of the PCT highlighted in the document

The Trust is pleased to be able to participate in the Local Area Forums and welcomes the opportunity to brief Wirral residents and our partner organisations on topical issues. Representing the Trust will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the elected Public Governor for the host constituency.

- Controlling Infection.....
  - **Our Elective Surgical Unit at Clatterbridge remains MRSA bloodstream infection free – this Unit can undertake most planned surgical procedures including joint replacements.**
  - **Our Women’s Services Unit at Arrowe Park is also MRSA bloodstream infection free**
  - **The ‘rate’ of MRSA infections at the Trust (i.e. rate per 10,000 bed days) compares very favourably with national and regional rates:**
    - **Wirral = 0.86**
    - **Regional = 1.05**
    - **National = 1.16**
  - **The ‘rate’ of Clostridium difficile infections (i.e. rate per 10,000 bed days) also compares favourably with national and regional rates:**
    - **Wirral = 1.89**
    - **Regional = 2.11**
    - **National = 1.56**
  - **Reducing the incidence of MRSA and Clostridium difficile is a very high priority for the Trust and staff continue to implement a comprehensive action plan to achieve this.**
  - **In partnership with local GPs, our staff are working towards a more prudent use of broad-spectrum antibiotics that, if over-used, can make C.difficile infection more likely to develop.**
- Improving Our Standards.....
  - **Our Women’s Services achieved a ‘hat-trick of excellence’ when they were recently awarded **CNST Level 3** accreditation. Of the 156 Maternity Units in the country, only 17 others have achieved Level 3 and our Unit is the **only one** to have achieved 100% in every standard at every level.**  
**Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) Level 3 is evidence that our maternity services are extremely safe, well-managed and overall ‘first-class’. This follows the Unit’s score of ‘best performing’ in the Healthcare Commission’s Maternity Services Review and being named ‘best in the region’ in a national survey of new mothers and mothers-to-be at the end of 2007**
  - **For the second year running we have been named as one of the country’s Top 40 performing hospitals by an independent benchmarking company that compares our performance in 20 key areas – including infection rates, mortality rates and waiting times – against other, similar hospitals.**
  - **In the 2006/07 Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check we scored ‘good’ for our use of resources and ‘good’ for the quality of our services.**

Note – the 2007/08 assessment is due to be published on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008

- An external assessment of our standards by the Patient Environment Action Team resulted in the following scores being awarded to the Trust for 2008 -

	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Privacy &amp; Dignity</i>
<i>Arrowe Park</i>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
<i>Clatterbridge</i>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

- **Consulting with Local People**

- During October the Trust is consulting with local people on its draft **Public Health Strategy**. A copy of this is enclosed in this briefing pack and you are invited to contribute by answering the questions on the back page. The closing date for responses is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008.

**Providing New Services.....**

- The Trust is now able to offer women who require a **hysterectomy** a new, less invasive type of operation, the benefits of which include a shorter stay in hospital, fewer complications and a shorter recovery time. Ladies who are suitable for this type of 'keyhole' surgery will be able to discuss treatment options with hospital staff in clinic.
- **The Trust is now designated as a centre for providing drug therapy for age-related Macular Degeneration. This is a new, local service for the benefit of Wirral residents.**
- **The Trust is a designated Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery**
- **We are the only NHS organisation in Merseyside and Cheshire to offer a new laser technique – the *greenlight laser* – that is transforming the treatment of prostate conditions for men.**
- **We will soon be bringing our Rheumatology services closer to where people live and work with the appointment of an additional Consultant Rheumatologist – clinics will soon be up and running at St Catherine's Community Hospital and Victoria Central Hospital as well as Arrowe Park & Clatterbridge Hospitals**
- **We now provide Sexual Health services in the community – closer to where people live and work**
- Easy to Use Website.....
  - **Our new-look, easy access website can provide lots of useful information for patients, the public, staff and GPs about the Trust and its services go to [www.whnt.nhs.uk](http://www.whnt.nhs.uk)**
  - **The website is speech enabled for browsers with sight related problems**
  - **The new, easy click, 'email a patient' facility continues to be a popular feature**
- Come and Join Us!
  - **As a Foundation Trust we are keen to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have more than 5,800 Public Members and are keen to recruit more. Public Members can get involved as much or as little as they like – from just receiving 'Public Membership News', our regular newsletter, to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. To join, simply complete and return the Membership Application Form or join on-line @ [www.whnt.nhs.uk](http://www.whnt.nhs.uk)**

- **The Trust will shortly be holding elections for Public Governors to represent the Public Members in Bidston and Ellesmere Port – if you, or someone you know is interested in standing, please contact the Membership Office ☎ 0800 0121 356.**
- **For more information.....**
  - The Trust has published its Annual Report and Accounts for 2007/08. This can be accessed via our website [www.whnt.nhs.uk](http://www.whnt.nhs.uk) or a copy can be obtained from the Membership Office at Arrowe Park Hospital ☎ 0800 0121 356

## **Smokefree Wirral – One year on and successfully Smokefree**

July 1st marked the first anniversary of the banning of smoking in public places in England. The good news in Wirral is that the concept of going smokefree has been widely embraced by the vast majority of people. There has also been a tremendous level of compliance and support from local employers and businesses.

### So what has Smokefree Wirral been up to recently?

Smokefree Wirral is a partnership between the Primary Care Trust and Wirral Council. The partnership aims to reduce the risks associated with tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

You may have observed the Smokefree trailer at various venues over the last year, maybe in Birkenhead town centre, leisure parks or at the Wirral Show. With couches, a flat screen TV and activities to take part in, it's a great place to be.

### Young People

The Stop Smoking Service along with Smokefree Officers has been attending various youth events in order to reduce smoking uptake in young people and to offer advice and support to those wishing to quit. Over 100 young people have tried the new Age Progression Software, an innovative way of demonstrating the harmful effects of smoking on facial appearance, designed to encourage young people and adults to stop smoking or better still never to start. In addition,

Environmental Health has initiated a Mersey wide policy development to tackle young people smoking on school buses.

### Black and Ethnic Minority groups

The Stop Smoking Service has developed a specialist provision for those using tobacco from other countries, with translation services and the choice of a male or female advisor. Around 100 trained Council Staff have been increasing awareness of this service as part of their normal roles; stop smoking advice can now be received at One Stop Shops, libraries and from community staff.

For the last month One Stop Shops have asked every customer if they would like advice about stopping smoking, reaching around 3,500 Wirral residents a week. Partnership working with Wirral Change and the Wirral Multi-cultural Organisation has resulted in many smokers from varying communities quitting tobacco use.

### Smokefree Homes Pledge

Wirral PCT is launching a smokefree homes campaign. The main aim of the campaign is to reduce children's exposure to cigarette smoke by persuading parents and carers to refrain from smoking in the presence of children, particularly in enclosed places like the home and car.

This will impact on the health of babies and children, reducing childhood ailments and will also reduce adult smoking rates. At the heart of the campaign is the Smokefree Pledge which we are hoping parents and carers will take to ensure their homes and cars remain free from cigarette smoke. Once parents or carers have made the pledge we can send them a range of exciting products for their children.

### Consultation

To support and encourage responses in Wirral Smokefree Northwest postcards were used as a quick and easy way for the public to respond in large numbers. These have been used at various public events and are placed in Wirral One Stop Shops. An online web page was also developed and Smoke Free Wirral was out in Birkenhead Town Centre to engage with local people. A Smoke Free Wirral Response has been drafted but will only be finalised when we are able to insert public responses.

## **Living and Working Environment**

### **New facility preserves local history**

Wirral Council's Archive Service will open the doors to its new, cutting edge records facility on 1st September.

The new premises at the Cheshire Lines building on Canning Street, Birkenhead, features a spacious search room, with microfilm and microfiche readers and state of the art computers to support research into local history. The facility boasts over 5 miles of compelling documents, covering local government, workhouses, schools, hospitals, law courts and businesses, including the world-famous Cammell Laird shipbuilders. Photographs, maps, plans and local newspapers dating back to the nineteenth century are preserved in a large, purpose-built strong room along with records including census, electoral and burial registers, which give an interesting insight into Wirral's family history.

Leader of Wirral Council, Councillor Steve Foulkes explained: "The new archive facility will provide a much better service, combining important historic documents with modern technology. The building is in a convenient location, with good bus and rail links making it easy to access a wealth of information on local history. People will be impressed by the thousands of documents available; the oldest being a medieval title deed for Wallasey dating back to 1447! I am delighted with the improvements and look forward to opening our doors to the public."

Councillor Jerry Williams, Wirral's Heritage Champion added: "The opening of the new Wirral archive facilities is an important response to the never ending enthusiasm and interest in the diverse history of Wirral that has local, national and international significance. Wirral's numerous Historical Societies, are highly knowledgeable, well organised, with an energy and drive few could match. They have pioneered the preservation of important archive material. The sheer numbers of local history publications published in recent years is an example of Wirral people's love of local history. The amazingly productive partnership between Wirral Council and local

history organisations is making major strides forward. I applaud this latest development."

Wirral Archive Service is running free Saturday morning workshops aimed at everyone from schoolchildren to families and local history groups. The sessions will be brought alive with original documents and cover topics including family history, the history of Wirral, schools and education and Wirral at war.

The archive service is accessed via Shore Road, Birkenhead, and is open from Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm and Saturdays from 10am to 1pm. For more information call 0151 606 2929 or email [archives@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:archives@wirral.gov.uk). Alternatively, visit [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk), go to 'Leisure and Culture' then select 'Records and Archives'

## Cross Cutting (across all themes)

### Equality and Diversity

#### Week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> November is National Diversity week!!!

Equality Watch, the Council's equality and diversity programme team, are delighted to announce that Wirral Council's first Employee Diversity Day will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November and all **council employees** are invited to attend.

All employees are encouraged to drop-in on the event and sample cultural food, see what services are provided by our local communities, talk to colleagues who have joined a staff diversity forum and also to 'road test' the new online equality training.

As part of Wirral's ongoing commitment to equality and diversity issues, Wirral hosted it's first pilot equality watch think-tank session on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Community leaders / projects / organisations were randomly selected from the council's community database, to attend.

Those present were asked for their views on the following:

1. What equality and diversity issues do you feel will be affecting your community(s) in 5 years time? What issues are affecting them now?
2. What are your projects/ organisations doing to support those issues? What will you need to do to support future issues?
3. How would you / your organisation like to get involved in the council's equality and diversity programme?
4. What is the council doing to address community issues? What will the council need to do to support future issues?
5. How are you able to participate in working together to support Wirral's diverse communities? How would you like to participate in the future?

The information provided during the think-tank session will help the council as we embark on major equality and diversity developments, including a Single Equality Scheme, full equality impact assessments for services and policies, a comprehensive engagement strategy, equality and diversity training for all staff and councillors, and

identifying the equality and cohesion priorities for Wirral. A summary of the outcomes of the day will be available from October 2008 for anyone who may be interested. Please email [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) to request a copy.

## Equality Watch newsletter

Since December 2007 five bi-monthly electronic version newsletters have been produced for council staff that have access to the intranet.

We are pleased to report that a full colour, glossy brochure will be produced in February 2009 that **all** council staff will receive with their payslips. We also intend to distribute this (and future editions of the glossy version) to various locations throughout Wirral such as libraries, one stop shops, health centres, community centres / groups etc.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list as a contact point, please contact Maxine (listed below) with your details and how many copies you would like to receive.

### Disability Issues

**Voice UK** – is a national charity supporting people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people who have experienced crime or abuse. We also support their families, carers and professional workers.

We provide a telephone helpline, the line is attended from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday: **Telephone 0845 122 8695**

Our statistics show that calls to our office from people needing advice and assistance are increasing steadily. Each new case represents a shocking, traumatic event for a person with learning disabilities and their families and carers.

For more information please visit [www.voiceuk.org.uk](http://www.voiceuk.org.uk) or call 0845 122 8695.

### Sexual Orientation Issues

**Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill (17 July)** - Parliament passed important new legal protections against incitement to hatred on grounds of sexual orientation on Wednesday 7 May 2008. The Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill received Royal Assent on 8 May, another historic step towards legal equality.

Stonewall believes that the newly-extended criminal offence of incitement to hatred will go some way towards addressing the hatred and violence directed towards lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in Britain at a time when homophobic attacks are on the increase. It sends a strong signal that such behaviour is unacceptable in a civilised society. Like race, a person's sexual orientation is an intrinsic characteristic for which no citizen should ever feel under threat of verbal or physical violence.

Regrettably the House of Lords also voted, by 178 votes to 164, to retain an amendment to the Bill that Stonewall believes 'is unnecessary and could mean that a very small number of people of extreme views attempt to avoid prosecution by citing a 'religious defence'. We will work hard to press Ministers, the Crown Prosecution Service and police forces to ensure that this defence is not deployed unscrupulously by those who incite hatred'.

### In Focus: Putting people first - Equality and diversity matters two

This bulletin aims to address the needs of black and minority ethnic people using care services. It calls for black and minority ethnic people to have their cultural and



social needs addressed on a more personal level, which will help to ensure that their specific needs are adequately considered during assessments by care homes and providers.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/917137>

### **Equality Bill: a new public duty**

Following A Framework for a Fairer Future, the Equality Office has now published the government's response to the consultation on the single equality bill, and set out some markers for the new single duty. This briefing concentrates on the single equality duty, and suggests that some further dialogue is needed, particularly on the need to extend protection against discrimination on grounds of age to children. This briefing was sent earlier to LGiU members and is now being sent to members of CSN.

More of this briefing at:

<http://www.csn.info/csn/briefing-detail.jsp?&id=1952&md=0&section=briefing>

### **Government launches Manchester search for role models to inspire black boys (7 August)**

- A major search in Manchester to recruit Black male role models gets underway today as Government calls for motivational Black and mixed heritage men to take a lead in inspiring the next generation of Black boys to achieve and succeed.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/filter/?item=919908>

### **LAA PLUS Peer-to-Peer Challenge Workshop: Dreaming of Equality –**

**Equalities in LAAs Learning Paper (14 Aug)** - LAA PLUS held two workshops, in Manchester and London on 25th and 26th June respectively, bringing together a rich mix of different areas and partners with different experiences of promoting equalities through LAAs.

Following learning generated by participants on the day we have now developed a paper which sets out:

- An introduction to the current debate around equalities and links to community cohesion
- The new policy context
- The Equality Impact Assessment process
- Case studies highlighting how equalities have been addressed in different areas

The learning paper can be downloaded at the following:

[http://www.laa-plus.net/downloads/Integrating\\_Equalities\\_into\\_LAAs.pdf](http://www.laa-plus.net/downloads/Integrating_Equalities_into_LAAs.pdf)

**Board announced for Government Equalities Office (21 Aug)** - Three new non-executive board members of the Government Equalities Office (GEO) were announced today by Director General Jonathan Rees.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/filter/?item=936195>

**Equality experts, business and unions to help make Britain fairer (22 Aug)** - The Government Equalities Office (GEO) announced a new senior stakeholder group to support development of a new equality framework which will help make Britain a fairer and more equal place.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/filter/?item=937775> If you would like more information please contact Maxine Joynson on 691 8266 or email

[maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk)

# **Section Three**

## **Funding**

Every year each area forum has funding to give out to small community groups within their ward area. This funding is to help and support services that benefit the community. This section provides an update on how some of this money has been spent in this area.

## The Community Engagement Team pilots a new and exciting way of giving money to the community.

July saw the first '*Participatory Budget (PB)*' event take place in Wallasey Town Hall. Wirral has been chosen as one of the national pilot areas for PB, so all eyes were on this event.

Every year, each area forum has funding available for organisations and individuals looking to carry out projects in their community.



Traditionally this funding has been allocated by a panel of councillors and community representatives assessing each application.

While this way of allocating the funding stayed the same for 8 out of the 11 area forums, the Bidston and Cloughton and Oxton and Prenton Area Forums were chosen to pilot PB.

The purpose of PB is to allow the community itself to decide how the money should be spent in their own area.

Everyone who applied for funding was asked to come along and give a 3 minute presentation on their project and why they should be funded.

However, the unique part of PB is that all the applicants themselves get to vote on each others projects to see who gets funded.

The projects with the highest number of votes then received the funding they requested.

### ***Comments from the PB event.....***



“This process was more democratic than most funding application processes”

“Good opportunity to network & make links with similar organisations”

“This process was more democratic than most funding application processes”

Like any other pilot project there are aspects of it that can be improved for next year. All the comments from the groups who took part in the event have been taken on board.

**Our first PB Event proved to be successful and while lessons will be learned to improve the process for next year, we are confident 'Participatory Budgeting' will provide the community with more of a say on how money is spent in their area.**

# **FREE FUNDING INFORMATION 4 YOU**

Wirral Council supported by Wirral Local Strategic Partnership's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund are pleased to provide a FREE funding information service available online.

There are hundreds of grants available to support Wirral's voluntary and community groups from local opportunities to Government, National Lottery and Trust Funding sources.

To find out which grants you may be eligible to apply for visit our free search facility:

## **Step One**

Go to **[www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)**

Click on the *Funding Initiatives* icon under the 'Popular Pages' list.

## **Step Two**

Then click on one of these links to browse and search for funding information.

**[www.open4community.info/wirral](http://www.open4community.info/wirral)**  
**[www.open4socialenterprise.info/wirral](http://www.open4socialenterprise.info/wirral)**

You no longer have to be left in the dark about what funding your group or organisation could apply for, find this out for yourself.

In addition you can also visit the following web site for a wide range of associated information including signing up for regular early funding alerts via email.

**[www.mfip.org.uk](http://www.mfip.org.uk)**

## Area Forum Funding Progress Report - Oxton / Prenton

*(previously awarded monies - to 2006/2007)*

<b>Organisation</b>	Birkenhead Goju Ryu Karate Club	<b>Total Awarded:</b>	£1,000.00
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**Project Details** To provide health and safety equipment for the club

### Progress Report

Since receiving the award the club has improved greatly. All of the equipment is used on a regular basis and provides an extra incentive for all those who use them. The children also use the mitts etc. at competitions.

<b>Organisation</b>	400 (Birkenhead) Squadron ATC	<b>Total Awarded:</b>	£300.00
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**Project Details** To purchase panel presentation stand with header panel to actively promote the aims of the squadron and gain more recruits.

### Progress Report

The presentation stand was purchased and has been used at various community events to promote activities of the air training corps.

*(previously awarded monies - 2007/08 onwards)*

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<b>Organisation</b>	St Josephs Primary School PTA	<b>Total awarded by this forum</b>	£1,000.00	<b>Total Awarded:</b>	£1,000.00
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**Project Details** To purchase furniture for community room for use by all members of the school community.

### Progress Report

Volunteers from the PTA converted a disused classroom into a community room for use by all members of the school community. Following the grant for furniture, the room is now complete and is a much valued and well-used resource.

The success of this has greatly benefited the local community, in addition to the Book Club, there is also a yoga class and computer training - other activities are planned. The room extends the vision that the school has been truly opened to the community.

<b>Organisation</b>	Community Allotment Group (Birkenhead Community Mental Health Team)	<b>Total awarded by this forum</b>	£250.00	<b>Total Awarded:</b>	£250.00
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**Project Details** To purchase equipment, tools, landscaping materials and furniture to further develop the progress of the allotment

### Progress Report

The funding was used to purchase plants, bulbs, timber and ranch style fencing, which is in the process of being installed.

<b>Organisation</b>	Oxton Prenton and District U3A	<b>Total awarded by this forum</b>	£474.97	<b>Total Awarded:</b>	£474.97
<b>Project Details</b>	To purchase a home cinema system and display boards to be used by many groups for film shows, talks, music appreciation, dancing, keep fit etc.				
<b>Progress Report</b>	<p>The display boards have been used at all our general meetings, to inform members of forthcoming events. After the summer break we are planning an Open Morning and the boards will enable us to display details of our planned programme for 2008/2009, and we also hope to take these to public places (such as libraries) to recruit more members.</p> <p>The home cinema system will be used at the Open Morning, to show three DVDs explaining what U3A is about. This system has been used by several of our groups.</p>				
<b>Organisation</b>	JoJoes Out of School Club	<b>Total awarded by this forum</b>	£834.00	<b>Total Awarded:</b>	£1,334.00
<b>Project Details</b>	To contribute towards Love to Learn - an initiative to add extra learning opportunities to an established out of school club, through the provision of specialist equipment and tuition.				
<b>Progress Report</b>	<p>The love to learn project has been very successful and delivered courses in football, dance, karate and cooking. The cooking proved especially popular with the boys and the dance culminated in an end of term performance for family and friends.</p> <p>The benefits have been many, with children learning new skills, developing confidence and finding productive uses for their time.</p>				
<b>Organisation</b>	Wirral Raynet	<b>Total awarded by this forum</b>	£100.00	<b>Total Awarded:</b>	£700.00
<b>Project Details</b>	To provide a radio and tracking device to enable a quick response of deployment of emergency vehicles.				
<b>Progress Report</b>	We have purchased the major part of the equipment and it has been used during several training events.				
<b>Organisation</b>	Parkside United JFC	<b>Total awarded by this forum</b>	£140.00	<b>Total Awarded:</b>	£566.00
<b>Project Details</b>	To purchase a football kit for the club.				
<b>Progress Report</b>	The football kit was purchased and has enabled the children of the club to play football in the Wallasey Junior Football League for the present season. It has provided them with a sense of pride and we are very grateful for the support we received.				
<b>Organisation</b>	Girlguiding Wirral	<b>Total awarded by this forum</b>	£500.00	<b>Total Awarded:</b>	£5,500.00
<b>Project Details</b>	To purchase equipment, training and storage to encourage guides with their leaders to get out of their meeting places to				

explore and enjoy the cycle ways of Wirral.

### Progress Report

Planning permission has been obtained for the bike storage unit and the unit, bikes, helmets, lights and locks were delivered on 25th July 2008. Leader training will commence in September 2008, with four evening and weekend dates scheduled.

The bikes went into use on Saturday, 26th July 2008, as part of an activity style camp for 250 girls from across Wirral. The bikes were a huge success with the guides and senior section members, with over 100 girls using them on the Wirral way during the week long camp. We expect units to start using them fully from September 2008.

<b>Organisation</b>	Friends of Eastham Country Park	<b>Total awarded by this forum</b>	£156.00	<b>Total Awarded:</b>	£1,560.00
<b>Project Details</b>	To create 3 inter-linked marked routes aimed at different levels of age and fitness to encourage people who are not used to walking and to guide people safely through the woods				

### Progress Report

The materials have been purchased and the routes marked out. The work will commence in September 2008 and the map / information leaflet will be commissioned once the posts are installed, and will be available from the visitor centre and other sites throughout Wirral. This will encourage park users who don't venture far from the visitor centre to do so and promote exercise.

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