

AREA FORUM (HESWALL AND PENSBY & THINGWALL)

Wednesday, 15 October 2008

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	L Rowlands (Chair)	
<u>In attendance:</u>	Councillors	A Hodson P Johnson S Quinn	M Redfern R Wilkins
	<u>Community Representatives</u>	Tony Garrett	
	<u>Older People's Parliament</u>	Sandy Cameron	
	<u>Faith Representative</u>	Toni Gibbs	
	<u>Lead Officer</u>	Chris Batman (Head of Branch, Planning and Resources, Children and Young People's Department)	
	<u>Area Service Co-ordinator</u>	Tracey Smith	
	<u>Technical Services</u>	Brian Smith	
	<u>Wirral Primary Care Trust</u>	Russell Favager	
	<u>Wirral University Teaching hospital NHS Trust</u>	Pippa Roberts	
	<u>Merseyside Police</u>	Inspector Kate Cunningham	
	<u>Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service</u>	John Davies	
<u>Apologies</u>		Mark Johnston, Community Representative	

1 **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Rowlands welcomed everyone to the meeting, and reported that there was one apology from Mark Johnston, Community Representative.

2 **AREA CO-ORDINATORS REPORT**

Mr. Garrett referred to Page 5 and the condition of Dee View Road. The pot holes were filled in after a fashion, but due to the extremely heavy traffic on one side of this road, because of residents' parking, it needs to be done again. This is extremely dangerous for motor cyclists and cyclists and urgently needs attention. Cllr. Hodson said that he drives up this road everyday, and he has spoken to the Director, who said that it will be looked into in the next few weeks, and that something will be done.

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Graham Ashdown – Page 7 second paragraph. There has been no difference in the wagons delivering to Aldi. It is still as bad as ever. Why have they not been banned on these roads coming through Wirral and why cannot they come off the Motorway and along the A.540? Tracey Smith reported that there is a response from Technical Services on Page 11 of the Minutes of the last meeting.

Mrs. Alison Jones asked what has been done about the request for a crossing on Telegraph Road, also the reduction from 40mph to 30 mph. A petition has been given in with 108 names on it. Cllr. Hodson replied that this will be handed to the Council at the meeting on 22nd October. Mrs. Jones said that she cannot over emphasize how dangerous this road is for children crossing, and that parents will not now walk their children to school, but take them by car, and this is just as difficult, trying to get out on to Telegraph Road. She said that the Councillors had been asked to come one morning and see for themselves just what the conditions are like, but no-one had come. If something is not done soon, there will be a very serious accident.

Cllr. Bob Wilkins pointed out that Page 9, paragraph 3, in connection with the proposed "supermarket" on Pensby Road should read 32 objections, not 3. Tracey Smith stated that she had revised the form of the Reports somewhat to make them more easily understood, and drew attention to the fact that there is still funding available - £12,303.59. for Community Initiative Funding and £4,570.00. in the Primary Care Trust Fund. Tracey asked that anyone who wished to apply should give their name and address at the end of the meeting.

3 "YOU DECIDE"

Cllr. Rowlands reported the Council have given an additional £20,000.00 to each Forum, to be spent on services in their area, and 212 people had returned the form for the Heswall, Pensby Thingwall area. The top three choices were sport and youth activity, cleanliness and education in relation to library books, DVD's, CD's and foreign language books. The £20,000 was allocated as follows

- £12,00.00 for Sport and Youth Activity
- £5,000.00 for litter bins (10 litter bins)
- £3,000.00 for Library Books etc

Other Forums have received very similar results, and the priorities are along the same lines. It would be very remiss of us if we did not take the views of the public and use the money in the ways suggested.

Mrs. Alison Jones said that she thought it was not easy to be specific in the Questionnaire, and that very few people knew anything about it.

Tracey Smith replied that it was a pilot scheme, and it is hoped that next year it will be more clear, and also that there will be more money in the scheme. Tracey also asked that people should contact her to say where they feel that the additional litter bins should be placed.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr. Garrett asked whether the Chairman of the Residents' Association for Banks Road and The Moorings was at the meeting, but he was not, and Mr. Garrett explained that letters had been sent to each councillor regarding the Sheldrakes Restaurant, who have been making life very difficult over the past five years with regard to loud music played very late, and repeated planning applications. There seems to be no control by Officers on Planning Restrictions. Cllr. Hodson said that he is Chairman of Licensing, but cannot chair when these problems are raised. He reported that Sheldrakes have, at this moment, gone to appeal over the veranda, and there is an Enforcement Order in place. Cllr. Hodson has written to Sheldrakes about the playing of loud music at all hours, and he offered to go and talk to the Residents' Committee about the problem.

Inspector Cunningham reported that the Police had been called on several occasions, but they have not found the music and noise to be excessive when they have arrived there, except perhaps people when they are going to their cars.

Dave Steel asked whether there was any feedback from the patients of the Heswall and Pensby Practice over the consultation for the new Centre to be built opposite Tesco, and the closure of the Pensby Road surgery.

Russell Favager replied that the consultation does not end until the 27th October, and of the 700 or so responses, the majority are in favour of the project. It is the G.P's who wish to have this building, and the Pensby surgery is no longer suitable.

Val Curtis said that she understood that the BMA are against the provision of these huge facilities or "Polyclinics", and that people were not all in favour of the closure of

local facilities, and these mini-hospitals. Representatives from the PCT, including the Chief Executive Kathy Doran, replied that the preferences were not for Polyclinics which were very much larger – but for modernised premises which could offer a range of services, thus avoiding the need for many patients to travel beyond their local surgery for treatment etc. There was some heated discussion. The Chairman requested that order be maintained, and Kathy Doran continued in response that the PCT have to try to respond to the requirements of three hundred and thirty thousand people, and this is very difficult sometimes. There are clinics in London which serve 50,000, In Wirral that could be the equivalent of 6 surgeries whereas we currently have over 60. In Liscard, three Practices are coming into one building providing all types of medical facilities, and the people are happy.

In Heswall there is a plot to be developed, and the consultation has not yet finished. If people say that is what they want, then we will go ahead, but we do have to recognize that there has to be a balance over everyone's views.

Mr. Tripp asked why do we need two hospitals. Mrs. Doran replied that we will not have two hospitals, the PCT are trying to bring the two Practices together and provide more services on the one site.

Mrs. Iris Stubbs asked "please will you tell me how much you have spent on your pursuit of the Warrens to date?" Kathy Doran replied £74,000.00.

A member of the public asked how much the PCT is spending on the advertising campaign in the Heswall News etc. for stopping smoking, mental health etc., rather than using the money to reduce waiting times in the Pain Clinic where weeks ago 200 patients were awaiting attention. Kathy Doran replied that she did not have the figures with her, but would provide them if required. She added that she was not aware that any waiting times have been so bad.

The reason for doing these adverts is so that we know the people of Wirral are aware of the services available and the huge range that are available.

Sandy Cameron said he would like to correct what Russell Favager said about G.P's all wanting the new clinics, as he has a letter asking him to write his objections to the local press. Russell Favager asked if he could see it. A member of the public asked why patients should have to move from Pensby to Heswall if this plan goes ahead. Some people cannot walk very far, and for many others, the parking will not be sufficient.

Val Curtis said that she has no objection to the Heswall Health Centre, and this is important, because at the meeting tonight we have six councillors and the local press. She would like the forum meeting to know that not all objectors object to the same thing. Tomorrow night there is a council meeting where the Warrens will be discussed without the general public, and if the Council are serious about the way things are done, the community need their voice to be heard, and need to engage with democracy She had received a letter from the Committee Clerk explaining why this particular agenda item was exempt as some issues need to be kept confidential until the Cabinet deems it is possible to make it public. She explained her view that the meeting should be open to the public and asked Councillors to take her views on board.

Frank Kinlan stated that he could had been in Heswall over 50 years, and could remember the closure of the Childrens' Hospital, the Cleaver Hospital, the Oldfield

Maternity Home and the Clinic. The company he worked for took eight years to build Arrowe Park Hospital, and he added that there has been plenty of land in Heswall available to build the new health centre. Mr. Kinlan stated that he is a transplant patient.

Sandy Cameron asked why has it got to be in the Green Belt, right in the middle of the trees and green areas, (this was addressed to Kathy Doran).

Kathy Doran replied that they had been approached by the Council to look at the whole of the site there without the loss of any green or trees.

Sandy Cameron stated that he thought that this was not true, and could not be achieved, and that a true answer should be forthcoming. Kathy Doran said she would respond directly to Mr Cameron.

Mrs. I. Rafferty, Barnston Conservation Society, said that they feel the Council is trying to write them off the map. There is no mention of Barnston in the Area Forums, and there are no signs stating BARNSTON. The whole Area has been cut in half – part in Wirral South, part in Wirral West, and we would like to be brought to the forefront now and again, and perhaps the Councillors would like to remember us now and again.

Cllr. Rowlands replied that the Area Forums were named according to the Ward names, and this was a Government decision, and that it did go out to review. Mrs. Rafferty answered that they had replied and got nowhere.

Tracey Smith stated that she could include Barnston in the title of the Area Forum correspondence, and the councillors would be happy to help with any problems. Cllr. Bob Wilkins said that he would like to go to the Barnston Conservation Society meetings if they wish to invite him along.

Mrs. Ashdown from Pensby reported that the three empty shops which were closed after the last Forum had been subject to fly posting, many of which advertised Eskimo, Hoylake. She and her husband took them down, as it is an offence to fly post. Cllr. Quinn said that she will investigate this matter.

Heather Jones Burden, Cornelius Drive/Kings Drive – the drains need to be de-silted. It is now several years since the work was carried out, and they are now overflowing when the rain is heavy. She has photographs to show the damage. Cllr. Quinn said that she has written to United Utilities asking them to come and look at the problems. They have already had the Council's Emergency Team out, to look at it and they were shocked at the flooding.

Alan Wilson, Lower Heswall. There are no name plates at either end of Village Road, and it is difficult for people trying to find their way round. Please would the Council provide some? The pavement between Roscoe Close and the centre of the village is in a dreadful state. The parapet is at the same level as the road, and the whole pavement needs to be repaired, as cars pass through the village very quickly. There is only an 18" wide pavement on the other side of the road and many children use this route to school. Mr. Wilson has lived there for five years, and nothing has been done during that time. This was picked up by Brian Smith who was representing Streetscene.

A member of the public reported that Irby and Thurstaston Women's Institute have cleaned up and worked hard in Irby village and the surrounding areas. There is one particular area where rubbish is being dumped – this is behind the bus stop in the

centre of the village, and is disgraceful. They have asked Street Scene some planters which the shop keepers and people were prepared to pay for and maintain. Brian Smith said that he will speak to the Cleansing Dept., however the Council do already clean it out, and they have planted trees and bushes there. The reply was that it would be easier without the bushes and trees, and please could they be removed. Brian Smith replied that in Hoylake the planters are cared for by the businesses there, and they are looking at local people doing this. It is, however, much better to write in and explain the position and what the community is prepared to do, and then all the necessary information is in the system.

A resident of Pensby Road wished to thank Street Scene for stopping the sale of vehicles on Pensby Road, which was causing a serious problem to people living nearby. She reported one, and within 24 hours a notice was put on, and the vehicle removed.

Brian Smith reported that the Integrated Transport Block has been allocated £16,500 and that has not yet been allocated. Mrs. Alison Jones said that she has to report back to the residents who signed the petition she handed in and wishes to know whether the crossing will be installed. Brian Smith replied that it will be discussed soon. There is one criteria that must be adhered to, and it must be seen that everything is being done. Innia Hughes showed photographs of a lamp post which had been knocked down, and what might have happened if children had been in the vicinity. This was to highlight the need for the reduction of the 40mph to 30mph on this stretch of road. Inspector Cunningham clarified the actual position with regard to that incident and the current evidence the police have on this road, but they are watching the situation. The Department of Transport have to monitor the situation and make the final decision.

Mrs. Jones asked that if the situation was being monitored for speed, would it be possible not to be in full view. Inspector Cunningham asked for some volunteers for Speed Watch Slow Down, which really only requires people to be in the area wearing a yellow jacket – not necessarily for long periods, but when the children are going to and coming from school possibly. It was stated that the children all have to walk because it is so difficult to get the car out onto Telegraph Road at the morning school rush hour.

Keith Alsop, Barnston Road, Barnston. He would like to ask Wirral PCT why is he being barred from the Wirral Phlebotomy Clinic from 21st October?

Pippa Roberts reported that users were complaining about the service, and this will go out to tender, and will be carried out at the local surgeries. Some patients will be able to go to their own surgeries, and they want to extend the service to satisfy patients' needs. Silverdale Centre is open to others than their own patients. Details and information will be sent out.

5 PARTNER ORGANISATIONS UPDATE

John Davies of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service reported an update on Page 18 of the last Minutes. There has been an increase in fires caused by electric blankets, particularly in an elderly community. Please take care.

He wished to draw attention to Page 19 – if you take your electric blanket to various places, they will check it, and if it is not in working order, you will get a new one.

Brian Smith – Technical Services – Street Scene. No report.

Police – Inspector Kate Cunningham.

Neighbourhood Action Group held on 2nd September with representatives from the community and the Council. Discussed the fact that there was an improvement in anti-social behaviour – 12% down this year on last year. There was one incident in Heswall in September where 21 cars were damaged in one night. There has been an increase in drug detections and crime overall, which is good. All information is available on the website. On this year, we are improving on last year in the area. We no longer cover Greasby and Frankby. At the above mentioned meeting, two of the priorities related to Greasby and Frankby and one to Clatterbridge. One for this area was the gathering of young people in the area of Fishers Lane, Pensby. The number of Support Officers in that area has been increased, and linked in with Youth Service.

There is an influx of people coming into the area from West Kirby and Woodchurch areas. They are being encouraged to behave in a reasonable manner, and it is a great help when we know the people who may cause problems. Neighbourhood Team took 60 young people for football training, and held a tournament and certificates were given out. They also trained 50 young people in cycle training, who also received certificates. An increase at the moment in auto-crime, not a high level, more in Pensby rather than Heswall in the theft of number plates. If you can get Anti-Tamper number plates.

Mrs. Tripp said that she would like to thank the Police for their help to-day in removing a car which was blocking their driveway.

Russell Favager, Wirral Primary Care Trust. The consultation period of a draft UK-wide constitution setting out NHS values finishes on 17th October and will be available soon after. All four of our main units received excellent reports from the Health Authority.

Sandy Cameron, Older Peoples' Parliament. There are now more people over 60 than under 16. We work closely with hospitals, Police, Fire Brigade and will deal with problems right across the board when requested.

Pippa Roberts, Wirral PCT Pharmacy. They are really keen for members of the public to become members of the Trust, and you can fill in a form. Public Health Strategy is in a leaflet with external assessments.

Councillors' Report.

Councillor Hodson said that all Councillors would like to thank the PCSO's and the Police, who are doing an excellent job, especially with the work they are doing with the youth, and attending many local meetings, such as the CAB.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 12th February 2009.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

