



Area Forum (Heswall and Pensby & Thingwall)

Date:	Wednesday, 15 October 2008
Time:	7.00 pm
Venue:	Dee Room, Heswall Hall, Telegraph Road, Heswall CH60 0AF

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AGENDA

1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**
2. **AREA CO-ORDINATORS REPORT (Pages 1 - 34)**
 - Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
3. **"YOU DECIDE"**
4. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
5. **PARTNER ORGANISATIONS UPDATE**
 - Merseyside Police/Community Safety
 - Fire Service
 - NHS Foundation Trust
 - Primary Care Trust
 - Older Peoples Parliament
6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
 - 12 February 2009

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Heswall Pensby Thingwall

Area Forum

Papers for the forum meeting

15th October 2008

Dee Room
Heswall Hall
Telegraph Road
Heswall
CH60 0AF

7.00pm – 9.00pm

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AGENDA

1. Welcome introductions and apologies
2. Area co-ordinators report
 - **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**
3. " You Decide"
4. Public Question Time.
5. Partner Updates
6. Dates of future meetings - Thursday 12th February 2009

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Section One

Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes - Area Forum (Heswall and Pensby & Thingwall) - 8 July 2008

Present	
Chair	Cllr. Bob Wilkins
Ward Councillors	Peter Johnson , Mike Redfern , Les Rowlands
Community Representatives	Tony Garrett
Older People's Parliament Representative	Sandy Cameron
Lead Officer	Chris Batman (Head of Branch, Planning and Resources, Children and Young People's Department)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith
Street Scene Manager	Mark Traynor
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Russell Favager
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Lynne Webster
Merseyside Police	Inspector Kate Cunningham
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Paul Gibson
Council Officers	Cathy Newman (Community Safety Team) , Mark Smith (Head of Service, Streetscene and Waste)
Apologies	Toni Gibbs (Heswall Faith Representative) , Cllr Andrew Hodson , Mark Johnston , Cllr Sarah Quinn

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Minute 6 - Dates of future meetings
Minute 7 - Any Other Business

Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions, apologies and nominations of area forum chair

Chris Batman asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the Forum. He pointed out that the person must be a local councillor, and that only members of the panel were allowed to vote.

Cllr. Redfern nominated Cllr. Bob Wilkins, seconded by Tony Garrett.
Cllr. Johnson nominated Cllr. Les Rowlands, seconded by Les Rowlands.

A vote was taken, and Cllr. Bob Wilkins selected as Chair.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Andrew Hodson, Mark Johnston, Cllr. Sarah Quinn, Toni Gibbs.

Minute 2 - Area co-ordinators report • Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Tracey asked that in view of the number of people attending, many of whom had already received the Minutes, and copies were available at the back of the hall, could they be taken as read.

Amendment from previous meeting Cathy Newman attended the meeting on behalf of Community Safety

Russell Favager asked for a correction on Page 7, 5th line down should read "staff employed by Wirral University Hospital Trust. Page 9, first line should read "They have been working with the Health Partners and Council, but they have shown a graph about the population, which will increase over the next 25 years by over 50%, and will be more costly, so we shall have to change our services to meet future requirements." Third paragraph down on same page "There are some very disturbing statistics in this other leaflet" – this was, in fact, said by Sandy Cameron.

Page 6 Minute 5 Mr. Garrett reported that the state of Dee View Road down to Delavor Road is developing potholes again and needs more work doing. Mr. Garrett is still out of pocket for £100.00 because his car wheel went down a pothole, and had to be replaced, and he feels that the Council should pay.

Page 7, paragraph 5 Mr. Kinlan reported that it is quite true there is no 9 a.m. bus on Sundays, but there is a 272 and 273 at 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. To get to Liverpool, it would be necessary to go to Arrowe Park Hospital and change to another route. Page 7 paragraph 7 Mr. Garrett would like to see the letter regarding the ownership of the frontages on the beach. Tracey Smith responded saying that she would ask Mr. Davies, and then pass a copy to Mr Garrett.

In relation to page 9 paragraph 2. Mr. Gethin asked about the cost of the PCT brochure, and was told it was about 80p. He felt that the money could be better spent, and asked why it should be printed in so many different languages. Russell Favager reported that there had been an extremely good response to the

brochure, and that approximately 8,500 had been returned. He also thought that it was good practice, and that it was expected to be printed in several languages.

Mr. Gethin replied that Hazel Blears had stated on the Andrew Marr Show on Sunday, February 17th 2008 that “the Government’s policy has changed really quite fundamentally. The things we’re now talking about, is about the need for people to be able to speak English, an absolute priority in this country. If you want to get on, if you want to get a job, if you want to look after your family the ability to speak the language is fundamental. We’re saying to local authorities in particular don’t go translating all the documents that you used to in the past.”

Chris Batman replied that the Council is aware of the Minister’s view and they are looking at the implications.

Tracey Smith asked that the next agenda item should be public question time as there were a lot of people attending who wished to speak. This was agreed by all present.

Minute 3 - Public Question Time

Alison Jones from Lightfoot Close (just off Telegraph Road). Mrs. Jones has two young children who go to Gayton Primary School, and Mrs. Jones (and, she stated, other residents) wish to make an urgent request for the Council to look into the problem of children crossing Telegraph Road between Hillside Road and the Glegg Arms roundabout. They understand that funding is available, and it is vital that some sort of safety crossing is installed without delay. This is not only for the younger children going to Gayton and St. Peter’s Primary School, but the older children catching buses in both directions.

John Crosby said this should also be implemented with a reduction in the speed on this stretch of road. It was suggested that a 20mph limit begin at Boathouse Lane, right through to Heswall. Mrs. Eva Evans who lives in The Ridgeway also said it was vitally important for the elderly, as they have to cross the road, and the speed that motorists drive in this residential area is far too high.

Mark Smith (Head of Service Streetscene and Waste) replied that he was present to talk about the allocation of funds for road safety schemes. The allocations of funding by the Council are concentrated where there are a high number of accidents. The Council does have a legal requirement to investigate speed claims on roads, and this will be looked into later in the year. The Council is also promoting Travel Plans for children going to and from school, and there is an allocation of money from the Department of Transport Wirral has received £180,000. to spend on items such as pedestrian crossings. This Forum and the Bromborough and Eastham Forum made the decision to have their money de-centralised from this pot.

Mrs. Jones said that she would welcome some of the Councillors to come and walk to school and see what the conditions are like. Another parent with three teenage children said that for them to cross the road is a nightmare, and many voiced their serious concerns.

Ian Hughes said that when children are dropped off to catch the buses for Upton Hall School, the parents turn round in Mill Lane, and this all adds to the danger. Cllr. Rowlands stated that his daughter also goes to that school, and he is aware of the danger. Cllr Rowlands promised to look into this issue.

Mark Smith stated that with regard to the reduction in the speed limit, this had to be discussed with the Police, and that there is proposed holistic review, which will be completed by 2011. He will, however, take away all the issues and they will be looked at. Cllr. Johnson asked whether anything will be done, and will there be money available to carry out the work.

A letter has been received about the heavy articulated traffic going to the Aldi Depot. The huge lorries seem to be driving through Wirral in all directions, along roads which are quite simply not suitable at all. Graham Ashdown asked why when planning applications came in, there was not more thought about the delivery vehicles. Mark Smith said that the issue of an HGV restriction on Pensby Road and other roads in the Wirral was the subject of a fairly expansive amount of work by the Council. He will go away and look into the history of this, and come back. One lady stated that she had taken up this problem with Aldi, and been told that some of the trouble is when the drivers use their Sat Nav, these B road routes and shown, and the drivers follow them. Another of the problems is that they are driving through the night, and traffic is starting between 2 and 3 a.m. This is not just Aldi, this is Marks and Spencer and Tesco also.

Mrs. Beryl Crocker from Belmont Drive said that this will be compounded if the supermarket goes ahead on Pensby Road in the block of shops after Rosemead Avenue. Jo Kennedy from Pensby Road said that it is not just the supermarkets who have lorries delivering – it is the other shops, such as the chemists etc. It was also stated that nobody takes any notice of the speed limit. Her daughter and friend had been walking the dog, and a car came by at such speed, they were able to move quickly out of the way, but sadly the dog was killed, and the driver did not even stop.

Mark Smith confirmed that the main stream money from the Department of Transport is largely put out where there is a proven accident spot. Kay Walsh from Thingwall Road East said that she is not able to get out of her house when she wants, as there are cars parked in the lay-by, which restricts her view, and the speed they travel along that road is dreadful.

Chris Garland wondered whether there would be funding available for the football teams he helps with. There are five teams who play, but only one pitch, and the costs are approximately £1,000. per annum. They have asked the Council to clean the facilities, showers etc., but have been told they will have to wait for two years. Parks and Gardens have given them some paint, and they will be doing it themselves this weekend.

This football team is run for youngsters in the area, and last year the costs were £3,000. for this and to keep the facilities clean and up to scratch. Each room is 3 metres square, and there is no light. Health and Safety would condemn it. Is there any money to help keep this going?

Tracey Smith replied that the applications for funding for area forums is now closed, but she will take Chris' name and address, and pass his details onto Steve Russell (Voluntary Liaison Officer) and ask him to make contact. A lady said that her husband started this up 25 years ago and what about updating the changing rooms and keeping them clean. Tracey Smith will pass this on to Jim Lester. The local team has managed to get into the top level and it is embarrassing when they have a visiting team.

Frank Kinlan said that the problem with Heswall is that Telegraph Road has been

a building site for over 25 years. Now they want to demolish Kwik Save and the lighting place above it. He has complained for years about the traffic lights, but the Planning Department have a great deal to answer for giving Tesco permission.

Mr. Sinnott said that for people who live in the cottages in Milner Road and have no off road parking, life is impossible as there are never any spaces available between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. Life is worse since Marks & Spencer came because their parking facility is ridiculous, and their staff are not allowed to use their car park. The flats do not have sufficient parking, and no-one shows any consideration for people on the pavement, and small children are hidden by the walls, and if they run out, it is dangerous. There is also the garage, the chip shop and The Slack. The car park to the Slack is empty three quarters of the day, and this could surely be used. The owner of The Slack does allow residents, who are customers, to have a little sticker and park in there without being clamped.

Mark Smith reported that the Council have criteria of two to three serious accidents in a period of thirty six months before they will introduce accident prevention measures.

Inspector Cunningham reported that they do charge people for speeding and also for using a mobile phone while driving. It was suggested that Milner Road should also become a 20 mile per hour road.

In view of the previous matters referred to, the following question was asked: Is it true to say that when a planning application goes in, consideration about the traffic and road use are not part of the case? Mark Smith replied that he has experience of the development control process: when the Council receives a planning application for example a new superstore, there are a whole series of Guidance Planning lines set out by the Government. Highways and Planning Officers carry out an inspection. Everything has to be in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act and now the Land Planning Act. If the Council is going to refuse an application, there have to be very firm grounds and a basis for doing so, otherwise applicants will appeal against the decision and get it overturned. Wirral Council does what it can to protect the area.

Mrs. Kennedy suggested that the planning application for a superstore in Pensby Road be considered very carefully. Where are all the cars going to park? What can we do to stop it? Cllr. Wilkins said that you should write letters to the Council. Mr. R. Parker, Old Wood Road suggested that all we need to do is to stop driving and use the local bus.

Bernd Heerwagen from Beverley Gardens, Thingwall asked whether Mark Smith (or anyone from the department) ever goes back and says the framework should be updated, because all this has been going on for years and the criteria are not correct in this day and age.

Sandy Cameron replied that on behalf of the Older Peoples' Parliament, they are writing to the Government with regard to road safety. Mark Smith replied that the Council was required to follow statutory guidance from Central Government It was pointed out that legislation guide lines are changed all the while. Are the Council doing anything where you can see that things are not working?

Mrs. Crocker asked with regard to the proposed "supermarket" in Pensby Road, a meeting had been held on Saturday morning with Cllr. Sarah Quinn to put forward views, and we understand that investigations are going on as to who owns the land at the back. If it is privately owned, how can the Council go ahead and give approval? More information is required about exactly what is being applied for. Will it open until 10 o'clock at night? Will they be selling alcohol? This will mean youngsters grouping outside the library, and we are all worried about our quality of life.

Mr. Ashdown has written to the Council about the difficulty on the site for unloading, and the difficulty for lorries to reverse there, which will create more danger on an already busy road. The lorries will have to carry on into Heswall centre, and cause even more confusion there. It would be impossible to come into Belmont Drive, although it is open at both ends, as people are parked all day in some cases, and it is a residential road where children are playing on the grass verges, and would be too dangerous.

We understand that only three letters of objection have been received, even though we know that a petition has been sent in and numerous letters. Why was the public not informed months ago? It is not right if our views are not taken into account.

Chris Batman replied that two councillors on the panel are members of the Planning Committee, and they are unable to comment before the Planning meeting, otherwise they will not be allowed to vote. There are very strict rules for the members of the Planning Committee. It is, therefore, important that they do not reply to you here this evening, or it could be that a subsequent decision of the Planning Committee might be challenged.

Many people could not believe that only three letters of objection has been received, and thought that it was a wonderful opportunity for the councillors to hear peoples' objections.

Mrs. Val Curtis advised everyone to keep all copies of any correspondence relating to this.

Mr. Bernd Heerwagen was surprised to hear that three councillors are on the Planning Committee. He wondered why we did not have members of different committees.

Chris Batman replied that the councillors present are the local councillors, and between them they are also on the Environmental, Social Services and Standards Committees. It was also noted that there are two more local councillors, who are not on the Planning Committee, and who had made their apologies for this meeting.

Mr. Perry stated that he would like it minuted that practically everyone present at this Area Forum meeting is opposing the current planning application.

Tracey Smith said that she was sorry that she was unaware of this Planning application before the meeting. If, in future, there is an item which residents would like to be included on the Agenda, please contact her, and she will do so, and bring an Officer from the Planning Committee, or whichever committee is dealing with it.

Mrs. Sue Bailey lives right opposite Pensby Library, and has had a look at the plans and strongly objects to the application, and is very sorry that no Planning Officer is available.

Minute 4 - Area Forum Funding DVD Launch

Tracey Smith showed the DVD (which was extremely good) so that people could see the sort of funding that has been given out across Wirral. There are eleven Area Forums, and they have chosen little bits out of different ones to show the variety of applications. The DVD was produced by children at the Learning Lighthouse, and will be shown to all the Forums.

Examples of projects included:

High Flyers trampoline for children.
Wirral Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted.
Safeguarding Childrens' Services.
Merseyside Wirral Victim Support.
Ellary Park School.
West Kirby Light Operatic Society.

Minute 5 - Partner Updates

Older Peoples' Parliament. Sandy Cameron reported that they are not restricted by any political parties, but if anyone has a problem please contact them (leaflets at the back of the hall) and they will definitely come back with an answer.

Police
Neighbourhood Action Group meeting – changed priorities – only one now which affects Heswall /Pensby area, which was groups of youths congregating in the Whalley Lane area.
Inspector Cunningham reported that CSOs had been sent out, and this appears to have sorted things out.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.
Paul Gibson asked again if anyone required advice for fire protection, please contact them.
Local hot spots – if you spot disturbance, call the Fire Service for suspicious movement.

Street Scene.

Mark Smith reported that the Council's Cabinet have allocated transport funding for the coming year. They have received £180,000 from the Department of Transport. In the summer of 2006 we were consulted as to whether it should be kept centrally, or you the forum would take it yourselves. The money was put to good use last year, a pedestrian refuge on Barnston Road and also in the Bromborough area. On 12th June report made to Cabinet, and they agreed that you should have £16,500. For the current year 2008/09, which will be spent following a similar process to last year. Cabinet were keen that the forum actually provide feed-back as to how it worked, so as to see whether it should be encouraged for 2009/10. Please submit this before 22nd July 2008. In

conjunction with Council member, Cllr. Quinn, but also with Tracey Smith to finish off highlighting traffic issues, and our starting point will be to see whether we can deal with these issues. We do have this allocation for the coming year, and with the Forum support we want to pull these ideas together.

Minute 6 - Dates of future meetings

Venue to be agreed in Heswall. It was pointed out that two years ago it was actually minuted that the meetings in Heswall would be central and near a bus route in central Heswall. Tracey Smith replied that it is very difficult to find a venue in Heswall because most places are booked up, but that she will investigate.

Minute 7 - Any Other Business

Val Curtis asked could she please appeal to the Councillors to speak for residents in Planning Committees.

Matters arising

Minute 3 - Public Question Time

A letter was received about the heavy articulated traffic going to the Aldi Depot.

Response from Paul Barton - Senior Assistant Engineer Technical Services Department

I hope that I can shed some light on the decision making that followed ALDIs announcement to operate a distribution centre from Neston and to traffic roads on Wirral with articulated vehicles. As you will appreciate none of the decisions to include or exclude certain roads from a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) prohibiting use by articulated vehicles was taken lightly. Indeed if I may I refer you to the attached Cabinet report of 13 January 2005 an account of this decision making is put much better than I could hope to summarise in this e-mail.

In particular Cabinet at its meeting of 13 January 2005 took the decision to advertise a TRO on Barnston Road and Thornton Common Road being in full knowledge of all the factors including displacement of traffic onto other routes and subsequently on 22 Sept 2005 item 21 made a decision that a Public Inquiry not be held .

Whereas the officers and any external consultants appointed proffer reports and advice to the Councils elected members it is the Council that endorses a particular course of action and in this particular case a number of public meetings were advertised and convened locally in Heswall and Thornton Hough which assisted in shaping the chosen course of action.

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.*

Life Chances for Children and Young People

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 25th 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

Pensby Youth Club: have started their member's committee meetings, and are planning a community fun day with PCSO's. They have been holding table tennis and football competitions A photo development project is underway looking at the history of Pensby. MC/DJ Workshops are very popular attracting new members to the club

Deeside Young People's Project: has continued to work in the mid and west Wirral areas using streetwork and the Kontakt Bus to engage with young people. The

funding obtained by the skaters/bmx riders has been used for a new Kontakta Bus, which will be operational shortly. The enhanced facilities of the new bus will be a great asset, particularly during the winter months. DYPP has a good working relationship with the Police, particularly through the joint delivery of successful school holiday activity programmes. During the summer, 81 young people participated in an exciting programme of activities.

Updates on Projects funded by CIF and PCT in 2007/08

Organisation The Stepping Out Group - Wirral

Total awarded by this forum £1,000.00

Project Details To contribute towards an adventure weekend to help the group plan a programme for the next two years and to build a strong sense of team.

Progress Report

The group attended an outward bound activity weekend in May 2008 and took part in many activities that pushed the boundaries in terms of their disabilities. This resulted in them pulling together as a group and offering support both physically and, where needed, emotionally. The group grew in terms of friendship, understanding and mutual respect, creating a strong foundation on which to build the future of the group. They worked on a programme of activities for the next two years.

Organisation Pensby School Sport Partnership

Total awarded by this forum £821.33

Project Details To establish a community Aikido club for 13 to 19 year olds at Pensby Sports College.

Progress Report

A junior Aikido Club ran for an eight week period at Pensby Sports Complex, following a promotional assembly for 200 boys aged between 13 and 16 years and the inclusion of an aikido demonstration at the Wirral PE Conference and a Women and girls "get active" day for over 13s. In total over 40 young people and women gained a practical experience of aikido and up to 20 regularly attended sessions. The Sports Partnership has been successful in applying for a £500 grant to help sustain the club in the autumn and securing a similar amount to establish a starter club in the Birkenhead area.

Organisation Heswall & District CVS

Total awarded by this forum £1,000.00

Project Details To contribute towards cost of running playschemes in Irby, Pensby and Heswall

Progress Report

The funding was used to purchase equipment which has focused on equality and diversity awareness, sports and arts and craft equipment. The materials will be shared between our three venues at Richmond Hall, Heswall, Pensby Community Centre and Irby Methodist Church Hall.

Organisation Girl guiding Wirral

Total awarded by this forum £500.00

Project Details 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.

Organisation Listening -2-U

Total awarded by this forum £297.82

Project Details To run a consultative day just related to the services for fathers.

Progress Report

The consultative fun day took place on 9th August 2008 between 11am and 3.30pm. We provided a large scale model railway which children and adults could drive around the track, craft activities, pass the parcel, sports activities, an inflatable assault course and face painting. A local band provided live music for us and we provided a barbecue.

We had 14 local helpers on the day, 4 of the volunteers were under 22 years of age. We had two children attend from the BME community, the remainder being white British. The event gave us ideas on what the dads and their children would like to at future sessions.

Safer Communities

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

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 Fire & Rescue Service

The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at Birkenhead, Bromborough, Heswall, Upton, West Kirby and Wallasey.

We are committed to innovative and imaginative change in order to help make our communities safer and stronger. We are also committed to integrated working with other authorities, agencies and the voluntary sector to improve public safety and well being.

We have an **Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/09** which sets out the measures which are intended to be taken to continue the modernisation and improvement of services to the people of Merseyside. This I.R.M.P can be viewed online at www.merseyfire.gov.uk/media or copies are available at local libraries and One Stop Shops.

Community engagement remains the cornerstone of our proactive activity, in particular the delivery of the **Home Fire Safety Checks** and the provision of free smoke detectors were necessary. We continue to improve our effectiveness by

utilising intelligence led targeting of **HFSCs**. We are currently developing household specific dwelling fire prediction software to assist in the process.

The Service has set challenging performance targets and we are pleased to report that Wirral stations regularly achieve and exceed these targets. During the last quarter the Fire Service visited nearly 6,000 homes on Wirral to complete Home Fire Safety Checks.

Following a successful campaign in schools prior to the summer break and close links during the holiday period between Community Safety Team and stations, we saw 65% reduction in reported Anti-Social Behaviour.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service was extremely proud to have hosted the 10th **World Fire-fighters Games** at the end of August this year. Over 3,000 fire-fighters and their families from across the globe travelled to Merseyside to participate in the event, which were a resounding success with the U.K. team topping the medals table!

The event incorporated a wide-ranging and innovative community engagement programme. Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority are very proud of their record in the field of community engagement and the Games represented a great opportunity to continue with this work and engage with people that perhaps we hadn't previously been able to reach.

Following on from the success of our collaborative **Bonfire Strategy** in 2007, which saw a significant reduction in the number of bonfires requiring Fire Service attendance and decrease in the illegal selling and storing of fireworks, we are again working in partnership with the Police, Trading standards, Probation Service and Community Safety Team to ensure the same impact over the bonfire period this year. The number to contact to report suspected illegal storage and/or sales of fireworks and bonfire material that requires removing is

FREEphone 0800 731 5958

Fire Support Network is a non-profitable registered charity which works in partnership with the Fire Service on Merseyside to promote fire safety to the local communities through volunteers and partner organisations. Volunteer roles vary from working directly with the fire-fighters, leafleting and replacing batteries in smoke detectors to providing an after fire care service and fund raising. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can register online at www.firesupportnet.org.uk or contact via telephone on 0151 296 4600.

FSN will be holding their annual **Winter Warm Campaign** this October and will be on the Wirral as follows -

Thu 16th Oct-Rockferry Library

Fri 17th Oct- Wheatland Lane, Seacombe

The events take place between 10am – 2pm and anyone with aged electric blankets should bring them along to be tested by qualified personnel, if condemned they will be replaced **free of charge**. The first 50 people at the events will also receive a **free carbon monoxide detector!**

Fire Service personnel will also be in attendance to offer advice on home fire safety and arrange appointments to perform home visits if required.

In conjunction with the operational crews FSN will be organising a **Bonfire Poster Campaign** in schools across the Wirral. The aim of this campaign is to educate and inform the children of the dangers of fireworks, help reduce incidents of anti-social

behaviour and engage with the children. We are hoping to offer a prize for the winning poster and a visit for the winner's class to a fire station.

After a successful **Christmas in the Community** event last year, which was held at Heswall Community Fire Station, jointly arranged by FS and FSN, discussions are underway to hold at least 2 similar events at stations on the Wirral this December. Partner agencies will be invited to attend to provide information and advice to the community.

We are currently working closely with Wirral PCT on the **Smoke Free Homes Campaign**, the aim of which is to encourage smokers to make a pledge not to expose their family and friends to second hand smoke in their homes and cars, this will also assist in the reduction of accidental fires in properties and vehicles due to smoking related material. This scheme is currently being piloted in Heswall and surrounding area prior to being rolled out across the Wirral.

Community Fire Stations

- **Birkenhead:** Exmouth Street. Birkenhead. CH41 4AX. 0151 296 5325
- **Bromborough:** Dock Road South. Bebington. CH62 4SQ. 0151 296 5925
- **Heswall:** Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 OAF. 0151 296 5805
- **Upton:** Arrowe Park Road. Upton. CH49 OUF. 0151 296 5895
- **West Kirby:** The Concourse. West Kirby. CH48 4HX. 0151 296 5955
- **Wallasey:** Mill Lane. Wallasey. CH44 5UE. 0151 296 6180

For a FREE Home Fire Safety Check, including FREE smoke alarm installation if required please contact Fire Service Direct on

FREEphone 0800 731 5958

Health and Well Being

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 16th 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 & Dignity</i>
<i>Arrowe Park</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Good</i>
<i>Clatterbridge</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Excellent</i>
- 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 31st 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
 - 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 attached Membership Application Form or join on-line @ 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 or a copy can be obtained from the Membership Office at Arrowe Park Hospital ☎ 0800 0121 356

Updates on Projects funded by CIF and PCT in 2007/08

Organisation The Stepping Out Group - Wirral

Total awarded by this forum £1,000.00

Project Details To contribute towards an adventure weekend to help the group plan a programme for the next two years and to build a strong sense of team working

Progress Report

The group attended an outward bound activity weekend in may 2008 and took part in many activities that pushed the boundaries in terms of their disabilities. This resulted in them pulling together as a group and offering support both physically and, where needed, emotionally. The group grew in terms of friendship, understanding and mutual respect, creating a strong foundation on which to build the future of the group. They worked on a programme of activities for the next two years.

Organisation Wirral Disability Swimming Development

Total awarded by this forum £250.00

Project Details To contribute towards pool hire costs for bridge sessions.

Progress Report

The organisation continues to provide a sustainable "bridge" to competitive swimming clubs. We coach a wide spectrum of disabilities and special needs, and provide advice, teaching and coaching to a high standard. We are now getting swimmers form further a-field on recommendation from those within the programme.

Organisation The Universal Beneficient Society (UBS)

Total awarded by this forum £295.00

Project Details To provide funding for Wirral beneficiaries to receive emergency grants, Christmas gift cheque and a Christmas hamper.

Progress Report

To date one emergency grant has been issued for a beneficiary in the Heswall area, and a grant for a beneficiary in the Thingwall area is being processed. The orders for Christmas hampers will be placed in October 2008 and will be issued in December.

The grants offer peace of mind, when faced with an unexpected breakdown, and is a real comfort to our vulnerable elderly beneficiaries.

Organisation Friends of Eastham Country Park

Total awarded by this forum £78.00

Project Details 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.

Organisation Pensby School Sports Partnership

Total awarded by this forum £1,102.71

Project Details To hold two health and physical activity awareness days aimed at women and girls.

Progress Report

The partnership has hosted two Women and Girl's Days in Wallasey and Heswall respectively, these have involved 190 women and girls over 14 years old. A third event is planned at Oldershaw covering such activities as Brazilian martial arts, boxercise and street dance.

The project has been so successful that it will be rolled out across Wirral next year and the partnership has been asked to present at the 8th Annual British Heart Foundation Conference in Nottingham in November. Various fitness and weight management courses are starting at Pensby and funding has been secured from Sport England to run girls' only rugby and cricket

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Merseytravel has expansive plans for the local rail system, with extension to the electrified network prominent among them. Third rail services from Liverpool city centre currently provide a connection at Bidston where there is an hourly class 150 service to Wrexham.

Merseytravel would like to see better services on Wrexham route, not only to draw shoppers from North Wales into Liverpool to spend money with city's retailers, but also to improve labour mobility. The steelworks at Shotton closed in the 1980's but employment levels have bounced back to the point where there is now a shortage of skilled labour in the Welsh border area. British Aerospace and Toyota have big workforces, and the Corus remains an important local employer. Improved rail services from the city could benefit both areas, taking shoppers into the city and delivering key workers to the areas around the stations in the border area.

The PTE has looked at extending the third rail to Wrexham, but 'costs were in the stratosphere and way beyond our expectations' according to Alan Stillwell, Merseytravel's Director of Operations. A need for barrier fencing to deter trespassers, the number of substations required and problems with steel sleepers were all factors in this. As a result, Merseytravel is now looking at 25kV wiring between Bidston and Wrexham, with dual-voltage stock.

(Press release provided by Tony Garrett, Heswall Community representative)

Equality and Diversity

Week commencing 3rd 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 6th 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 its first pilot equality watch think-tank session on Thursday 4th 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 to request a copy.

Equality Watch newsletter

Since December 2007 five bi-monthly electronic version newsletters have been produced for council staffs 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.

Equality

This page will give you relevant information regarding some of the equality strands.

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 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'.

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 and 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"

Of course not all the comments were as positive as these! 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**

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
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

£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. I am delighted with Wirral's successful bid for BIG Lottery funding which will increase children's access to play across the borough, and I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all the staff involved for all their hard work."

Voluntary and Community Sector Funding

Community Initiative (CIF)/Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Over £125,000 funding is available for local groups

Closing date for applications - 12 noon on Monday 10th November 2008

Following initial adverts publicising the availability of the funding through the forums, there is some funding unallocated for projects falling within criteria set out below. The funding will be targeted towards meeting the needs of local people within the areas covered by each of the forums listed below, and Voluntary and Community Sector groups are invited to submit applications. Funding is available for the following forums.

Area Forum	Funding Available		Area Forum	Funding Available	
	CIF	PCT		CIF	PCT
Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie	£19,878.86	Nil	Bebington/ Clatterbridge	£10,732.09	Nil
West Wirral	£15,812.77	£4,250.00	Oxton/Prenton	£7,329.04	£2,785.32
New Brighton/ Wallasey	£14,315.17	£2,728.00	Greasby, Frankby, Irby Upton and Woodchurch	£10,379.76	Nil
Heswall/Pensby and Thingwall	£12,303.59	£4,570.00	Liscard/Seacombe	£6,997.40	£1,224.46
Bromborough/ Eastham	£7,664.08	£4,545.00	Birkenhead and Tranmere/ Rock Ferry	Nil	£1,580.00

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND (incorporating Community Safety and Local Agenda 21 Funds)

Applications are invited for proposals that support the following priorities:

- Strong local economy
- Sustainable appropriate housing
- Life chances for children and young people
- Safer communities
- Health and well being
- Living and working environment

PRIMARY CARE TRUST FUND

Applications are invited for proposals which show that the grant will be used to support one or more of the key funding priorities for this programme, listed below:

- **Wirral Taste for Health:** improving access to healthy, affordable foods and helping people to develop shopping and cookery skills.
- **Wirral Active:** encouraging people to participate in activities that are enjoyable and health enhancing.
- **Smoke Free Wirral:** providing support for people to stop smoking and protecting children from second hand smoke.
- **Wirral Youth Diversionary Activities:** provides activities for young people that reduce harm and risk taking behaviour related to alcohol misuse.

Application packs can be obtained by contacting the Community Engagement Team, Corporate Services Department, Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Merseyside, CH44 8ED, Tel: 0151 691 8650/8069, Fax: 0151 691 8159 or email: engage@wirral.gov.uk