

YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**



**Bebington & Clatterbridge
Area Forum**



Papers for the forum meeting



Wednesday 27th June 2007



**Bebington Civic Centre
Civic Way
Bebington
Wirral
CH63 7PT**



7.00pm – 9.00pm



2002-2003
Community Legal Services
2003-2004
Transforming Secondary Education
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services

www.wirral.gov.uk

Bebington and Clatterbridge

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

Wednesday 27th June 2007

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SECTION ONE

Minutes - Area Forum (Bebington and Clatterbridge) 13 February 2007

Present	
Chair	S L Clarke
Ward Councillors	AT Jennings , IM Moon , WW Smith , CM Teggin , K J Williams
Community Representatives	R Johnston , H Ridge(Bebington)
Lead Officers	Stephen Rowley (Assistant Director of Finance)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Michelle Gray
Primary Care Trust	Dr Jim O'Connor
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Myles Platt
Council Officers	Fergus Adams (Technical Services) , Phil Miner (Street Scene Area Manager) , Jim Thompson (Crime and Disorder Project Officer)
Apologies	M Johnson , Inspector Andy McKeown , Annette Roberts (Bebington & District CVS)

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- Minute 5 - Partner Updates - Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and Merseyside Police
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- Minute 7 - Any Other Business
- Minute 8 - Date of next meeting - Wednesday 27 June 2007 - Venue to be confirmed

Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair, Sheila Clarke, was saddened to announce that Janet had died in tragic circumstances on 10 January.

Janet was not only the Area Co-ordinator for the Forum, but she was also a very good friend to many people here tonight. Janet was also involved with the Wirral Investment Network and would be sadly missed as a colleague and friend by all those whose lives she touched.

Sheila asked everyone to join her in extending the very deepest sympathy and condolences to Janet's husband, children and family.

The Area Forum stood and observed a minute's silence in memory of Janet.

The Chair, Councillor S Clarke, welcomed forum members and 20 members of the public to the meeting of the Area Forum in Bebington. She introduced and welcomed Michelle Gray, Area Co-ordinator. Apologies were received from Marla Johnson, Annette Roberts and Inspector Andy McKeown.

Minute 2 - Minutes of last meeting and any matters arising.

Minute decision: Resolved that:

To confirm the minutes the Area Forum meeting of 9 October 2006 as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising from previous Forum

Michelle Gray the Area Co-ordinator updated the forum on issues that had been raised at the October Forum and agreed that this information would be recorded in these minutes as the information arrived too late to put in the Area Co-ordinators report for February 2007.

Recycling Response update (minute 4 of October minutes)

ii To ensure garden waste bins are delivered to properties in Thornton Hough and look at issues re the provision of brown bins at Abbott Grange Estate – Bins have been delivered to properties in Thornton Hough where missed deliveries have been reported. Collections on the Abbott Grange Estate are being monitored and reliability has improved. A letter has been sent to residents in Monks Way advising that white sacks will no longer be emptied, and on how to request a brown bin.

iii Problems at the recycle facility at Clatterbridge – The Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority [MWDA] had undertaken to address the problems relating to staff as a customer care issue. On the matter of site design, the MWDA have indicated that the design and productivity of all household waste recycling sites on Merseyside [including Clatterbridge] will be examined and improved; but this could take several years due to the extent of the exercise.

iv To check and request a position statement on Kempson Terrace with Biffa, and ask for Kempson Terrace to be placed on the pre-monitoring sheet - Some improvements to collection reliability have been reported in Kempson Terrace. Due to sporadic paper collections and access issues, the terrace has been placed on its own monitoring list for four weeks from 5 February. A Council inspector will visit the terrace at the end of every collection day for four weeks and deal with any collection issues straight away. The monitoring will extend beyond four weeks should the problems not be resolved.

v Request a representative from Biffa to attend a future Area Forum meeting - The dates of Area Forum meetings have been passed on to Biffa.

vi Circulate information on markets for recycled plastic – All plastics are taken to the materials' recycling facility at Bidston. The materials are re-processed at Centriforce in Sefton, and used to make products such as boardwalks and fencing. Wirral Council receives around £75 per tonne for the plastic, which is re-invested into waste collection services.

vii Ensure that a member of the recycling team is present at Area Forums during the changes - Fergus Adams, Recycling Officer, is present at this evening's meeting and will answer questions.

Older People's Parliament (Minute 8 of October minutes)

Frank McCoy has been elected to the Older People's Parliament as one of the four representatives for this Area Forum.

Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators Report Update

Michelle Gray, Area Co-ordinator, highlighted the key points from her report under the headings –

Safer and Stronger Communities: Merseyside Police are seeking Community Volunteers, Special Constables, Police Community, Support and Traffic Officers, from people of all ages,

ances, genders and educational backgrounds. Details of the Volunteer Recruitment Co-ordinator are given on page 15 of the report.

Older People's Parliament: There are still a few vacancies for representatives on Wirral's Older People's Parliament. People over 50 who are interested in joining the Parliament should phone Tracey Smith on 0151 691 8026, or email traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk for an application form.

Wirral Hospital NHS Trust: The Trust had requested that the Forum's attention be brought to the Trust's Engagement Strategy shown on pages 21 - 23. Presentations will be given at future forum meetings to 'set the scene' for the Trust's plans for the next five years.

Area Forum Funding Progress Report: Information on the allocation of funds (Pages 37 – 41) to organisations and groups, and on the distribution of the second round of funding agreed by the Executive Board on 11 January. The level of funding for Community Initiatives 2007/08 would be Announced following the Council's budget setting meeting in the Spring.

Local Area Plan: The Area Plan have been distributed to all forum members. Work will start on updating and refreshing the plan.

Youth Update – Information on Wirral Youth Service, The Youth Voice Conferences and Youth Parliament in shown on pages 43 – 47.

Integrated Transport Block Report: Area Forums had been invited to advise of any traffic issues or locations requiring investigation for potential inclusion in the Integrated Transport Block programme for 2007/08. Suggestions should be sent to in writing or by email to the Area Co-ordinator, who would collate the responses for submission to the Director of Technical Services, by Friday, 9 March 2007. Full report detailing this is on pages 52 – 53.

Wirral 2008 Proposed events to celebrate Wirral 2008 ...and beyond. Further information available from John Gorman at Wirral.2008@ntlworld.com.

Copies of the Area Co-ordinator's report can be downloaded on the Internet at www.wirral.gov.uk.

Minute decision: Resolved that: To thank the Area Co-ordinator for her report.

Minute 4 - Wirral Primary Care Trust - Public Health Annual Report Update

The Chair invited Dr. Jim O'Connor to update the Forum on Wirral Primary Care Trust. Dr O'Connor stated that the new Primary Care Trust for Wirral had come into existence and was operating in three localities. The Trust continued to strive to improve existing primary care premises and, where required, to identify suitable alternative sites to improve health care provision and access generally.

The Trust was looking at the potential for a medical injuries/walk-in facility, as well as an

out-of-hours service, on the Clatterbridge site and hoped to make progress in the new financial year.

England would become smoke free on 1 July 2007, when all enclosed public places and workplaces will become smoke free. People who wish to take the first steps towards giving up smoking should contact Wirral SUPPORT Intermediate Advisers in Bebington and Clatterbridge practices. Local pharmacies are also offering advice on stopping smoking and nicotine replacement therapy (patches).

A Health Walk takes place on Wednesdays at 11.00 am, starting from Port Sunlight Train Station.

Wirral's Public Health Annual Report had been produced in an electronic format this year.

The evolving Internet based report enables the content to be updated on an ongoing basis with new information being added as soon as it becomes available. The Annual Report contains a wealth of easy to digest Public Health information and can be accessed on www.wirralpct.nhs.uk/publichealthintelligence. A presentation on the report would be given at the end of the meeting.

Copies P R I M E, a free NHS magazine packed with information about how to stay healthy, feel good and reduce the risk of serious diseases, were available at the meeting.

In response to a question from a member of the public, Dr O'Connor stated that he had not been made aware of any recent chemical additions to drinking water but he would investigate the issue and feedback to that person concerned.

He offered to discuss a matter relating to the reimbursement of parking fees at Clatterbridge Hospital with the member of the public who had raised the query, at the end of the meeting.

Minute decision: Resolved that: To thank Dr O'Connor for the update.

Minute 5 - Partner Updates - Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and Merseyside Police

Fire and Rescue Service: Myles Platt reassured members of the public that they were living in one of the most fire safe areas in the whole of Merseyside. This was particularly the case in South Wirral where the number of domestic, industry-related, and small fires connected with anti-social incidents, had all reduced.

In the last quarter of the year, fire crews had carried out home fire safety checks and fitted smoke detectors, free of charge, in 740 properties. Follow up visits are made every two years, and batteries are replaced.

Consideration was being given to siting a Hazardous Response Unit at Bromborough Fire Station. The Unit would be equipped with the specialist equipment needed to respond to local disasters, such as flooding, explosions etc.

This year, Bromborough Fire Station received the Merseyside Community Fire Station of the Year award in recognition of its ground breaking Market garden and integration with the commercial community in the area. The project had generated an outstanding response from industry, members of the public and local businesses. The involvement in young people in the Dig-It Project was a contributory factor to the reduction in the number of anti-social fires.

Myles expressed appreciation to Liz Hawkins for her efforts and success in encouraging young people to become involved in the project in the evenings and at weekends.

Myles would represent Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service at an event in London on 26 February when he would give a presentation on the Dig-It Project as part of an application for Beacon status for a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

In response to questions, Myles stated that he was not aware of a survey about fire safety in the home being undertaken in the Grange Precinct. Information is collected from time to time and used for a variety of purposes, but the information would not be in the public domain.

A member of the public stated that he had always admired the work of the Fire Service, and that the crews do a magnificent job. He objected to the use of the phrase, 'anti-social' when talking about the behaviour of young people, and preferred the term 'urban terrorism'.

Myles replied that he would not describe the many young people he knows and works with as 'urban-terrorists'. They are young people who need help and guidance - a role model, mentoring. He added that it's a very fine line and it just takes a little bit of effort to take a young person to the right side of that line. He preferred to continue to use the term 'anti-social'.

Minute decision: Resolved that: To thank Myles Platt for his report.

Minute 6 - Public Open Forum/Public Question time

Fergus Adams, Recycling Officer, responded to a series of questions on recycling, bin collections and general Street scene issues –

Inspection/'Snoopers': To meet its achieve its recycling target in 2007/08, Wirral needs to introduce some form of inspection to ensure that people use the correct bin when disposing of their waste. People who choose not to engage with the process, or do not know which bin to use, would be given appropriate advice and guidance. The Cabinet was being asked to consider a fixed penalty fining system, which would only be used as a last resort in instances where advice and warnings are not heeded.

Missed collections: The penalty clause had not been invoked during the 'settling in' period of the new waste management contract, but it would be shortly. The company, Biffa, would be fined for missed collections, and the fine would increase if the bins were not collected for a second week. The fine would be considerably more than the figure of £50 per street mentioned by the member of the public.

Manning levels: Biffa was contracted to deliver a service. The operational details – the manning, rounds and number of vehicles – were at the discretion of the contractor, not Wirral Council.

Blue Bags: The waste paper collection service would resume in the Bebington area on Friday, 16 February. A physical check would be made to ensure it has happened and the situation would be monitored for the next eight weeks.

Compost: The Waste Resource Action Programme is funding a home compost incentive scheme for Wirral residents throughout 2007. Residents can purchase home composters for £8, including delivery. Details on the Council's website.

Bus Shelter, Heath Road/Pulford Road: Fergus would investigate the reason for the delay in clearing away the glass/Perspex left on the pavement following vandalism to the bus shelter.

Wirral's recycling record: Wirral had been slow to start its recycling programme compared to other authorities, but it is now moving along at a fast rate and recycling levels have improved considerably.

Councillor Williams expressed concerns about the standard of street cleaning across Bebington, overflowing re-cycling bins, and the litterbin that has disintegrated outside the restaurant.

A member of the public expressed dissatisfaction about the lack of street sweeping the fact that there is only one grid, in the road he lives in. He commented that Bebington is like a 'dried up sewer'; on the aftermath of the gales and the damage caused to a grass verge following the removal of a fallen tree; and on anti-social behaviour and youngsters dropping litter.

Members of the Area Forum responded as follows –

Freak Storm: Forum members commended Wirral Council, the Police and Fire and Rescue Service and Council employees on their rapid and co-ordinated response to the freak storms that had caused considerable damage across Wirral in January. In some instances, parts of the roof had been blown off schools and key services had been affected. Teams of workers had worked round the clock to make buildings watertight and to minimise the risk of further damage.

A team of local tree contractors had been mobilised to deal with the hundreds of trees that had blown down. Areas had been cordoned off, traffic diverted, the trees had been removed and the debris cleared, all within a very short space of time, and with minimum disruption to everyone affected.

The small areas of damage caused by heavy machinery to grassed areas in residential areas would be dealt with.

Open Golf Championship: The member of the public should write to Wirral Council's Chief Executive and request information on public expenditure incurred by Wirral in hosting last year's Golf championship, under the Freedom of Information Act.

The serious disruption to the traffic flow in the vicinity of Arrowe Park had been caused on the first day of the Open because signage leading from the major roads and motorway had been poorly sited. Lessons had been learned and the situation had improved on the remaining days.

The organisation behind the event, the transportation arrangements and the traffic management had been superb. Visitors had described Wirral as a 'hidden gem' and somewhere they wished to return to. Local businesses had benefited from the influx of visitors and the Wirral economy in general had been given a significant boost.

A member of the public commented that he had moved to live in Wirral about 27 years ago; and in his view Bebington and surrounding area is not becoming a slum area. He was proud to live in Wirral.

The Chair had raised the issue of litter that accumulates in the Barlow Avenue/-Wellington Road area with the Headteacher of Bebington High School, with a request to remind the children not to drop litter in the area. She had requested the provision of an extra bin in the road.

The Council was about to pilot a scheme to improve schools' engagement with litter

prevention. Visits would be taken to schools to remind every pupil over the age of ten pupils what their responsibilities are and to educate them on how to dispose of litter properly. Officers from the Technical Services Department would be monitoring 'hot spot' areas near schools.

The Community Department was working with Technical Services Department on a scheme whereby people young offenders and those under Probation orders would be given the task of picking up the litter that other people deposit on the streets.

Minute 7 - Any Other Business

7.1 Pennant House: The Chair advised that the Council recognised there was a need to undertake certain remedial work on Pennant House in order to make the building watertight. Whilst it had agreed to urgent re-roofing works, the Council intended to explore alternative uses for the building which might involve relocating the One Stop Shop into the Civic Centre.

Councillor Teggin added that at its meeting on 12 February 2007, the Council had agreed that essential works were required to prevent further structural deterioration, but the inside of the building needed total refurbishment. The view had been expressed that it would be futile to invest large sums of money on the inside of the building until a decision had been made on its future use. Currently, two offices are in use in the building, one is the one stop shop and the other is the housing benefits office.

Councillor Williams stated that, following a leaflet drop, between 90/100 local residents, mainly from the Bebington constituency, had attended a meeting to discuss the issue. Overwhelmingly, people had criticised the Council for neglecting the building over many years; they had questioned the cost-effectiveness of moving the one stop shop into the Civic Centre, and then moving it back again; and the message from the public had been that such a move would be a big mistake.

Forum members expressed their opinions and views on Pennant House in a robust discussion.

The Chair reminded the meeting that the Council would wish to consult widely on any proposal to move the One Stop Shop and the Housing Benefit Office into the Civic Centre main building. She invited members of the public to send their comments in writing or by email, to the Area Co-ordinator. The responses would be collated and submitted for consideration alongside the views received from other groups and members of the wider community.

Councillor Williams stated that members of the public had not been consulted on any change at this area forum meeting, and that residents should be given the opportunity to vote by a show of hands. He moved that members of the public vote on the proposal -

"That the services in Pennant House stay in the existing building".

The Chair felt that the response to such a proposal could not be taken as a definitive view and the area, irrespective of their political persuasion, should be consulted and given the opportunity to express their views.

Councillor Williams stated that he was dissatisfied with the way Councillor Clarke had chaired the meeting during the discussion on the agenda item dealing with Pennant House.

7.2 Consultation on Cycle Track: A member of the public commented that the residents of Stanton Road had been consulted about a proposed route for a cycle track alongside the pedestrian way in Stanton Road. The residents had been angry about the proposal and although they had totally rejected the idea, the proposal had gone ahead anyway. The residents had taken the view that a decision had already been made and that their views had not been listened to. A letter had been sent to Councillor Gilchrist seeking an explanation, but a reply had not been received.

Councillor Williams commented that there had been extensive debate on the issue with cyclists and that the cycling organisations had been heavily involved in the consultation on the proposed cycle route.

Minute decision: Resolved that:

Area Co-ordinator to collate any views or opinions received about Pennant House all Comments received would be considered as part of the wider consultation process.

Minute 8 - Date of next meeting - Wednesday 27 June 2007 - Venue to be confirmed

There are proposals to have presentations on NHS Trust Engagement Strategy and The Play Strategy.

Close of meeting: The Chair reminded the members of the public that there would be a presentation on the NHS Trust Annual Report at the end of the meeting. The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting. Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Updates

Police Surgery at Bebington One Stop Shop

There is now a Police Surgery being held at Bebington One Stop Shop, Pennant House, The Village, Bebington. The Surgery will be held on the first Tuesday of each month. The times and dates for the 2007 surgery are as follows:

- June 5 , 1pm – 3pm
- July 3, 1pm – 3pm
- August 7, 1pm – 3pm
- September 4, 1pm – 3pm
- October 2, 1pm – 3pm
- November 6, 1pm – 3pm
- December 4, 1pm – 3pm

Police and Community Support Officers will be there to staff the surgery to discuss neighbourhood concern of local residents.

Bebington One Stop Shop remains open during roof renewal

Roof work will start on the 7th May at Pennant House to make the building more watertight and to improve the structure and safety of the building.

Work is scheduled to take between 3-4 weeks. During this time the One Stop Shop will be open as normal Monday to Friday 9.00-5.00 to answer any queries you may have about Council services. There will be restricted car parking available at the front of the building as the number of spaces normally available will be reduced to allow site traffic access.

If you have any comment or questions about the temporary arrangements then please contact the One Stop Shop Manager Mark Payne on 0151 643 7290 or markpayne@wirral.gov.uk.

Website: http://10.107.1.50:8888/fn/one_stop_shops.htm

SECTION TWO

Safer & Stronger Communities

Unlicensed landlords urged to contact council

WIRRAL Council is calling for all owners and managing agents of large rented properties to contact them before the end of the month or risk prosecution.

From last summer, large houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) have been required to be licensed by the council to comply with new housing laws. If a property is three storeys or more in height, occupied by five persons or more or forming more than one household sharing some facilities such as a kitchen or bathroom, then it will require a license. Without one, the owner or managing agent will face prosecution and a fine of up to £20,000.

Alan Stennard, Director of Regeneration at Wirral Council, said: "Houses in multiple occupation present some of the biggest health and safety risks for residents, especially with the risk of fire. To protect residents' well-being we urge landlords and managing agents of HMOs in Wirral to contact the council immediately. "So far we have issued licenses to 35 owners and managing agents but we know there are far more properties that should be licensed. By the end of March, we will have allowed 10 months for landlords and agents to contact the council. From April 2007 we will begin to prosecute those who have failed to apply for this compulsory scheme."

If you own or manage a HMO you should contact the Private Sector Housing team on 0151 691 8118 now. After March 31st it will be an offence to run or manage unlicensed premises and after that date the council will increase the level of license fees to be charged to cover its enforcement costs.

Recycling champions walking the streets of Wirral

WIRRAL Council has four new recycling champions to help residents really get to grips with what they can and can't recycle.

David Green, Director of Technical Services said: 'Incorrect use, or contamination of recycling can cause a lot of problems. Heavy items like alloy wheels have been recovered from bins which could have caused serious damage to the materials recovery facility (MRF) if not spotted. We also have a problem if people dispose of plastic film and plastic bags with their waste paper - the companies that buy the waste paper for recycling don't want it as it's full of plastic and useless.' Residents who use their recycling bin incorrectly receive a note with their bin from the collection crews, explaining why the bin was not emptied. This is followed up with a visit from one of Wirral's new officers to help the householder with their recycling.

Said David Green: 'We appreciate that this is a new process for people to understand and follow, our Recycling Champions are here to help and provide alternative solutions if residents cannot cope with managing their waste.' The officers are out and about in Wirral all week including Saturdays and all will be carrying official Council identification. Anyone who fails to produce official Council ID is not a bona fide representative. You should refuse to deal with them and report them to the police.

Any Wirral resident is also welcome to request a visit from a recycling champion if they are unsure about the new scheme, by calling Streetscene on 0151 606 2004.

Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association

The Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association would like to hear from anyone worried about anti-social behaviour in their community.



Representing around 50 tenant and resident associations in Wirral, the Federation of Tenants and Residents Association sees first hand the effect anti social behaviour has. Anti social behaviour affects people's lives in so many ways. To help address this issue, Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association is organising an anti social behaviour conference in September at Tranmere Rovers FC. The conference will provide an ideal opportunity for tenants and residents to meet and speak to the people who's jobs it is to reduce anti social behaviour in Wirral.

If you are interested in attending please contact Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association on 0151 666 1770 or email wirralfed@hotmail.com

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Service Plans Each year each fire station produces a service plan setting key objectives for that station to focus its activities on during that financial year. The objectives are agreed and are set in line with the Integrated Risk Management Plan for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service which can be viewed on our website merseyfire.gov.uk

Key objectives for all Wirral stations include:

- Use of local intelligence to access the "hard to reach" in the community to deliver Home Fire safety Checks.
- Affect a strategy to reduce fires in derelict properties.
- Continue to work with community partners to promote healthy lifestyles.
- Work with partner agencies to reduce the number of Road Traffic Collisions.
- Devise a strategy to reduce small fires in grasslands and open spaces with the Arson Reduction Advocate.
- Introduce a specialist Hazardous Materials response vehicle at Bromborough.

Home Fire Safety Checks The number of home fire safety checks including the free fitting of smoke detectors carried out by operational crews in peoples homes in Wirral has increased by over 20% with 1700 carried out in April alone. To get your free home fire safety check call 0800 731 5958.

Station Contact Numbers Ask for the Watch Manager

Birkenhead	0151 650 0422
Bromborough	0151 548 9258
Heswall	0151 342 4510
Upton	0151 678 0819
Wallasey	0151 630 3040
West Kirby	0151 625 1157

Information and details relating to particular areas will be available from the Wirral Management Team at the Forums. Paul Gibson Wirral District Manager

Wirral joint Community Safety team area forum update June and July 2007

All Wirral

- 3G cameras now available and in use in Tranmere and soon to be in Woodchurch
- The Home Office Minister Louise Casey has identified Wirral as one of the England's 'Respect Action Areas'. The 'Respect Housing Standard' an agreement with Registered Social Landlords will start in early June. Wirral's largest registered social Landlords are signed up to this initiative and will be meeting on a monthly basis to ensure standards are maintained.
- Police and Wirral Partnership Homes are working with the Wirral Joint Community Safety Team to reduce Criminal Damage to properties. This will act as a pilot project to be taken up by other registered social landlords.

East Wirral

- BT and NTL boxes which have been the target for graffiti across the eastern side of Wirral. Reparation work will be carried – launch next week – public to identify 'grotty' boxes and then Young Offenders will repaint them.

Liscard

- 46 gates Alleygates are being installed going in Devereux Road, work commencing in June 07

Birkenhead and Tranmere

- The much publicised 'talking CCTVs' are now being deployed starting with Charing Cross, Birkenhead.

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas

- An initiative to provide computers to pupils has worked with Wirral Joint Community Safety Team to ensure they are delivered and used in safety. Specialist Brigadoon Stealth software was deployed which disables and locates computers if stolen.

Healthier Communities & Older People

(Repeat Insert)

Wirral Hospital 
NHS Trust

Engagement Strategy - *The aim of this report is to 'set the scene' for presentations by the Trust at future forums, as part of our ongoing engagement strategy, at which more detail will be communicated about the Trust's plans for the next five years.*

Wirral Hospital: into a new era - The development of our Engagement Strategy marks the second phase in meeting our commitment to engage more closely with the communities we serve.

The first phase of this ongoing process came in February 2006 when we undertook a massive consultation programme in relation to our application for Foundation Trust Status "A Change for the Better". This consultation laid out our service plans for the next five years, which were then published as a formal part of our application to become a Foundation Trust. We are now half way through our application to become a Foundation Trust and feel that this is the right time to again engage with the communities we serve.

In the coming months, we will be talking – and listening – to people like you about our plans for the future. Hospital services are changing right across the country and it is important that we keep you up to date on developments. At future presentations we will be in a position to tell you more about our plans.

Agenda - Our aim for this brief report is to set the scene and remind you about:

- **who we are**, because sometimes there is confusion about who provides which health service
- **why we are changing** – we have to move with the times and respond to changing needs and demands, which I want to talk about
- and finally, **how we are changing**.

Who we are - Wirral Hospital NHS Trust manages two hospitals, providing services for approximately 320,000 people. Arrowe Park Hospital in Upton has around 900 beds and provides a complete range of acute health services. Clatterbridge Hospital in Bebington has around 200 beds for elective surgery (planned operations), rehabilitation services and care of older people. The Trust also manages the X-ray facilities, outpatient services and day hospital at Victoria Central Hospital and the Radiography Department at St Catherine's Hospital. The Trust budget is c£220m and we employ around 6,000 staff across all our sites.

NHS Foundation Trust - All hospitals have to become FTs by 2008. NHS FTs are a new kind of NHS organisation. They are accountable to their Membership and to Parliament, rather than to the Department of Health. An independent regulator, Monitor, makes sure they meet requirements and reports on this to Parliament. FTs have Members and Governors – unlike current NHS trusts. Members elect Governors to represent them and to set direction for the organisation. The establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors is a key part of our ongoing engagement strategy. We are aiming for at least 13,000 public members – currently we have 6,000.

An NHS FT:

- provides free NHS services on the basis of individual need and not ability to pay
- has to meet NHS standards in everything that it does and will be inspected by the Healthcare Commission and other national bodies
- employs NHS staff on their current terms and conditions of employment
- is accountable to local people through a Council of Governors elected by its members
- has Members who provide a strong link between the services it provides and the local communities it serves
- has to provide real opportunities for staff, service users and carers to influence decision making
- is part of the NHS and cannot be privatised - the level of money it can earn by doing private health work is capped by law

- has to maintain good working relationships with other health and social care organisations

Changes in NHS nationally - The NHS has seen a massive increase in funding in recent years, which has brought significant improvements to the way in which patients receive their care and treatment. The dramatic reduction in the maximum waiting times for planned operations (18 months to 6 months) is just one example. As well as improving services for patients the increase in funding has also enabled significant increases in salaries for doctors and nurses both in hospitals and in primary care.

The Government has introduced a number of strategies to enable the NHS to maintain its progress and achieve further improvements both in terms of services to patients but also in terms of the efficiency with which these services are provided. These include:

- changing the way in which NHS trusts are funded. No longer do they receive an annual allocation at the start of the year, but instead are paid according to the number and type of patients they treat (Payment by Results)
- giving patients a choice of which hospital to attend, encouraging trusts to raise standards in order to attract patients through their doors
- offering services, which traditionally were provided in hospitals, closer to people's homes in community settings and developing community services to avoid some patients having to go into hospital
- ensuring NHS trusts become more efficient by requiring them to meet a 2.5% efficiency target by matching the best national or international levels of performance

Five year plan - Over the last 10 years Wirral Hospital NHS Trust has become one of the most successful NHS trusts in the country. It has a tremendously strong track record of robust financial management that has enabled the expansion of the range, quality and availability of services to patients. As well as reducing waiting times and balancing our books we have also been able to develop services locally that previously had only been provided in Liverpool. We need to make sure we keep improving and developing services while making realistic financial assumptions and meeting national efficiency requirements. To do this we have developed a five year plan which includes:

- Our plans to treat many more patients and so reduce waiting times to 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment by December 2008
- Our plans to spend over £10M a year on better equipment and facilities such as more single rooms and ward upgrades, parents accommodation and a new heart treatment laboratory
- Our plans to develop more specialist services locally to avoid patients having to travel to Liverpool

Achieving our plans will cost a lot of money and will require us to improve the way we provide services. Treating additional patients will bring more money into the Trust (our income is forecast to go up by around £40M over the five years) but this will not cover all of the extra costs we will face. Comparing ourselves to other hospitals suggests we can do things more efficiently. We have developed plans to improve the way we provide services by reducing the need for patients to come into hospital the night before their operation and making sure they can go home the day they have their operation. We are also planning to improve our elderly care and rehabilitation services, alongside developments in services in primary care, so that patients can be discharged earlier than they are now. We are also looking at the possibility of providing some services in partnership with other NHS organisations or other public sector providers.

Our proposals aim to treat many more patients but to reduce the Trust's running costs by just over £20 million over the next five years by providing services more efficiently for example by:

- Reducing our numbers of surgical beds by admitting patients on the day of their operation and converting beds into day-case beds so that more patients to go home the same day
- Reducing the number of beds we need for patients who do need to stay overnight, by working with primary care services to develop community services and by improving our discharge procedures

Moving forward together - The Trust has engaged with the local community regarding its application to become a Foundation Trust but clearly this has to be an ongoing process. As we are now half way through our Foundation Trust application it seems appropriate to undertake further engagement, which will then feed into and hopefully our ongoing strategy and the establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors. Over the coming months and at future meetings we will be talking in more detail about our plans.

Technology to help vulnerable people in Wirral to live at home

Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services, in partnership with Wirral Partnership Homes and Wirral Primary Care Trust is setting up a new, technology-based service that will help disabled and older people to live at home more safely.

The Assistive Technology Project will be launched officially by Wirral's Mayor, Cllr Peter Johnson, at the 'Smart House' on the Woodchurch Estate in Birkenhead on Monday, April 30.

The 'Smart House' will showcase equipment to support people who have difficulty due to age or disability in carrying out everyday tasks.

Nationally, the benefits of assistive technology have been well researched. They include enabling people to live more safely at home, assisting with hospital discharges, supporting falls or accident prevention and reassurance for carers.

Wirral has concentrated on two areas of assistive technology; Telecare and Telemedicine

Telecare means supporting and reassuring service-users from a distance with the help of technology. A range of smart sensors and detectors designed to improve safety in the home connect users by telephone to a monitoring centre via a Lifeline base unit, which is provided by Wirral Partnership Homes.

In the case of an incident or a request for help, the sensors will activate and alert the monitoring centre within seconds. Trained operators will promptly respond to the call. In many cases, operators will contact a key-holder nominated by the client, for example a relative or neighbour. In other cases this will be a back-up response service.

Wirral's Director of Adult Social Services, Kevin Miller, said: "This is a genuinely exciting project that will enable vulnerable people to live safely and independently in their own homes. Kevin added: "The extent to which this project can make a difference to the lives of older people and their carers is staggering; The range of sensors that Wirral will be providing in the initial phase of the project include fall, flood and gas detectors, emergency pull-cord, movement and wandering detectors, bed occupancy sensors and a medication reminder."

The equipment can be commissioned by occupational therapists and social workers working in hospitals, community teams and Adult Social Services. In the longer term, the Assistive Technology Team will be exploring the role of Registered Social Landlords another service-providers in the provision of assistive technology.

Telemedicine will come on stream in the coming months. It is designed to compliment traditional health care and will not replace face-to-face contact with older and disabled people. Telemedicine works by monitoring vital signs such as blood pressure, blood sugars, pulse etc. The data is then transmitted to the clinician's computer where it is closely monitored ensuring a constant picture of a person's health and well being and alerting clinicians to problems

Children & Young People

Wirral youth service update

Wirral Youth Service provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. The Service's age range is 13-25 years; prioritising young people aged 13-19 years. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

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 and 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 from Wallasey to Eastham and Birkenhead to West Kirby. 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 Kontaktabus.

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 Italy, Germany 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 500 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.

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.

The South Wirral Young People's Project

The South Wirral Young People's Project continues to work with young people in a street-work context. Work is going well with the Dig It Project, a Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service/ Wirral Youth Service initiative, supported by elected members. It is hoped that the plants grown by the young people will soon be ready to sell, possibly at the New Ferry Farmers Market. Young people from the area attend a Friday night football session, run in conjunction with the police, at the Oval.

Wirral school children win recycling challenge

Schoolchildren across Wirral have scored a double jackpot simply by recycling old Yellow Pages directories - winning hundreds of pounds for their schools and raising enough money to plant and care for 70 native trees.

Twenty schools recently took on the Yellow Woods Challenge – the simple, educational and fun environmental campaign for schools run by Yellow Pages, working with the Woodland Trust – the UK’s leading woodland conservation charity - and Wirral Council.

The schools had fun competing against each other, recycling over 6000 old Yellow Pages directories. Clare Mount Specialist Sports College beat off fierce competition, recycling an impressive 12.53 old Yellow Pages directories per pupil to take the ‘Gold Oak’ title and win £300. Kilgarth School has been named the ‘Silver Birch’ winner and receives £200, while Orretts Meadow School has been rewarded with £100 and the ‘Bronze Beech’ title.

Stanley Special School will also receive a £100 bonus prize from Yellow Pages for the school that builds the best giant sculpture using old Yellow Pages directories.

Richard Duggleby, head of external relations at Yell – the publisher of Yellow Pages directories, said: “For every pound we award to schools for recycling old Yellow Pages directories, we give a matching pound to the Woodland Trust. Thanks to the recycling efforts of residents and schools in Wirral, that’s another £700 raised for the Trust.”*

The Woodland Trust will use the money to support its ‘Tree For All’ campaign – the most ambitious children’s tree-planting project ever launched in the UK.

Janice Hix, corporate partnerships manager with the Woodland Trust, said: “This is a very valuable contribution towards our goal. We’re hoping to raise enough money through the Yellow Woods Challenge this year to plant and care for more than five hectares of native woodland – an area as big as 13 football pitches. “Woodland is the UK’s richest wildlife habitat and offers benefits for the environment, for people and for communities. Tree planting is really important as we are one of the least wooded countries in Europe.”

The local competition has now closed, but the schools have several more chances to win thousands of pounds in the national competition for their recycling, environmental education, community involvement and sculpture building efforts.

David Green, Wirral Council’s Director of Technical Services added: “This has been a fantastic competition with over 5 tonnes of old directories diverted from landfill and recycled into cardboard. I congratulate our schools for their achievements locally and wish them all the best of luck in the national competition.”

For more information about the local and national Yellow Woods Challenge competition, please visit www.yellow-woods.co.uk

Thousands of Pounds available for Wirral Teenagers

Wirral’s teenagers will soon get the chance to bid for a share of hundreds of thousands of pounds to pay for projects and equipment to improve their lives.

A total of £377, 513 is available from the Youth Capital Fund and the Youth Opportunity Fund this year in the borough. Application forms are available from April 2 – and must be submitted by midday on June 25. Wirral’s new grant panel of young people aged 13-19 will decide which projects are successful.

Youth Capital Fund money is for capital projects – ie buying equipment, new builds or refurbishments.

Youth Opportunity Fund money is for places to go and things to do – ie projects, residential stays, trips which support young people’s personal development.. Applications should be made from groups or young people aged 13-19. Individuals can’t apply. Last year the funds were oversubscribed by almost £1 million.

Successful applications included a new minibus for a youth club, new equipment for parks and clubs, support for homeless young people, a booklet written by young carers to help others in their situation, residentials and trips.

Maureen McDaid, Head of Wirral's Youth and Play Service, said: "Last year's money has paid for some wonderful projects and broadened opportunities for Wirral's young people. This year's grant panel will have to make some tough decisions – they will be paying close attention to the benefits each application represents."

To request an application pack or find out more about serving on this year's grant panel please contact Youth and Play Service on 637 6370.

First school in Wirral to pioneer grey bin recycling

WIRRAL Council and St Anselm's College have joined together to introduce Wirral's paper and packaging recycling collection to the school.

New grey bins have been delivered to match every regular bin to encourage students to recycle everything they can. The school is leading the way with innovative ideas to help the environment and reduce the amount of waste they produce.

David Green, Director of Technical Services said, "St Anselm's was chosen to pilot the paper and packaging collection due to their forward thinking in many areas of environment protection. We were also very impressed that it's the students that are pushing for the recycling, not just the teachers.

"It's essential that we think about schools as well as households in Wirral in order to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and recycle as much as possible."

St Anselms students created an eco-group the self-named 'Plastic Scousers' who have accepted the task of getting all students to use the grey bins recycling plastic bottles, cans and tins, card and glass by holding assemblies for all students. The paper has already been collected out of every classroom and recycled for some time.

Mr A Rumsby, Deputy Headmaster commented; "When I joined the college in September there was some recycling happening but the systems were not in place for it to be expanded. It took very little to spark the boys into action and the whole initiative is now being driven by our Eco Committee. They have been given the brief to investigate and promote recycling options within our community. They have just found a source for stationery manufactured from recycled materials; the possibilities for continual improvement seem to be endless!"

The school also recycles mobile phones, ink cartridges, CDs and another student group called 'Organic Youth' care and attend to the school's new vegetable garden with a school composter recycling kitchen waste.

The school is appealing for any help to continue to set up the new vegetable garden so any cash, seeds, plants or compost would be greatly appreciated.

Authors vie for votes from young Wirral readers



Nearly 100 young people from 12 Wirral secondary schools were lucky enough to meet four of their favourite authors recently.

Bernard Ashley, well-known for his novel 'Smokescreen', Sandra Glover (Spiked!), Paul Magrs (Exchange) and Theresa Breslin (Divided City) spent all day with the pupils at Bebington Civic Centre, talking to them as a group and on a one-to-one basis, as well as signing copies of their books.

The event was organised by Wirral Schools' Library Service as part of the "Paperback of the Year" award, a project aimed at promoting reading which has run annually in Wirral since 1995.

Every year, 20 of the newest and best paperbacks written for teenagers are sent to participating schools. In each school over the next few months the books are read and a shortlist of favourites produced - after much discussion and debate.

Four of the authors nominated have, for the last few years, been invited to talk to the pupils explaining how they write and where they get their ideas from, and this year the libraries were delighted that those four authors were all able to come along to Bebington this year to meet their readers.

In July, representatives from each school will attend a final judging meeting to choose an overall winner.

One of the pupils who took part this year said: "It's excellent because I got to read loads of different books. I can't wait for the next one!"

Sue Powell, Head of Libraries and Halls at Wirral Council, said: "The Paperback of the Year award is a brilliant way to get pupils, as well as librarians and teachers, to discover new authors and different genres from the diverse and stimulating selection. It is an excellent way of promoting reading for pleasure

Space-themed reading project ready for lift-off

Pupils from four local primary schools and staff from nearby libraries are on final countdown ahead of the launch of this year's "Reach For The Stars" reading project.

The project, which first took place 10 years ago in Wirral, involves children from the schools being split into teams then reading as many books with a space theme as they can over a six-week period.

They report into their local libraries on a weekly basis to provide an update on their progress and select more books to borrow.

At the end of the project, everyone who takes part will be invited to a celebration event where the Mayor will present them with a certificate and badges in recognition of their achievements.

The Mayor, along with popular Liverpool poet, Levi Tafari and the project's very own spaceman, will be on hand to launch this year's project on Thursday and Friday this week. Levi has written a special "Reach for the Stars" rap, which he will perform at the launch and at the celebration finale.

On Thursday 3rd, it is all systems go at Leasowe Library at 10.30am with children from Leasowe Primary school. Then on Friday 4th, pupils from Portland Primary will be at St. James' Library at 9.15am for their launch, followed by similar events in the children's section at Birkenhead Central library with pupils from Cathcart Street school (10.30am) and at Ridgeway Library with St. Peter's primary at 1.15pm. The Mayor, Levi and the project's astronaut will be present at all four launches.

Sue Powell, Head of Libraries and Halls for Wirral Council, said: "This project has proved massively popular with children for a decade now and goes from strength to strength. It aims to promote reading for pleasure among pupils, at levels above and beyond what they might do anyway and we are delighted to have the backing of the Mayor and Levi once again this year."

Economic Development and Enterprise

Fairtrade Guide available

A new Fairtrade Guide to Wirral is now available with details of local shops and cafes, more about the local campaign and about why it's important to support farmers in the developing world.

Wirral officially became a Fairtrade Borough in April 2006. In partnership with Wirral Council, the campaign has been led by the Fairworld Group – part of Wirral Local Agenda 21 Network – which includes representatives from many local churches, environmental and social justice groups.

The Guide lists dozens of local shops and cafés that stock products with the distinctive Fairtrade Mark on them. It also highlights the work local schools have done to spread the message.

It will be widely available at local libraries, One Stop Shops, Fairtrade shops and cafes, or by calling 0151 639 2121

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Latest news on changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collections

Residents urged to read their information packs as changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collections get underway. Wirral's new waste and recycling collections have begun, with residents being asked to use different types of bin for their waste and recyclable materials.

As the new collections roll out across Wirral, homes will use:

A brown bin, for garden waste only (with the exception of a limited number of homes who are taking part in a trial combined food and garden waste scheme). A grey bin, for 'dry' recyclables such as plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars, paper, cardboard, tins and cans. Their usual green wheelie bin for all other waste that can not be recycled.

The new service is being delivered area by area, and as each phase begins, residents in that area will receive an information pack and collections' calendar so everyone will know which bin is being collected when, and what to put in it.

The information you receive is specific and targeted to the street you live in, and is not applicable to a friend or neighbour, even one living nearby. You should ensure you read the instructions delivered to your home carefully and keep them in a safe place. We know that some residents are apprehensive about the new scheme, but this is one of the most convenient schemes around the country; instead of a number of different bins, bags and boxes for different types of waste, this gives residents the chance to use the minimum of means to recycle the maximum amount of waste - with no need for sorting. We do it for you.

Help is available from a number of sources: If you have access to the internet, use our [collection day search engine](#) for a road-by-road breakdown of latest collection information for your street. Alternatively you can call into any of Wirral's One Stop Shops, or to your local library, who will be able to access the internet for you for free.

The council call centre, Streetscene on- 606 2004 - will also be able to help, but please be aware that it is experiencing a high volume of calls at the moment and you may have to wait for assistance. We're sorry for any inconvenience you may be experiencing due to this.

These collections are being introduced to help the Council meet new recycling targets to cut down on the amount of waste it sends to landfill. In the long run, it will not only save precious resources for future generations, but will save council taxpayers money as it reduces the amount of landfill tax we have to pay.

Please bear with us while these changes settle down; as with any major change, it takes time for people to get used to new processes and new systems. We appreciate your patience and apologise for any inconvenience suffered while the service is established

New Services at your local One Stop Shops

Since February this year the following services have been made newly available via your local One Stop Shop:

Licensing The main change is that the Licensing Reception point at Wallasey Town Hall has closed to the public and therefore you are able to pick up and drop off forms plus get advice and information at any One Stop Shop on the following areas:

- Licenses for airport/chauffeur services
- New and renewal licence applications for Hackney/Private hire drivers
- Permits for house to house collections

- Lottery licences
- Personal licenses for the supply of alcohol at licensed premises
- New licenses or requests for variation of existing licenses for premises or club premises
- Review requests for premises or club premises licenses
- New and renewal license applications for private hire operators
- Applications for Street Collection licenses
- Temporary Event notices
- New and renewal licence applications for Hackney/Private hire vehicles

We will also check any proofs that you supply, take payments where necessary and book any relevant tests/courses you will need to go on

Council job vacancies If you see a vacancy you want to apply for, you can now go to any One Stop Shop and get an application pack for that job. You can also contact our Call Centre and a recruitment pack will be sent to you within a few days.

Also when you come to return the form you can take it back to any One Stop Shop and they will record that they have received it from you and give you a receipt. This means that you no longer have to go to Wallasey Town Hall to hand job applications in, and you can be guaranteed that the form is in before the closing date.

Streetscene You can also access more Streetscene services at your local One Stop Shop so you can now request:

Removal of any fly tipping, To go on the Help List for bin collection, Help following a missed bin collection, Street cleaning and A replacement bin following damage etc

Also don't forget if you have a query about when your bins are due to be collected you can do this via your local One Stop Shop, Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 or at www.wirral.gov.uk/recycling/

Tourism One Stop Shops can now give information and advice on Wirral's tourist attractions and events on Wirral.

Pest Control It is planned that from the end of June you will be able to request the Pest Control Service from your local One Stop Shop as well as being able to phone our Call Centre. We will be able to make the appointment for you there and then whilst you wait.

New Advice Surgeries

Bebington One Stop Shop

There is now a Police Surgery being held at Bebington One Stop Shop on the first Tuesday of each month. Dates for 2007 are as follows, all start at 1pm and finish at 3pm.

5th June 2007, 3rd July 2007, 7th August 2007, 4th September 2007, 2nd October 2007, 6th November 2007 and 4th December 2007

Police and Community Support Officers will staff the surgery and will be there to discuss neighbourhood concerns of local residents.

Eastham One Stop Shop

There is a Police Surgery being held at Eastham One Stop Shop (next to the Library). The surgeries are held between 10.00am and 12 noon with the next one on the 18th June. They are then every 3 week after that. Officers will be handing out crime prevention materials to encourage local people to improve their personal, home and car security

So pop into your One Stop Shop for further information on any council service – everything you could ask for under one roof.

For details of where your nearest One Stop Shop is please contact 0151 606 2000 or go to http://www.wirral.gov.uk/fn/one_stop_shops.htm

SECTION THREE

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Higher Bebington Junior Football Club	To replace portable goals, balls, kits, cones, bibs and corner flags.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £450.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We used the funding from the area forum to purchase one set of plastic goals and one set of aluminium goals.
Young Embroiderers	To teach crafts to young people.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £200.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	This grant has enabled us to move forward, reach out to more children and provide them with a diverse range of activities.
11th Bebington (Christchurch) Scout Group	To replace tents.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The group were able to purchase a total of 11 new tents, and have been used for various scout and cub camps and on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.
Wirral Women & Childrens Aid	To help run the youth club for the next 12	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	<p>The children who attend our weekly run youth club have all experienced / witnessed domestic abuse. Most of them have lived in the refuge for part of their young lives.</p> <p>The youth club provides weekly activities for them, enabling them to be children and giving them, and their mums, respite for a short period of time on an ongoing basis.</p>

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Wirral Holistic Care Services	To replace patio area and provide wheelchair access and handrails.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £400.00 towards this from the Community Safety Fund. the help of your	The patio are has been completely renovated, re-paved and made safe. Patients and volunteers are now able to make use of the lovely garden at the charity's premises with funding.
Helpink Community Support	To fund volunteer expenses, training and administration costs to enable the organisation to take on further clients.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding has enabled the increase in service hours to clients, particularly to new clients taken from our waiting list.
Wirral Pathfinders	To help with the cost of providing the help and support for people in the community who suffer with mental health problems and their families.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £469.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding has greatly helped us be able to provide help and support to people, and their families, who suffer mental distress. We have been able to arrange interviews with many mental health service providers and Produce magazines to make people more aware of what help is available to them.
Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability	To purchase a new manual wheelchair for Birkenhead Shopmobility to meet the needs of an expanding membership.	Panel considered this to be a good project that will benefit local people and agreed to award £421.60 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The wheelchair is now used by our clients in Birkenhead. Thank you for your support of our important work that serves Wirral people.

SECTION FOUR

Background The area plans were developed during 2004 to 2006 and launched in May 2006. In order to align them to Wirral's local area agreement, the area plans will be refreshed and reviewed on an annual basis to reflect Wirral and area forum priorities, and will follow the same delivery timeframe as the agreement.

Purpose The purpose of the area plans is to identify local issues, priorities and needs and to support and guide the forums in working towards addressing these throughout the year. The area plans are a development that will evolve over time as issues are addressed and new priorities emerge. The area plans aim to give an understanding of the local area in which residents live through the provision of information about what is in the area and statistical information about the needs of the local population. It also identifies local issues that have been raised through the forums and contributes towards achieving local area agreement priorities and outcomes.

The purpose of refreshing the plans is to standardise the 11 area plans ensuring they are easy to use and useful to residents. The proposed new structure will enable local issues and priorities to be identified and included in the area plans, this will ensure that through regular monitoring, Wirral Council and its partners are providing a dynamic and responsive approach to local issues.

Proposals for new look area plans It is proposed that the area plans will feature three main sections;

- Introduction
- Statistical Information
- Local priority action plan

Introduction This section will set out the purpose of the plans and introduce the members of the area forum.

Contextual information about the area will still feature in this section, however in order to make these plans as user friendly and accessible as possible, this section will look to signpost to other websites and contact details for further information where appropriate.

Statistical Information In order to provide a standard approach to all of the area forum plans, the statistical information for each of the area plans will follow the same format and include the same content, adapted to show highlighted information for each of the forum areas. The section will focus on the individual area forum and also provide comparative information for Wirral to provide context.

Local priority action plan As part of the review of the existing area plans, each area coordinator will address the issues which feature in the local issues section of each plan and identify outstanding issues. These issues will transfer into the refreshed area plans to ensure they remain a key focus for the area forum. The owner of each action will be a named partner who will have responsibility to tackle this issue.

Issues that have been resolved will not be taken forward into refreshed area plans. This will ensure that there is a clear focus on the key outstanding priorities and issues that are identified at a local level for each area forum. As new priorities are identified, they will also form part of the local priority action plan to be addressed at each area forums and progressed through the responsible partner.

SECTION FIVE

Streetscene and Waste Update

Streetscene Area Forum Report May 2007

Birkenhead Parking New parking regulations came into force in Birkenhead Town Centre in April, which replaced the existing Disc Zone with a new controlled parking zone.

Motorists now have to pay to park in the new parking zone, between the hours of 8:00am and 6:30pm. Wirral Council did allow for people to become accustomed to the new charges, by offering a few weeks 'grace period' where no parking fines were issued.

The charges have been introduced to reduce congestion and accidents, encourage people to use public transport, free up more parking spaces, and improve access for emergency vehicles and disabled drivers.

Changes to Speed Restrictions Wirral Council received a number of enquiries and petitions expressing concern about the speed of traffic in sections of Telegraph Road, Column Road and Thurstaston Road. As part of a scheme to improve road safety it is proposed to reduce the speed limit along sections of these roads.

Consultation letters have been sent out to residents in the area, notices have been placed on site and the proposed orders appeared in the local press.

The proposed speed reductions are as follows:

- Telegraph Road and Column Road from Church Lane to Grange Cross Lane will be reduced from 50mph to 40mph.
- Drivers travelling along Column Road from Grange Cross Lane to Croome Drive will be forced to slow from 40mph to 30mph.
- The existing 50mph speed limit in Thurstaston Road from Telegraph Road to reduced to 40mph.

Residents Parking Zones After many requests and complaints from residents about the lack of parking facilities outside their homes due to non-residents (students, shoppers, commuters) using the spaces, Wirral Council are running a **consultation** about possible Residents' Parking Zones. The consultation is in the very early stages and will be carried out in seven pilot areas across the borough.

The Council have no budget set aside for creating Residents' Parking Zones so are suggesting that all residents' who opt for a zone pay an approximate £75 set up charge per household. This funding would then go to signing, road markings, permit issuing and enforcement.

Residents in the seven pilot areas will be receiving a letter, leaflet and questionnaire. We urge everyone who receives this correspondence to state their views via the feedback questionnaire and return it. No charges will be incurred by residents within existing zones.

The seven pilot areas are:

- **Atherton Street area, New Brighton** – near to New Brighton train station and a small number of businesses.
- **Alexandra Road area, West Kirby** – Near to boating lake, beach, shops and Coronation Gardens.
- **Grasmere Drive area, Wallasey** – Just outside of Liscard resident parking scheme. Near to local shops.
- **Barnston Lane area, Moreton** – To the north of an existing small scheme. Within Moreton town centre where there is generally low provision for commercial off-street parking.
- **Probyn Road/Ponsonby Road, Wallasey Village** – Near to train station.
- **Acacia Grove area, West Kirby** – Mixed residential/commercial use, close to train station, shopping centre and leisure areas.

- **Brookfield Road/Brookfield Gardens, West Kirby** – primarily residential with displaced parking related to nearby businesses and train station.

Road Safety Campaigns - Young pedestrians, young drivers and young passengers Wirral Road Safety Partnership (Wirral Council & Merseyside Police) commissioned a radio advertisement campaign aimed at teenagers and young people. A series of three hard-hitting adverts were aired daily on Radio City 96.7 throughout March and April, urging young people to belt up when in car, and to take care as a pedestrian.

In addition to the air-time campaign, Wirral Road Safety and Radio City are hosting a competition between four Wirral high schools - Woodchurch, Park High, Rock Ferry High and The Wallasey School. This competition asks for students to compile a short road safety advert film, and spread the film to friends and other young people, via mobile phone and the internet etc. The winners will be announced in June.

Port Sunlight/Clatterbridge Cycle Route Wirral Council is committed to promoting cycling as a healthy, sustainable mode of transport. The cycle route between Port Sunlight Railway Station and Clatterbridge Hospital is nearing completion and will increase road safety for cyclists who currently experience difficulties on main roads and at junctions. It will also encourage workers, visitors and residents of the area to take up cycling as a form of transport. To benefit pedestrians and cyclists, three toucan crossings have been installed in Brimstage Road, Church Road and Bromborough Road to enable them to cross the road safely.

The route will also enable thousands of local schoolchildren to get out on their bikes and into the fresh air by providing safe routes for them to cycle.

Traffic Safety Schemes Since the last update at the beginning of the year, we have implemented the following traffic safety schemes:

Conway Street / Exmouth Street	Signal Improvement
Hoylake Road / Reeds Lane	Signal Improvement
Duke Street	New Puffin Crossing
Port Sunlight Station	New Refuge
Bebington Station	New Refuge
Greenfield Avenue / Dawpool Drive	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
Dock Road	Traffic Improvement
Birkenhead Park Station	Convert Zebra to Puffin Crossing
Manor Lane, Liscard	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
St. Georges Way, Thornton Hough	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
M53 exit slip road (Toyota Dealership)	Speed limit reduction /New Carriageway and markings / New signs

Highway Maintenance Contracts The extensive procurement exercise for the future provision of all Highway Maintenance works continues. Consultants, Capita Symonds, are currently preparing options and reports to be put to Members. The contract will cover maintenance works such as footway and carriageway works, traffic signals, gully cleansing and street lighting.

Wirral on the Road to Recycling Working alongside Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, Wirral Council is encouraging local companies to use recycled materials and where possible use them within Council business.

One example of this is how we are using 100% recycled plastic kerb stones for pavements around the borough. The kerbs are light, very hard wearing and are reducing the length of time it takes to repair roads. This ultimately will save the Council money and provide us with a more effective material for road reconstruction.

The kerbs mean the use of technical lifting equipment is unnecessary due to their light weight and it's therefore much safer for staff to use. All the pilot schemes have also shown us how hard wearing the material is.

Cigarette / Smoking-related Litter Wirral Council are aware that when Wirral goes 'smokefree' on July 1st, there will be a backlash of cigarette litter.

In preparation for this, the installation of 50 cigarette bins is imminent in the Birkenhead and Liscard town centre areas. Discarding cigarette butts is an offence, as is dropping any litter, and is subject to a £75 fine.

To deter Wirral residents from committing the offence, we are warning them of the £75 fine. We are heading up an extensive advertising campaign, including adverts on billboards, bus stops, phone boxes and bus rears. Will also be hosting events to give away portable ashtrays (Stubbi pouches) and communicate the fact that people will be given £75 fines if they are caught dropping a cigarette stub, or any form of litter.

Major Surfacing Schemes The Highway Maintenance Division has been very busy since the last review with the following surfacing schemes undertaken:

Footway works completed

Heswall Mount, Thingwall	Cestrian Drive, Thingwall
Rullerton Road, Wallasey (part)	Birchway, Gayton
Downham Road, Tranmere (part)	Aysgarth Road, Wallasey
Orchard Road, Moreton	Craigleigh Grove, Eastham
Parkway/Parkway Close, Irby	Holmlands Drive (Part) Oxtan
Moseley Avenue, Wallasey	Haydock Road, New Brighton
135 -157 Thingwall Road Irby	Darmonds Green, West Kirby

Future footway works planned

Wakefield Drive, Leasowe	Devonshire Road, West Kirby
Caldwell Drive, Upton	Bassenthwaite Avene, Claughton
Burlingham Avenue, West Kirby (part)	Upton Road (part) Claughton
The Laund, Wallasey	Nursury Close, Oxtan
Derwent Drive, Liscard	Grafton Street (part) Birkenhead
Dalmorton Road (part) New Brighton	Well Lane, Bebington
Croxteth Avenue, Liscard	Fieldway, Bebington
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard	

Carriageway resurfacing completed

Trinity/Eddisbury/Kingswood/Berwyn Roads, Wallasey	Gorsedale Road (part) Seacombe
Wright Street, Wallasey	Beryl Road, Claughton
Kinglake Road, Wallasey (part)	St Elmo Road, Liscard
Lingdale Road North, Claughton	Hoscote Park, West Kirby
Adelaide Road, Birkenhead	Elm Grove, Hoylake
Byron Close, Prenton	Orchard Grange, Moreton
Redcar Road, Wallasey	Twickenham Drive (part) Leasowe
Moseley Avenue, Liscard	Darmonds Green, West Kirby
Palmerston Road, Wallasey	Redhouse Lane, West Kirby

Carriageway resurfacing planned

Sherlock Lane, Poulton	Neville Road, Bromborough
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Brompton Avenue, Wallasey	Dibbins Hey (part), Clatterbridge
Haydock Road, New Brighton	Wirral Mount, Clatterbridge
Chadwick Street, Moreton	Patterdale Road, Clatterbridge
Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge	Devonshire Road (part) Birkenhead
Derwent Drive, Liscard	Townsend/Challis/Curlender Roads, Bidston
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard	Bedford Road (part) Rock Ferry
Wharfedale Road, Wallasey	New Chester Road (part) Rock Ferry
Aysgarth Road, Wallasey	Bridge Street, (part) Birkenhead
The Laund, Wallasey	Argyle Street,(part) Birkenhead
Perrin Road. Wallasey	Mount Road (part) Bebington
Acres Road, Bebington	
Richmond Close, Bebington	

Tall Ships 2008 Plans are already underway to manage the huge amount of traffic that the Tall Ships 2008 event will attract. The event is set to take place between 18-21 July NEXT YEAR (2008). We are working with Merseytravel, Culture Company and Liverpool Council to create a suitable park and ride site on Wirral and to ensure East Wirral's streets are not gridlocked when the event is taking place.

Walk to School Week 2007 Wirral Council have been working hard to ensure as many schools as possible encourage their students to walk to school by setting up 'walking bus' programmes throughout the year. Walk to School Week is Monday 21 – Friday 25 May 2007. The Mayor of Wirral, Phil Gilchrist will be joining a walking bus to Woodchurch Primary School on Wednesday May 23 at 8.30am and then St Joseph's Primary School, Seacombe on Friday May 25 8.30am.

Garden Recycling Garden waste brown bins have now been delivered to most homes that have a garden. This includes an extra 11,500 households previously without a garden collection scheme and brings the total to approximately 85,000 households.

Collection calendars have been delivered to all households with a brown bin. Collection days have been changed in order to provide greater balance of collection rounds and more logical route plans. Unfortunately, after being considerably let down by the distribution company some households did not receive their calendars. Wirral Council is now collating this information and arranging for calendars to be delivered as quickly as possible. There have been some teething problems getting residents on to the new collection days, however the contractor are now catching up with collections and bins are being presented with lots of garden recycling.

Paper and Packaging Recycling The new paper and packaging scheme has now been extended to more residents bringing the total households to 110,000. Plastic bottles, glass, paper, cardboard, tins and cans are being collected, combined, from the kerb-side and taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Bidston where they are separated and sent to local processors for turning into new products.

The final phase (excluding flats) is beginning with the grey wheelie bins being distributed currently. All residents will be on the scheme by 11 June, this includes a further 33,000 properties.

Comprehensive information and advertising for the scheme has been provided to all residents. The Council applied for funding from the Waste Resource Action Program (WRAP) for the communications activities and this was awarded providing Wirral with an extensive marketing campaign. The marketing literature was used as good-practice by WRAP. Wirral's website has been updated and provides all the most recent information for residents.

Some problems occurred at the beginning of the recent roll-out of the bins. This was mainly due to the contractor playing catch up after the Easter Bank Holiday's as residents were unaware collections would take place. This led to a back-log of bins to collect and caused some problems with delayed collections. The Council did

experience high volumes of calls to Streetscene and negative press coverage, however since the scheme has begun, residents have presented huge amounts of recycling and have really taken ownership of the scheme.

Wirral saw almost treble the volume of recycling within the first four weeks on the paper and packaging scheme with a 95% participation rate. It is anticipated that Wirral will exceed our recycling target of 23% next year. Wirral is very encouraged about the standard of recycling with very few bins having to be rejected for contamination, i.e. wrong items presented for collection in a recycling bin.

Home Composting WRAP (Waste Resource Action Program) are funding a home compost incentive scheme for Wirral residents throughout 2007. Residents can purchase home composters for as little as £8 including free delivery. The scheme also provides residents with an information starter kit, access to a compost help line and regular newsletters with helpful hints. Details of the scheme are posted on the Council's website. In addition Wrap will carry out several borough wide leaflet drops promoting the scheme to every household in the borough.

SECTION SIX

Equality and Diversity

Introduction Welcome to this new section of the forum's report! This will be a regular feature in future and if anyone has any comments, ideas or items they would like to see included in this section, they will be most welcome.

What is Equality and Diversity? The ESLG (Equality Standard for Local Government) assesses how we are performing in respect of gender, race and disability. The standard provides a framework for delivering continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

There are 6 strands/pillars of the Equality Standard:

Race Disability Gender Age Sexual Orientation Religion or belief

We currently have a statutory duty to produce schemes which address any negative impact in respect of race, disability and gender, all of which can be found on the Council's website.

http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm

The Equality Standard has 5 levels, Wirral is aiming to achieve level 2 by December 2007. A validation exercise took place recently where 'critical friends' were invited to help assess us informally as an Authority in order for us to reach level 2. The process for level 2 is self assessment and includes colleagues from other local authorities, Age Concern, Youth Service, Jigsaw, Wirral Change, WIRED and Women's Enterprise Breakthrough.

The Council has mechanisms to ensure all departments regularly discuss equalities. There is also a Corporate Group which meets bi-monthly to assess the progress of departments through the equality agenda. In this way we hope to address any areas of weaknesses in our employment practice or service delivery.

If you are interested to find out more please visit our website and your views/comments would be appreciated and fed back to the Corporate Group.

Useful groups/contacts

Clint Agard, Wirral Change - Wirral Change is a Black and Racial Minority Outreach Service which offers information, advice and guidance on jobs, education, training, self-employment and signposting to other services for Racial Minority people on the Wirral. We offer drop-in sessions for internet access/job search. We also now have a new service which provides immigration advice.

For further information please contact Clint on 0151 650 5428

Margaret Jones, Chair - Wirral Disabled People's Forum - The Wirral Disabled People's Forum meets four times a year at different accessible venues across the Wirral. The Forum exists to discuss issues that are of importance to disabled people and their carers and to ensure that their views are taken forward to the relevant bodies where decisions are being made. By doing this disabled people in Wirral have the opportunity to influence services in the area.

For further information please contact Margaret on 0151 327 5508

Peter Barnett, Wirral LGB&T Forum (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) - A forum for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender community has been set up; this has been done with the support of the NETWORK (WVCSN), Wirral Borough Council and Merseyside Police. At this moment in time we are setting up the core group to assess the policy's and aims of the forum, if any one is interested in joining the core group please email us at

wirralgbt_forum@yahoo.co.uk

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