

**YOUR SAY** 

 **WIRRAL**



# **Bebington & Clatterbridge Area Forum**

**Papers for the forum meeting**

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007**

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

**7.00 pm – 9.00 pm**



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

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# **Bebington & Clatterbridge**

## **Area Forum**

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

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007**

**Name Michelle Gray**

**Area Co-ordinator**

**Tel: 0151 691 8213 Fax: 0151 691 8159**

**Email: [michellegray@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:michellegray@wirral.gov.uk)**

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

**Minicom: 0151 691 8480**

**Community Engagement Team**

**Corporate Services, Town Hall**

**Brighton Street, Wallasey,**

**Wirral CH44 8ED**



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# **Section One**

Minutes from last meeting and any  
matters arising from last forum

## Minutes - Area Forum (Bebington and Clatterbridge) 27 June 2007

Present	
Chair	WW Smith
Ward Councillors	S L Clarke , AT Jennings , IM Moon , K J Williams
Community Representatives	R Johnston
Older People's Parliament Representative	Brian Cummings , Frank McCoy
Lead Officer	Stephen Rowley (Assistant Director of Finance)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Michelle Gray
Primary Care Trust	Glenn Coleman
Street Scene Manager	Phil Miner
Merseyside Police	Inspector Andy McKeown
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Myles Platt
Wirral Hospital Trust	Pat Higgins
Council Officers	Steve Chan (Youth and Play Service) , Jim Thompson (Community Safety)
Apologies	Councillor CM Teggin

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### Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions & apologies

Councillor Walter Smith addressed the Area Forum. As everyone is aware the Area Forum covers the Wards of Bebington and Clatterbridge and elected members from both Wards are represented at Area Forum meetings. Agreement had been reached amongst the Area Forum that in future the elected members from both Wards will chair Area Forum meetings, on a rotating basis.

He asked members of the public if they had any objections to him chairing this evening's meeting. No objections were raised.

Councillor Moon proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Clarke for chairing meetings of the Area Forum in 2006/2007.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Councillor Teggin for chairing meetings of the Area Forum in 2005/2006.

The Chair, Councillor Walter Smith, welcomed forum members and 12 members of the public to the meeting of the Area Forum in Bebington. Apologies were received from Councillor Chris Teggin.

Minute Decision : Resolved: That –

- i Councillor Walter Smith be elected Chair for this evening's meeting;
- ii Councillor Sheila Clarke be thanked for Chairing meetings in 2006/2007;
- iii Councillor Chris Teggin be thanked for Chairing meetings in 2005/2006.

### **Minute 2 - Minutes & matters arising from previous February forum**

Matters arising: There were no matters arising. Updates had been appended minutes on the Police Surgery at Bebington One Stop Shop, Pennant House, Bebington, on the first Tuesday of each month when Police and Community Support Officers will be available to discuss neighbourhood concerns of local residents, and on the arrangements for work to start on the roof of the One Stop Shop on 7 May 2007.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That the minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 13 February 2007 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

### **Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinators report - Area plan update**

Parking on grass verges: Prior to introducing her report, Michelle Gray, the Area Co-ordinator, reported that in response to ongoing concerns expressed at Area Forum meetings across Wirral, Elected Members have agreed to introduce a pilot scheme to prohibit parking on grass verges in identified areas of the Borough. If the pilot scheme is successful, other areas will be introduced on a rolling programme.

Copies of a report which includes the roads in the pilot phase, are available, on request, from the Area Co-ordinator.

The Area Co-ordinator presented her report. Section 2 contained information on new initiatives, copies of Press Releases and Cross Cutting themes. Section 3 contained progress reports from organisations who have been awarded Community Initiatives Funding in the past, Section 4 referred to the local area plans developed by each Area Forum. Work has been completed on refreshing and updating the plan for this Area Forum. The purpose of the area plan is to identify local issues, priorities and needs and to support and guide forums in working towards addressing these throughout the year. Area plans will develop and evolve over time as issues are addressed and new priorities emerge. The area plan gives an understanding of the local area in which residents live and statistical information about the needs of the local population. It identifies local issues that have been raised through the forums and contributes towards achieving local area agreement priorities and outcomes. Section 5 – a report to the Area Forum on Streetscene and Waste, and Section 6 is a new section on equalities and diversity had been included.

Copies of the area plan for Bebington and Clatterbridge Wards are available, on request, from the Area Co-ordinator.

Copies of the Area Co-ordinator's report can be downloaded on the Internet at [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk).

Minute Decision : Resolved: That the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for her report.

### **Minute 4 - Older peoples parliament**

Frank McCoy reported people over the age of 50 are eligible to join the Parliament and each Area Forum is entitled to elect four delegates, two from each Ward. He had been elected to represent this Area Forum simply by filling in a form. He had attended a couple of meetings and is the only representative from this area to be elected to the Executive Committee.



The Executive had set up a number of committees and agreed to form another committee for Education for Older People. The Parliament had agreed to meet four times a year on the first Friday in March, June, September and December.

The Executive will meet when required, approximately two weeks prior to Parliament meetings, and an annual general meeting will be held in March.

The Health and Safety Committee had received a report at the June meeting on parking at hospitals, social services and health, and a comprehensive report on transport. The issues raised had been directed to the appropriate Authority for attention.

The Parliament receives an annual allocation of £15,000 from Council funds. £13,000 had been allocated to employ a part-time Secretary and to cover stationery costs. A finance co-ordinator, Sandy Brown, has been elected. The Chair is Jack Cuffe and Tony Cameron from Heswall has been elected Press Officer.

Mr McCoy suggested that an item is included on the agenda of the next Area Forum meeting to advise people on the process for election to the Parliament.

Minute Decision : Resolved: That Frank McCoy be thanked for the report on the Older People's Parliament.

#### **Minute 5 - The play strategy**

Steve Chan, Youth and Play Service, gave a presentation on the Development of a Play Strategy for Wirral for Wirral Play Partnership.

The development of a Play Strategy for Wirral, which is aimed at children between 5 and 14 years, has come a long way in recent months and is now very close to completion.

Tasks completed so far include the preparation and distribution of a detailed discussion paper, the formation of the Wirral Play Partnership, undertaking an audit of public playgrounds, local neighbourhood audits and a mapping exercises with children and young people.

The audits and mapping exercises have provided valuable information on where children and young people play and how they use the outdoors. A number of consistent themes have emerged which are:

- Closeness to home – this suggests that priority should be given establishing and protecting places for play that are as close to home as possible;
- Tolerance by Adults – this suggests that the imbalance of adult attitudes between what is considered 'nuisance' and the safety aspects of playing close to home must be addressed directly; and
- Mediation of Conflict – this suggests that the existing play ranger scheme in Wirral should be expanded in role and capacity.

Draft recommendations have been produced, based on the data analysed to date. Big Lottery Funding of £155 million is available nationwide for Children's Play Initiatives. Wirral Council has produced the Play Strategy and a portfolio of Play Projects to support a bid of £881,000 from the allocation. A Play Champion is to be appointed to promote children's play within the Wirral community.

Steve Chan responded to questions from members of the public on Council liability for play areas and equipment, 'no ball game' areas and children playing football in the street.

Brian Cummings congratulated Steve Chan and his team for the opportunities for play they give to the children of Wirral, often with very little funding.

Minute Decision : Resolved: That Steve Chan be thanked for the presentation.

### **Minute 6 - Wirral hospital trust – engagement strategy**

Pat Higgins gave a presentation on Wirral Hospital Trust Engagement Strategy. The development of the Engagement Strategy marks the second phase of the Trust's commitment to engage more closely with the communities it serves.

The first phase in February 2006 involved a major consultation programme, A Change for the Better, in relation to the Trust's application for Foundation Trust Status. The consultation laid out service plans for the following five years. The Trust will be notified of the outcome of its application for Trust status in early July.

In the coming months the Trust will be talking – and listening – to Area Forums and community groups throughout Wirral on ways in which hospital services are changing.

The focus of the presentation this evening would be on Who we are, Why we are changing, and How we are changing. The responses from the consultation will be feed into the strategy.

Unlike current NHS trusts, Foundation Trusts have Members and Governors. Members elect Governors to represent them and to set direction for the organisation. The membership and Assembly of Governors is a key part of the engagement strategy. The Trust is aiming to have 13,000 public members – currently it has 6,000.

The Trust values the contribution made by members and encourages members of the public to become public members or attend Assembly meetings – application forms were available at the meeting. Further information can be obtained from [www.whnt.nhs.uk](http://www.whnt.nhs.uk). Read your hospital.

Pat Higgins responded to questions from members of the public on the plans for using vacated wards at Clatterbridge following the transfer of some services to Arrowe Park Hospital; the balance between high dependency and intensive care beds; and on staff training. The PCT is exploring the possibility of introducing a medical injuries/walk-in facility and an out-of-hours service on the Clatterbridge site.

Minute Decision : Resolved: That Pat Higgins be thanked for the presentation.

### **Minute 7 - Partner updates - Merseyside Police - Merseyside Fire & Rescue service - Wirral Primary Care Trust**

Police:

Inspector McKeown reported a slight seasonal rise in crime in June; although the rise this year is not as high as in the previous two years. The risk area still causing concern across the whole of south-east Wirral is criminal damage, mainly repeat offences with some motiveless crime such as breaking windows in houses and cars and damaging cars for no apparent reason. An analysis of locations of crime has shown that about two-thirds of these offences are committed during late evenings within a half-mile radius of a club or public house.

Other causes of concern in June were anti-social behaviour and low level assaults, mostly domestic related. There is a zero tolerance policy towards domestic violence, all complaints are investigated, and there is a 90% detection rate for offenders.

On an average weekend, between 27 and 35 crimes are recorded for the whole of SE Wirral between 7 am Friday, to 7 am Monday. In the Bebington and Clatterbridge Wards, 14 crimes have been recorded in the same time scale, indicating that this is a low crime

area.

The area is now considered to be a 'non-problematical anti social area' in terms of anti-social behaviour such as youths causing nuisance in the street, inappropriate gatherings of young people, use of fire works, inappropriate use of vehicles etc.

In summary, the report for the area is good – seasonal crime has increased, but people in this area live in one of the safest areas in the North West.

Fire and Rescue Service:

Myles Platt reported that fire safety checks have been carried out in over 1,000 properties in the past three months, compared with 740 in the previous three month period. 570 smoke detectors have been fitted in homes in the area, an increase of 25%.

There have been four domestic fires in the area , none involving serious injuries or loss of life to occupants, and 29 small fires, in the same three-month period. The Service continues to work with the Community Safety Team and with the rangers in raising awareness to prevent grass fires on open land.

The service's high volume pumping appliance has been deployed to South Yorkshire to help with the flooding in those areas, as part of a regional and national response to emergency situations.

Wirral Primary Care Trust: Glen Coleman advised that Dr Jim O'Connor, the PCT representative for this Area Forum, has moved to take up a post with Liverpool PCT. His successor, Dr S Roohi, a Practice GP, will take up the post towards the end of August.

Glen Coleman reminded the Forum that the smoking ban starts in England on 1 July. There are a wide variety of Smoking Cessation Services available which can be accessed through GP surgeries and pharmacies in Wirral.

Community Safety:

Jim Thompson, Community Safety Team, reported that the burglary level in Wirral is relatively low. He offered general advice on the precautions that people should take to prevent opportunistic and distraction burglaries, particularly when windows and doors are left open in the warm weather. The number of assaults has reduced by 600; assaults are usually alcohol-related and happen near clubs and pubs. Jim Thompson reiterated that the area covered by this Area Forum is one of the safest places in the Wirral.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That Inspector McKeown, Myles Platt, Glen Coleman and Jim Thompson be thanked for the updates.

### **Minute 8 - Public open forum**

Distribution of wheelie bins. A member of the public identified a number of locations in Thornton Hough where three wheelie bins have not been issued, and enquired whether the contractor has an obligation to deliver bins to properties on un-made roads. – Phil Miner, Streetscene Manager, undertook to check the addresses and respond to the residents concerned.

Speed Alert Trailer – In response to a request, Phil Miner agreed to add Brookhurst Avenue, Clatterbridge, to the list of locations for the deployment of the trailer.

Litter bins in Bebington – The Chair, Councillor Smith, undertook to check progress on the issue of additional/replacement litter bins in the shopping and other areas.

Kevin Sharkey, Member of Stanton Estate Residents Association, had submitted questions in writing on –

Condition of roads in Bebington – The condition of roads in Bebington have been allowed to deteriorate. Bromborough Road from its junction with Quarry Road East to Spital Road is in a very poor condition and urgently needs re-surfacing ; Quarry Avenue [full length] and Stanton Road from its junction with Cross Lane to Peter Prices Lane. One of the roads has been included on the annual programme for the past four years.

Pennant House – the reason why the tiled roof is being repaired but no work appears to be taking place in the first instance on essential repairs to the tower.

Phil Miner undertook to progress the queries and to reply directly to Mr Sharkey.

#### **Minute 9 - Date of next meeting Wednesday 31st October 2007 venue to be confirmed**

Minute Decision : Resolved That the next meeting be held on WEDNESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2007 at a venue to be confirmed.

#### **Minute 10 - Any other business**

In bringing the meeting to a conclusion, the Chair expressed the view that there had been too much focus on presentations this evening and this had restricted the amount of time available for Public Question Time. He proposed that there should be only one presentation at future meetings.

There was an exchange of views, but no consensus view was reached on the proposal.

The Chair thanked those involved for their presentations, members of the public and the area forum for their attendance and contribution, and Michelle Gray, the Area Co-ordinator. He closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

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### **Matters arising/information**

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#### **Litter Bins**

At the last meeting (June) 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.

This request has been logged and the request will be held until the next batch of litter bins are available for installation. The request will be considered along side any other requests received and will be assessed against a predetermined criteria. I would hope that it would be before the end of December 2007.

There is also an application in for a litter bin to be sited within this area at the junction of Barlow Avenue and Bebington Road.

As the area co-ordinator for this area I will monitor this and keep the forum up to date with any progress.

#### **Roads**

These issues were raised by the Chair at the June forum on behalf of a local resident.

**Condition of Road Surface - Bromborough Road** Bromborough Road was included in the 2006/07 Structural Maintenance Programme for resurfacing of the carriageway but these works were not undertaken. This was due to roads with a higher priority taking precedence. The Structural Maintenance Programme includes a greater number of schemes than the budget will sustain so as to allow maximum flexibility to manage disruption to the programme resulting from statutory undertakers works or other unforeseen events. This is a surface dressed road which has extensive stripping of the chippings but is generally in acceptable structural condition.

**Quarry Avenue** Quarry Avenue was included in the 2002/03 Structural Maintenance Programme for full reconstruction (with a low ranking), but inclusion does not guarantee that works will be carried out, as I outlined above, the programme contains more schemes than the budget can sustain.

For your information, my programmes are based around the results on an annual visual inspection carried out by an accredited consultant, together with requests from Members, Area Forums, the general public and my own staff. Results from the 2006 visual survey highlighted a section of Quarry Avenue, but its ranking was not sufficient to warrant inclusion in the programme. At the time of compiling my 2007/08 programme no request was received from the Area Forum, Ward Members or my staff to consider including Quarry Avenue in that programme.

I regret that at the moment I cannot carry out the works you request, but will consider Quarry Avenue for inclusion in a future reconstruction programme. However, due to the size of Quarry Avenue the scheme may have to be carried out over several years.

**Stanton Road** With regard to Stanton Road all actionable repairs have been completed and the site was inspected 30 August 2007 and no further works are required.

**Pennant House Roof Refurbishment** The roof at Pennant House has recently been refurbished by Mac Roofing. As part of that project, Mac Roofing were directed to repair the slipped lead sheeting on the Tower. As this could not be reached off the scaffold, it was decided to complete this work to the Tower off a snorkel hydraulic lift, after the main roof refurbishment was completed. For health and safety reasons this work can only be completed at a weekend. It is unfortunate that each time we booked the snorkel the inclement weather we have recently suffered caused us to cancel this work.

We have arranged with Mac Roofing earlier this month to schedule these works to be completed over the weekend of 1/2 September. I am aware there has been an inordinate delay between the first and second phase of this project, but as the weather forecast for this weekend is favourable I see no reason why the work should not go ahead.

The resident has received a written response to these issues via email from Mark Smith, Head of Streetscene & Waste Services, Technical Services Dept

# 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 local area agreement themes of safer and stronger communities, healthier communities and older people, children and young people and economic development and enterprise.*

## Safer & Stronger Communities

### Alleygates crash through thousand barrier



The number of alleygates protecting Wirral properties from crimes such as burglary and vandalism is set to hit the thousand mark this month with the commencement of the latest installation phase.

Wirral's Joint Community Safety Team recently canvassed opinion from all residents in the Deveraux Road area of Wallasey ahead of the installation of 48 alleygates in that community and the response was overwhelmingly in favour of their

installation.

As a result of this public backing, the gates are beginning to be put in place in August. Once this phase is finished, the gates will bring a proven high level of protection against crime to some 619 more households.

The alleygating scheme began in Wirral in 2003 when the number of household burglaries was 210 a month on average, with some areas of Wirral suffering a burglary rate which was four times the national average.

By installing the alleygates in areas where burglary was at the highest, the number of break-ins is now down to below the national average and Wirral as a whole suffers less than three burglaries per day amongst its 144,043 households.

By April 2007, there had been a 49.9% drop in the domestic burglary rate or 1,267 fewer offences of domestic burglary compared to 2003 when alleygating began. They are justifiably very popular then and by March next year, there will be a total of 1,060 alleygates installed across Wirral.

Cllr. George Davies, who is the Cabinet member for Housing and Community Safety in Wirral, said: "Alleygates have proven how successful they can be in reducing burglary and the figures justify the investment Wirral has made in installing them so widely; investment that was only possible thanks to Neighbourhood Renewal funding."

Steve McGilvray, Manager of the Joint Community Safety Team, said: "Any burglary is unwanted and alleygates have substantially reduced the number being perpetrated in Wirral. However, it is important to remember at this time of year, when the weather is warmer, opportunist burglars will still take advantage of open windows or doors.

"With this in mind it is important to stress that everyone should still take care and check all windows and doors are securely locked before going out or going to bed."

## **Wirral Council would like to warn residents about bogus callers apparently posing as council workers.**

A group of men are reported to be randomly calling at homes in Birkenhead saying they are collecting unwanted bulky items, such as old washing machines, cookers and bikes.

The men are reported to be distracting residents by asking them to open their back gates so that bulky items can be removed, whilst one of the men steals money and valuables.

The gang appear to be wearing normal clothes, no uniform as such, and drive a large blue truck with a metal cage on the back.

Unless you have made an appointment with Wirral Council's Streetscene to have an unwanted bulky item collected from your home, (Eric Service) then no one should call. If you have booked a collection, we advise you to be cautious. Wirral Council's contractor Biffa will collect on the scheduled day booked in with Streetscene and will wear uniform.

If in any doubt, contact Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 to check if the staff are genuine before allowing them entry on to your property.

**Anyone who witnesses suspicious activities of this nature should contact Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111**

## **Agencies combine to tackle underage alcohol sales**

Agencies in Wirral are joining forces to try to reduce the risk of harm to young people from alcohol abuse.

Wirral Trading Standards, the Youth Service, police licensing and the Wirral Primary Care Trust are combining to provide new training, free of charge, to off licensees and their staff about underage sales.

The training is part of an ongoing drive to reduce incidents of alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour across the borough, as well as tackling related health issues.

John Malone, Trading Standards Manager said: "We want to work with businesses to prevent alcohol getting into the hands of young people. The new training we will be providing will look at the legal position for off licensees but a new element will also deal with the impact alcohol can have on young people's health and well being.

"It is essential that off licensees are aware of the health consequences of selling alcohol to young people. Hospital admissions for injuries caused when drunk, risky sexual behaviour and teenage pregnancy, involvement in crime, violence and anti-social behaviour, school truancy and road traffic accidents."

**If any off licensees and their staff want to attend the free training, which will take place at Wallasey Town Hall at 6pm on Wednesday 12th September, they can contact Nick Chesters of Trading Standards on 0151 691 8579.**



## Healthier Communities & Older People

Find out More log on to [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) Or [www.ageconcernwirral.org](http://www.ageconcernwirral.org)

# Wirral Older People's Parliament

Newsletter Issue Four June 2007 – Issue Number 4

**News Progress & Information** - Following comments at a recent parliament meeting any person receiving un-solicited letters (**Junk Mail**) or Telephone calls (**Silent Calls**) should make contact with the “**Mailing Preference Service**” and or “**Telephone Preference Service**” this is a very simple procedure via the web page, and registration of your address or telephone number should go a long way to clearing this sort of problem. You may still receive mail or telephone calls from companies you may have dealt with in the past, to eliminate this type of contact you will need to contact the organisation concerned and ask to be removed from their data base. Useful telephone numbers are “**OFCOM 020 7981 3000**” or “**Information Commissioners Office 01625 545745**” more detailed information is available at your local library, or CAB Office. Write to your local councillor and ask what provision is available for older people to learn about or even have access too Computers. I believe you will be pleasantly surprised at the volume of information available and the amount of help and support that is available to older people

**Regional Devolution** At the last Parliament Meeting a question was asked about reports that certain authorities are discussing banding together to draw up a Regional Devolution Plan, what effect this may have on Wirral Borough Council, at this moment true information seems to be sparse to say the least

**Transport and Free travel for the elderly** This subject has been under discussion for some considerable time and new legislation is to come into force in July of this year. It is yet to be seen if local authorities will all conform in a manner that is fitting for the needs of the elderly population. For instance in many locations even the so called rush hour busses are half empty, so why cannot we who are retired, use our passes on such routes it will not interrupt or compromise those going to work, but could boost the local economy.

**Express Your View** You have the opportunity to write or E-Mail to parliament if you are unable to get along to one of the meetings held throughout 11 local forum areas. Items directly affecting older people will be addressed by the Older Peoples Parliament Officers. You also have the opportunity to assist on one or more of the committee meetings held to assess the various items involved. People in the age group 50+ are a major influential body in the total population of Wirral Borough Council 22 different ward areas, it is important that their wishes are reflected in the decision making process “**Do you have something to say**” ?

**Computer Use** There are a number of places that encourage computer access and usage for the older generation. Most of the Library's have the required equipment, plus in some community centres there are opportunities for basic tuition.

Ring **Leasowe 630 3486, Rock Ferry 643 1215** or **New Brighton 639 1386** For up to date information, you may also check with your local School or Night School many of them run courses on basic internet access, **you are never too old to learn.**

**To learn about your local forum - Tracey Smith 0151 691 8026 ([traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk))**  
**To learn more about “the Older Peoples Parliament” - Lesley Howells 0151 666 2220**

## Children & Young People

### Wirral's students are celebrating

Wirral's students are celebrating after yet another year of improvement in A-Levels, AS Levels and Vocational Courses in the borough.

Today's results saw the average pupil's point score raise by 32.4 points – from 729 last year to 762 this year. Wirral also saw a rise of nearly 80 in the numbers of pupils sitting these exams.



Director of Children's Services Howard Cooper was very pleased with the results: "Once again, it looks as though our A-level, AS level and vocational training students in Wirral have surpassed themselves.

"I am extremely proud of all those students who put in so much hard work to achieve these results and I am also proud of the teachers and other school staff who helped and supported them in their studies.

"It is particularly encouraging to note that an increasing number of our youngsters are staying on at school to improve their chances of a better career and life. I wish all of them the best of luck in their chosen degree, college course or employment."

### Teenagers' challenge of a lifetime

Eight teenagers from Wirral are taking the challenge of a lifetime in a bid to turn their lives around from the risks involved with anti social behaviour, drink or drugs.

The group are canoeing 68 miles from Fort William to Inverness across Scotland's Caledonian Canal. Aged between 15 and 18, the young people were engaged through the Council's Response Service - a support service for at-risk young people. In total the group of seven young men and three young women will complete the six-day course carrying their own equipment and camping gear.

Called The Imagine Project, the expedition, which is jointly funded by the Youth Opportunities Fund and Wirral Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT ) will be supported by experienced instructors from Wirral Council's Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre and key staff from the Council's Response Service.

The trip will see the group work as a team developing better health and improved life chances. For many, it is their first experience of working within a group but they represent a growing number of young people determined to tackle substance abuse through making changes to their own lives. Individually the youngsters have already achieved a First Aid and Life Savers award and are aiming for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award for Outward Bound Achievement.

Pat Rice, Head of Response, said: "These young people first came to Response with some challenging issues, with some of them having personal experience of drug and

alcohol misuse. They were on the brink of becoming disillusioned, and disinterested in life. But now they are healthier, happier and looking forward to this challenge and a great life-changing experience. I'm really proud of what they have achieved so far and I know that they will become valued members of their communities and a really great example to their friends and families".

Terry White, Young Persons Programme Manager said: "The DAAT is committed to reducing the harm caused by substance misuse throughout Wirral. Through this type of partnership work we are able to prevent today's young people, especially the most vulnerable, from becoming tomorrow's drug misusers, which is a key target within the Wirral Drug and Alcohol strategy. This project is an exciting initiative that will result in healthier, happier and more confident young people build resistance against substance misuse,' he added.

Jo Day, Outreach Team Leader for Response, said: "The project, which has been running since May, is about personal, emotional and social development and as a group they have built friendships and their confidence and self-esteem has grown during their time together".

## **Wirral Youth Service**

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

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

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

Youth clubs, Street work projects, "Kontaktabuses", "Wirral Youth Theatre" and Youth Arts, "Response" – Advice, support, advocacy and information service and Substance Misuse Service, International exchanges, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Outdoor activities 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. Streetwork 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 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, 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 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 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

The South Wirral Young People's Project has continued with the Dig It Project during the summer. Despite the poor weather, a good crop of vegetables was grown and under the auspices of Groundwork, the Sensory Garden is now complete. The young people involved have been successful in NVQ Level 1 modules in horticulture and construction. A group from New Ferry have been successful in obtaining Youth Opportunity Funding to produce a board game that they have developed. This game looks at the dilemmas of drinking and taking drugs. During the summer, the young people participated in a programme of outdoor activities such as rock climbing.

Bebington Youth Club is open on Mondays, (6.30 – 9.30) Wednesdays and Thursdays evenings. (7.00 – 10.00) The main range of opportunities includes the popular computer suite, games in the sport hall, snooker and table tennis. Environmental issues are highlighted at Bebington.

## **Economic Development & Enterprise**

A Wirral call centre has won a high profile contract with Woolworths because the famous high street retailer was impressed by their passionate approach and the available workforce in Birkenhead.

This exciting development means The Contact Company, based in Birkenhead is now recruiting for jobs to meet the demand of their increasing portfolio of clients.

The company is holding a recruitment open day at Wirral Museum, Birkenhead on 23rd August to recruit up to 100 staff to work on this prestigious contract. They want to recruit local people for jobs which offer flexible hours between 8am and 8pm, seven days a week.

People interested in applying for vacancies can meet staff from The Contact Company and find out more about this type of work on the day.

The Contact Company's Chief Executive, Asif Hamid said: "This contract is further evidence of our growing profile within the competitive contact centre industry and demonstrates the confidence that large blue chip companies have in us to deliver a high quality service.

"The Contact Company operates an added value service at the higher end of the contact centre market and this approach is proving fruitful as we win more contracts like this. We

are looking forward to adding to our excellent 125 strong team and are excited to be working with Woolworths" he added.

Wirral Council's Head of Strategic Development, Kevin Adderley said: "The Contact Company has rapidly grown its team in the last year and is now recruiting even more staff to meet demand. This type of work appeals to people who need flexible working hours and is in an attractive location in central Birkenhead. This is a fantastic jobs boost for Wirral."

The Contact Company has been trading since July 2006 and has already won 'New Business of the year' at the Liverpool Daily Post Business Awards and was one of the host call centres for this year's Comic Relief when millions were raised for charity.

## **Wirral Council is the first authority in the northwest to launch online web casts of Planning Committee Meetings.**

All Planning decisions can now be viewed live from anywhere in the world via Wirral Council's website, [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)

The new facility uses web cameras at council meetings to capture the live information and send it to a central server, which in turn sends it to anyone that would like to view the meeting via the internet.

The web cast facility also archives each meeting, meaning that recorded meetings can be viewed online at anytime of day, as many times as required. The use of the index points allow you to jump to a specific agenda point or speaker.

Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor John Cocker, welcomes the move;

"This new facility is very good news for Wirral residents and developers. Now the meetings can be watched live, or at a time that suits you, from the comfort of your own arm chair or from the side of a swimming pool on holiday. Its also going to save many journeys across Wirral to watch the meetings in person, people can now log on and watch at home or at work, saving unnecessary car journeys"

To access the web cast facility, visit [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) and click on 'Planning Webcasts' on the right hand menu, or simply [click here](#). The pilot scheme will be running until the end of the January 2008.

## **Licensing Act 2003**

The Licensing Act 2003 has been the responsibility of Wirral Borough Council since 24 November 2005.

In December 2004 a Statement of Licensing Policy was produced which sets out the principles the Council will generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions under the Act. It is a requirement of the Licensing Act 2003 that the Council reviews it's Statement of Licensing Policy every three years.

The Council welcomes the views of any interested parties and you should feel free to draw the attention of this document, which can be found at [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk), to others who may be interested in responding to the consultation.

Full consultation on this document is being undertaken with: -

- The Chief Officer of Police
- The Fire Authority
- Bodies representing local holders of premises licences
- Bodies representing local holders of club certificates
- Bodies representing local holders of personal licences
- Bodies representing businesses and residents
- Other interested parties

You may find it useful to consult the Statutory Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act when making comments to the Statement of Licensing Policy. The Statutory Guidance is available at [www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk).

Your views are important to the Council in reaching a fair and proportionate Licensing Policy that discharges the Licensing Objectives. Please ensure we receive your views no later than **17 November 2007**.

If you have any further enquiries about the Licensing Policy please contact Margaret O'Donnell on 0151 691 8606.

# **Section Three**

## **Partner Update**

Area forums also provide an opportunity to meet partners and organisations who are working to deliver a better, safer and cleaner Wirral.

Merseyside Police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Wirral Community Safety Team and Mersey Fire and Rescue Service to name just a few, are active members of the forum. This section is to share partner information with forum members and the community.



## Community Safety

- Stealth software - the Joint Community Safety Team, working in conjunction with the IT Department of the Children and Young Person's Department, have a roll-out programme of software being loaded onto all computers belonging to the Authority e.g., schools, libraries, One Stop Shops, Community Centres. In the event of a computer being stolen, it notifies a central control point where the machine is being used. The police are alerted and procedures are in place for the machine to be recovered and, if appropriate, person(s) arrested.
- Smartwater Project - most schools now have their valuable equipment marked with Smartwater which identifies which school the property came from. All operational police officers on the Wirral have been equipped with special torches which identify Smartwater marked property. In addition, Trading Standards attend Car Boot Sales with police officers and check for Smartwater marked property.
- DVLA Project - whenever Parking Wardens, Community Support Officers, Police Officers see vehicles with items on display a letter is forwarded to the registered keeper to remind them of their responsibility and they should remove items on view in the future to ensure their vehicles are not going to be targeted by thieves. Most thefts from vehicles are committed by opportunists.
- 'Talking CCTV' launched 31/5/2007. Funding was secured from the government's Respect Task Force enabling broadcasting systems to be attached to existing CCTV cameras at key site. The systems enable operators in the Council's CCTV Control Room to prevent and challenge anti-social and criminal behaviour by broadcasting directly to members of the public and giving out key messages relating to crime and disorder.
- Reparation initiative launched on 13/6/2007. A partnership between Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Wirral Youth Offending Service (YOS), BT and Virgin Media using young people engaged with YOS through reparation to repaint streetboxes affected by graffiti and flyposting. Residents can report streetboxes requiring repainting to 'It's Your Call' on 606 2020 or at any One Stop Shop.
- Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords signed-up to Respect Housing Management Standard on 26/6/2007 as part of a local Consortium. Eighteen RSLs in partnership with Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team signed-up to the Standard as part of a local Wirral RESPECT Consortium. The Standard is commitment to challenging unacceptable behaviour and promoting good behaviour. The Consortium now meets regularly to share intelligence and best practice and develop initiatives.
- Operation Safe Space launched 18/7/2007. A new partnership initiative, led by Merseyside Police, aiming to increase the use of parks and open spaces. This involved enforcement activities across hot-spot parks by the police and diversionary activities throughout the summer in multi-use games areas.
- Youth RESPECT Team appointed to Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team launched on 27/7/2007. The Team consists of youth workers and play workers with the focus of preventing and reducing ASB by young people. They are identifiable by their distinctive red jackets

**Bob Little Information, Communication & Evaluation Manager Wirral Council Wirral  
Joint Community Safety Team Telephone Number: 0044(0)151 606 5444 e-mail:  
[boblittle@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:boblittle@wirral.gov.uk)**

## Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

### Young people dig it at Bromborough



An exciting new community facility that has been designed and put together by young people at Bromborough Fire Station. Around 30 young people have put their heart and soul into a market garden which is now growing vegetables, fruit and plants and also contains a pond, wildlife area and borders.

The Dig It project was established last year after the Fire Service and South Wirral Young People's Project engaged with young people in the area to see what activities would be an alternative to hanging around the streets. They said they would like to develop a market garden where they could learn to grow vegetables and how to cook them.

Since then the young people have designed the garden, put together bids for funding and worked with contractors to develop their landscaping skills. They have also designed a community kitchen that has also been completed.

Station Manager Myles Platt said it had been fantastic to see how much the young people have developed as a result. He said: "I'm extremely impressed by them. Some of them have some challenging personal circumstances and this is a real outlet for them. It has given them a sense of responsibility and achievement. A couple have moved on and got employment and this project has helped them to do that by developing their practical and social skills."

The initiative has cost more than £50,000 and has received support from various funds and local companies. These include the Urban Green Land Initiative; Youth Opportunities Fund; Wirral Partnership Homes; Riverside Housing; Eastham Oil Refinery; Local Area Forums Community Initiatives Funds; BT It's Your Community Award; UniLever Green Machine; and Uniqema.

## Merseyside Police

### Your neighbourhood priorities:



Police and partners have joined forces with residents in the **Bebington**, Bromborough and Eastham wards to prioritise the issues that are important to the local community, through door-to-door survey, local citizen panels and meetings of local community representatives.

Through the consultation, the three priorities identified were:

- Anti social behaviour
- Under age drinking
- Drugs

These priority issues are being monitored and put into action by Merseyside Police and other relevant partner agencies using a range of tactics.

### Your neighbourhood priorities:



Police and partners have joined forces with residents in the Heswall, **Clatterbridge**, Pensby & Thingwall, Greasby, Frankby & Irby wards to prioritise the issues that are important to the local community, through door-to-door survey, local citizen panels and meetings of local community representatives.

The regular neighbourhood Action Group meeting took place on 12th June, and Inspector Cunningham updated members on the progress that has made over 2006/7.

**Reduction in overall crime** She highlighted the reduction in overall crime and emphasised that significant reductions had been made in both violent crime and vehicle crime. In addition to this good news, reports of anti-social behaviour had reduced by 23% compared to the previous 12 months. The group felt that the Dispersal Order in Greasby and the increased number of PCSO's had made a positive impact on the community, and they thanked the police for the increased patrolling and reassurance carried out after the recent sudden death in Heswall. After a discussion of issues in the local communities, the group set it's priorities for the next 2 months as:

- Under Age Drinking
- Speeding
- Anti-Social behaviour

Inspector Cunningham promised to continue police efforts to ensure that off-licensed premises behaved responsibly and encourage information to be provided about any premises believed to be selling to under-18's.

## Wirral Primary Care Trust

### **Primary Care Trust (PCT) Small Grants Programme to support Community Initiatives Fund**

During 2007 the PCT will be supporting the Local Authorities Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) and will allocate 5K across Bebington and Clatterbridge Area Forum. The funding will be allocated to health promoting activity, which meets the needs of local people within the area. Voluntary and Community sector groups are invited to submit applications through the current CIF application criteria. All proposals will need to meet funding limits and priorities, determined by each area forum.

The PCT Funding must address following health themes:

- **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.
- **Damage Limitation** – providing diversionary activities for young people to reduce harm related to alcohol misuse.

If you feel you can support the delivery of some of the above health themes and wish to apply for funding please contact the Council Community Engagement Team on 0151 691 8650 or email : [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk)

**Primary Care Practice developments update** - No development updates

### **Wirral Primary Care Trust Involvement Strategy 2007 - 2010**

The Primary Care Trust is currently developing its 'Involvement Strategy' which will set out its plans towards:

- Involving patients: as consumers of health care services and using their views to influence Primary Care Trust commissioning and help shape current and future health services.
- Involving citizens: to provide legitimacy and accountability for health policy and health care service provision decision making.
- Winning hearts and minds: enabling people to take a more active role in their own health and wellbeing.

The PCT will be involving people in the implementation of the strategy and input will be provided to all future area forums.

## **Wirral Primary Care Trust Commissioning Strategy 2007 – 2010**

The PCT is currently developing its commissioning strategy. Further information regarding the strategy will be provided at the Forum.

### **The PCT would like to invite you to “Have your say”; we want to know what you think of your health service?**

Wirral Primary Care Trust (PCT) is responsible for commissioning health services in Wirral. We want to know what you as a patient think of the services you have received, be it your family doctor, dentist, optician, pharmacist or community based service such as district nursing. We also want to know if you have any ideas for making services even better.

Your comments will be used to improve our services so that they continue to meet your needs and the needs of local people.

**How can you submit comments to the PCT?** We aim to give all our patients and members of the public an opportunity to contact us through a variety of methods. You can go to our public web-site by clicking on to the icon on the home page, or you can place your comments on our on-line form. The following is a list of approaches you can use when contacting us to ‘Have your Say’.

- You can call in person to our PALs office at Laurie’s Centre, 136 Claughton Road, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 6EY
- Call us on our freephone 0800 085 1547
- Write to us at FREEPOST HAVE YOUR SAY
- e-mail us at <mailto:Haveyoursay@wirralpct.nhs.uk>
- Have Your Say on line form at [www.wirralpct.nhs.uk](http://www.wirralpct.nhs.uk) and go to home page and click on ‘Have Your Say’ document. Click on left hand side box ‘Have your say request form’ and you will then be guided through the ‘Have Your Say’ process.
- SMS text on 07781472493

**What happens next?** If you provide your contact details when submitting your comments you will receive acknowledgement and if appropriate, after 21 days you will receive a formal response to your comments.

# **Section Four**

## **Local Transport Update**

Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside.

The LTP is a document prepared by the five local authorities and Merseytravel.

The second LTP covers the period between 2006/2007 and 2010/2011 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

# Transport

## **Wrexham Bidston Electrification**

The Forum will be familiar with the Local Transport Plan which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The LTP is a document prepared by the 5 local authorities and Merseytravel.

The second LTP covers the period between 2006/7 and 2010/11 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

Included within the LTP is reference to the electrification of the Wrexham Bidston rail line to link it to the existing Mersey electrics network.

The electrification of the Wrexham Bidston (Borderlands) Line involves the extension of the electrified network to all or part of the line between Bidston and Wrexham.

It also included the construction of new stations at Deeside and Woodchurch.

In 2005 consultants First Class Partnerships and Mott Mac Donald had looked at the physical infrastructure and what was needed to electrify the line.

oth considered a number of options with the Mott Mac Donald report being more detailed but indicating greater costs.

During 2006 consultants Faber Maunsells had provide Benefit Cost Ratios for a number of options.

Earlier this year (Jan 07) Neil Scales, Director General of Merseytravel attended the Streetscene and Transport Services Overview Committee to update members on the scheme and indicated that the following actions need to be taken to progress the scheme;

- (1) Further discussions with the Welsh Assembly – Neil Scales has been discussing the issues with WAG.
- (2) Clear indication of the costs of the Project with Network Rail undertaking work which would give a clearer understanding of the work that had been carried out to date using the GRIP ( Guide to Rail Investment Projects) scale. They had been asked to provide an estimate of the cost of taking forward the design to a higher GRIP level. This study is currently underway.
- (3) Merseytravel would be considering this project along with other possible rail projects which would require funding through the Regional Funding Allocation process.
- (4) The development of greater costing detail was important to be able to provide a greater certainty of the Benefit Cost Ratio as the intention would be to include the

project in the Regional Funding Review which was likely to take place in the next two years. This would effectively cover the English element of the funding profile.

- (5) The overall capital funding of the project if approved would however come from a combination of English and Welsh Government finance. A separate application to the Welsh Assembly would be required.
- (6) Revenue funding was a separate issue. It was likely that a revenue funding gap would exist and a means of bridging the gap would need to be identified.

Future updates will be provided to the Forum as the project progresses. If any of the area forums want more information on any aspects of the capital programme we could come along at the next round of forums in February/June 2008 a presentation if the forums think that this would be useful.

**Julie Barnes, Principal Officer (Forward Planning & Strategy) Technical Services, traffic management Division, Forward Planning/travelwise.**

**Julie Barnes@wirral.gov.uk or 0151 606 2004**



## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Following the announcement by the Department for Transport (DfT) in December 2006, approving a Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement for Wirral of £6,549,000 for 2007/08, this report sets out a draft transport capital programme in line with the Local Transport Plan (LTP) targets.

1.2 This report is identified in the Forward Plan.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Members will be familiar with the Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Merseyside, which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The second LTP (LTP2) covers the period between 2006/07 and 2010/11 and contains a 5-year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

2.2 Future funding allocations will be dependent upon the successful delivery of the LTP targets over the coming years. Therefore, it is necessary for Wirral's transport capital schemes to deliver the outcomes necessary to help meet this aim.

## 3.0 PROGRAMME REVIEW

3.1 The second Merseyside LTP was submitted to the Government in March 2006. LTP2 contains 41 targets – some of which are mandatory. In order to ensure that these targets are managed effectively, they are delegated between the various Merseyside LTP sub-groups. As such, the sub-groups are responsible for the targets' monitoring and reporting.

3.2 For LTP2, the Government introduced four 'shared priority' areas: Congestion, Road Safety, Accessibility and Air Quality/ Environment. Each target, and indeed each transport scheme, is likely to contribute to the delivery of more than one of these 'shared priorities', however, there is generally one that can be identified as the 'main' priority.

3.3 Consequently, the LTP programme for 2007/08 (see Appendix) is presented differently to last year. Members will note that the main budget headings reflect the four shared priorities and that the sub-headings more closely reflect the LTP2 objectives and policies. To ensure effective monitoring, each is owned by the LTP sub-group that is responsible for the respective targets.

3.4 Whilst it is essential that each of the proposals help towards meeting the delivery of the various LTP2 targets, it is evident that some schemes contribute towards a greater number of targets than others. In order to inform the funding allocations for 2007/08 consideration has been given to target delivery, however, the relative significance of each target also has to be borne in mind, along with the highway responsibilities that the authority has in terms of statutory duties.

3.5 Therefore, to assist the continued development of future transport capital programmes, a further piece of work will be undertaken over the coming months to develop an improved appraisal framework. This framework will provide a transparent process and help further improve scheme prioritisation, whereby ensuring funding will be allocated to projects that have the most benefits for LTP2 delivery and/or statutory obligations.

3.6 This framework will also be applied to longer-term projects that might be introduced into the LTP process in the future. To justify future schemes, such as specific junction improvements, it will be necessary to have a clear framework upon which decisions are based. Consequently, should appraisal of a particular project, in terms of LTP delivery, not provide strong justification then the project may not receive funding prioritisation in the LTP programme and it might be necessary for alternative funding to be acquired for the project's implementation to be pursued.

3.7 Should Members, through the Area Forums, be aware of potential junction or transport projects that might be considered in this appraisal process, I would appreciate any suggested locations to be forwarded to me by the end of June 2007. As the success of any project will be dependent upon its appraisal against LTP criteria, I would appreciate if members would also include the reasoning for their nominations and what element(s) of the LTP strategy each project would help to deliver.

#### 4.0 SHARED PRIORITIES, TARGETS AND SCHEMES

##### 4.1 Congestion

4.1.1 This shared priority contains schemes and initiatives that are primarily focussed on reducing/managing levels of congestion and the negative impact of the motor vehicle, and/or promoting public transport and the effective movement of freight. This is particularly relevant in terms of the LTP Person Delay Indicator on part of the A552 corridor between Prenton and Birkenhead. This shared priority also has a supporting role to the authority's Network Management Duties under the Traffic Management Act 2004, which require highway authorities to manage and ensure the expeditious movement of traffic.

4.1.2 Measures might include:

- Strategic highway improvements
- Parking (demand) management
- Area traffic control
- Intelligent transport systems
- Bus priorities
- Park and ride schemes
- Strategic signing on freight routes.

4.1.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with congestion:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP2	Change in area wide road traffic	9.2% cap on growth to 2010/11
LTP5	Bus punctuality	90% by 2012/13
LTP6	Changes in peak traffic flows to LCC (7-10a.m.)	7% cap on growth to 2010/11
LTP7	Congestion (Person Delay)	6.4% increase in traffic leading to a 4.3% increase in journey time over the life of the LTP2
BVPI 102	P.T. patronage (bus, rail)	Bus: 1% growth to 2010/11 Rail: 7.9% growth to 2010/11
BVPI 104	Satisfaction with local buses	65% by 2009/10
L1	Sustainable transport as the final mode for air passengers	12% - 2008/09, 14% - 2010/11
L2	HGV journey times on designated freight routes	Capped at 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> of increase in traffic levels
L3	Limit current number of car parking spaces in LCC	16,500 public off-street cap
L4	% of network below threshold speeds during peak periods	Monitoring only
L5	Extent of peak spreading	Monitoring only
L6	Road works coverage	Monitoring only
L7	Park & Ride usage	35% increase by 2010/11

##### 4.2 Road Safety

4.2.1 This shared priority not only contains the more traditional types of scheme to reduce road accident casualties but also those to ensure a safe and well maintained highway asset. Road safety measures undertaken as part of the LTP strategy can also contribute to the Council's road safety stretched target.

4.2.2 Road safety schemes can be split into two principal types: Those that meet accident reduction criteria and those that are not required to meet such criteria. The former are essential Local Safety Schemes (LSS) to reduce road accident casualties and can comprise of speed reductions schemes and junction / route improvements. Non-criteria safety schemes include Safer Routes to School, street lighting and structural maintenance programmes. In order to enhance previous years' road safety programmes, a NEW budget heading of "Community Projects" has been included in the LTP capital programme for 2007/08 to fund initiatives such as "20 is Plenty" and recognise recent concerns raised by elected Members in this area.

4.2.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with road safety.

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
PI 99 (X)	Total killed and seriously injured casualties	40% reduction by 2010
PI 99 (Y)	Child killed and seriously injured casualties	55% reduction by 2010
PI 99 (Z)	Total slight casualties	No change in absolute numbers to 2010
BVPI 187	Footway condition	Wirral – 18%
BVPI 223 (96)	Principle Road Condition	National survey data processing problems; DfT aware of issue & effects on target setting.
BVPI 224a (97a)	Non-Principle Classified Road Condition	Target to be set after June 2007
BVPI 224b (97b)	Unclassified Road Condition	Wirral – 4% by 2010

### 4.3 Accessibility

4.3.1 New to LTP2, the Access Plan sets out a strategy to ensure access health care, education and jobs and opportunities created through regeneration. It is anticipated that external funding will provide the main expenditure for this work therefore the LTP programme is relatively modest.

4.3.2 The LTP partners will:

- Pursue improved bus services
- Review the role of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)
- Build upon the expertise of the Community Transport Sector
- Continue the TravelWise campaign
- Encourage the development of Travel Plans with businesses and schools

4.3.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with accessibility:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP1	National Accessibility Indicators	Monitoring only
L8	No. of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service	Minimum 95% standard to be maintained through LTP2 period
L9	No. of rail stations upgraded to meet preset standards for (a) facilities & (b) access	By 2010/11: (a) 15; (b) 5
L10	BVPI 165 (accessibility of pedestrian crossings)	Wirral – 96% by 2010/11
L11	Bus based physical access (a) % low floor vehicles (b) % near level boarding via access kerbs	(a) 88% by 2010/11 (base 35%) (b) 32% by 2010/11 (base 12%)
L12	Affordability – Index of transport usage costs	Monitoring only
L13	Accessibility – Economic impact: Accessibility of workless residents to employment locations	Average 1% per annum improvement (target developed with Job Centre Plus)
L14	Accessibility – Education: % NEET group to access post 16 establishment	Average 1% per annum improvement (target developed with Learning & Skills Centre)
L15	Crime / fear of crime on and around public transport: (a) No. of broken window incidents reported on PT (b) Proportion of people who are discouraged from PT use at night	Monitoring only

#### 4.4 Air Quality/Environment

4.4.1 The final shared priority is to improve air quality, the quality of life and the environment. The aim of this priority area is to support sustainable travel modes to provide alternatives to the private car, including walking and cycling, as well as works to improve local environmental conditions.

4.4.2 This shared priority contains:

- Local environmental works, e.g. Home Zones and relevant junction improvements
- Walking schemes, i.e. pedestrian signals, dropped crossings and pedestrian refuges and signing
- Cycleways and cycle storage facilities

4.4.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with air quality / environment:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP3	Cycling – Index of usage	10% increase by 2010/11
LTP4	Mode share of journeys to school	Due 2007
LTP8	Pollutant concentrations within AQMAs	28%, 13% and 10% reductions in emissions at receptor sites in AQMAs
L16	Estimated transport related emissions (tonnes/year) of CO, nitrogen oxides & particulate matter	Monitoring only
L17	Vehicle mileage in the AQMA or area of exceedance	7% traffic growth cap (AQMA1) and 9.2% traffic growth cap (AQMA2)
L18	Environmental standard of bus fleet (Euro111 or equivalent)	70% of fleet to meet standard by 2011 (baseline 35%)
L19	Physical Activity Indicator	Monitoring only

#### 4.5 Transportation Planning

4.5.1 In addition to the four shared priorities above, the LTP programme contains an additional budget heading of transportation planning. Due to the constantly evolving range of demands linked to the LTP delivery, this funding stream ensures that effective forward planning can take place.

4.5.2 The type of projects under this heading include:

- Preliminary design of schemes and measures that are in the forward programme
- Acquisition of land
- Research to inform strategy development and identify future schemes.

#### 5.0 DRAFT 2007/08 TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME

5.1 Wirral Council's total 2007/08 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement of £6,549,000 is made up as follows:

• Maintenance Block	£2,515,000
• Bromborough Pool Bridge (PRN)	£ 500,000
• Integrated Transport Block	£3,534,000
	TOTAL £6,549,000

5.2 The Maintenance block includes road, footway and bridge structural maintenance works. The Integrated Transport block covers the remaining elements of the LTP programme, including walking and cycling, local safety schemes, highway and public transport improvements, and traffic management schemes.

5.3 The Appendix shows Wirral's draft 2007/08 programme set in the context of the LTP2 shared priorities and policy headings. For additional information, it also includes the comparable levels of funding that were approved for 2006/07.

5.4 Due to the necessary level of analysis required for some of the budget heads, I am, however, unable to provide a breakdown of all elements of the programme at this time. Therefore, I propose to bring a separate report to elected Members in the Committee cycle in May 2007 covering cycling, pedestrian improvements, road safety, school travel and structural maintenance. These block allocations are highlighted in the Appendix with an asterisk (\*) as being subject to a more detailed report.

#### 6.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Future levels of LTP funding will be dependent upon the successful delivery of the LTP programme and successful progress towards meeting the LTP2 targets. Running parallel to this, the level of funding via the LTP process is expected to reduce nationally. In terms of Wirral, it is likely that the annual LTP allocations will reduce by over £600,000 between 2007/08 and 2010/11.

6.2 Staff from my Department will continue to provide Wirral's input to the LTP and its strategic development. However, delivery of the transport capital programme will continue to have an impact on staffing requirements, particularly in the areas of work that require detailed accident analyses and public consultation prior to the scheme identification and implementation. It may be necessary, therefore, to appoint consultants to undertake certain categories of work so that I have the required flexibility to deliver the proposed programme of works.

6.3 Revenue implications – There will be increased maintenance costs or, in some instances, savings arising from specific projects. Where these arise, they will be detailed when projects are brought to Members for approval. However, it is recognised that levels of revenue funding available to the authority are not comparable to the level of capital infrastructure that is being implemented as part of the transport strategy.

#### 7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific ethnic minority, elderly persons or equal opportunities implications arising directly from this report. The transport strategy, which underpins the LTP, includes measures to assist the transport needs of all sections of the community.

7.2 In addition, the Accessibility Plan within LTP2 identifies current transport barriers to key destination across Wirral. This work will inform the identification of potential transport proposals to improve opportunities for all people.

7.3 Wirral's highway and transport proposals consider the needs of people with disabilities and impaired mobility, as set out in the Merseyside Code of Practice on Access and Mobility, which takes full account of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

#### 8.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 In accordance with DfT guidelines, the LTP2 is closely aligned with the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and other strategic and local policies, including the Regional Transport Strategy, Wirral's Tourism Strategy and local environmental, social and economic regeneration strategies.

8.2 The Merseyside authorities are currently developing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) regarding land use and transport, which will improve linkages within the planning approvals' process. It is intended that the SPD be approved and implemented in the near future and will be reported to Members separately in due course. Members will note that the SPD was particularly noted by the Government in the settlement letter as "indicative of forward thinking on the links between transport and planning".

#### 9.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Most of the schemes in the Transport Capital Programme have positive Community Safety Implications, either through improvements in road safety (e.g. introducing physical changes to the highway) or improvements in personal safety (e.g. installing better street lighting).
- 9.2 LTP2 directly addresses the Government's shared priority of road safety, which links closely with the council's Local Performance Service Agreement (LPSA) to reduce traffic accidents.
- 9.3 Furthermore, LTP2 complements the Housing Market Renewal Initiative by helping to improve the street environment.
- 9.4 The LTP2 complements the majority of the Council's corporate objectives, however, it is directly linked to that of 'Improving Transport'.

#### 10.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no specific human rights implications arising directly from this report.

#### 11.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Sustainability and LA21 issues are common threads running through all the transport policies.

#### 11.2 Specific elements of LTP2 include:

- Sustainable Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the strategy;
- Joint working with health authorities and the promotion of walking and cycling;
- Reduction of transport related pollution;
- Encouraging greater use of public transport and non-motorised modes of transport;
- Development of Travel Plans with schools and businesses; and
- Merseyside 'TravelWise' – the initiative that is specifically helping to make an important contribution to people's behaviour change and the promotion of alternative modes of travel to the private car.

#### 12.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

- 12.1 No background papers have been used in the preparation of this report.

#### 13.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The LTP contains a Wirral-wide transport strategy and implementation plan.

#### 14.0 RECOMMENDATION That:

(1) the transport capital programme for 2007/08 be approved;

(2) Members inform the Director of Technical Services of potential future highway/transport schemes, for inclusion in the forthcoming appraisal framework, by the end of June 2007; and

(3) in view of the fact that the capital allocation is valid for only one year, the Director of Technical Services, in consultation with party spokespersons, be authorised to arrange the redistribution of funding between budget heads according to the changing demands of the programme.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

# **Section Five**

## **Community Initiative Funding 2007/2008 Area Forum Funding Progress Report**

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.

## Applications granted for financial year 2007/2008

All applications were assessed by a panel (see below) membership decided and approved by each of the area forums against agreed and publicised criteria, and in making their recommendations the panels referred to any local priorities set by their particular area forum.

Bebington and Clatterbridge	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2007	Councillor Jerry Williams and Councillor Sheila Clark Community representatives Marla Johnston and Ray Advisory Officer Michelle Gray
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### Applications to Area Forums

The availability of the funding was publicised widely, including an advertisement in the Wirral Globe, publicity leaflets at Information points including leisure centres, One Stop Shops and libraries etc across all of the wards and through the area forums.

### Projects funded/not funded through the Bebington and Clatterbridge forum only

Id		Organisation	Project Details	CIF Awarded	CS Awarded	LA21 Awarded	Total Awarded	Panel Recommendation
SA	30	Thornton Hough Playgroup	To purchase new tables, chairs and an art box for the playgroup.	£910.00	£0.00	£0.00	£910.00	Panel supports this application and appreciates the hard work that goes into running a playgroup for local children. Agreed to award £910.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.
SA	35	Young Embroiderers	To covers costs of tutors, materials and equipment for the group.	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00	Panel supports this excellent project, as it provides the opportunity for young people to learn crafting skills. Agreed to award £300.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.
SA	49	Bebington Swimming Club	To purchase equipment for the club.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Panel supports this project, as it will enable the swimming club to improve coaching standards and have more equipment to enable all levels of swimmers to participate. Agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.



SA	74	Thornton Hough Village Hall	To provide a fire alarm for the part of the building used by our playgroup.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it did not meet the priorities or criteria as closely as other applications received in this round.
SA	111	Thornton Hough Community Trust Limited	To provide two Victorian lamposts on Smithy Hill.	£0.00	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,500.00	Panel supported this project but, as wished to support as many applications as possible, agreed to contribute £1,500.00 towards this from the Community Safety Fund.
SA	137	Church Council of Christ Church Higher Bebington	To purchase six coffee tables and a display board to support the good news coffee morning initiative.	£750.00	£0.00	£0.00	£750.00	Panel supported the good news coffee morning initiative, and agreed to award £750.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund
SA	138	Grove Street Primary School Eco Project	To purchase a greenhouse as part of the school's eco policy.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but felt that this should be funded through the schools budget through the Children and Young People Division, as part of the step towards ECO-Schools.
SA	142	Wirral Positive Futures	To host a Fustal coaching qualification course.  (see also Id SA28)	£0.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Panel consider that the work carried out by this group is brilliant for the young people in the local area. Agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund.
SA	144	Brackenwood Residents and Tenants Association	To purchase plants, bulbs and bark for woodland area.	£0.00	£0.00	£700.00	£700.00	Panel agreed to consider this application despite it being received after the closing date, and agreed to award £700.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund, as the association has put a lot of hard work and effort into improving this area for the benefit of the local residents.

**Projects that put requests into more than one forum for funding, including Bebington and Clatterbridge.**

Id		Organisation	CIF Awarded	CS Awarded	LA21 Awarded	Total Awarded
MA	3	Royal Army Service Corps & Royal Corps of Transport (RASC & RCT) Association	£706.03	£0.00	£0.00	£706.03
MA	5	Tranmere Rovers in the Community	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
MA	6	Wirral Disability Swimming Development Group	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
MA	7	Wirral Pathfinders	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
MA	15	Wirral Women and Children's Aid	£600.00	£1,300.00	£0.00	£1,900.00
MA	26	Helplink Community Support	£700.00	£0.00	£0.00	£700.00
MA	36	Families need Fathers (FNF) - Wirral	£2,750.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,750.00
MA	42	The Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (RASA)	£1,900.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,900.00
MA	47	Sundowns	£1,950.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,950.00
MA	51	Age Concern Wirral	£600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£600.00
MA	52	Wirral Festival of Music, Speech and Drama	£642.00	£0.00	£0.00	£642.00
MA	54	Stanton Estate Residents Association	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
MA	59	Wirral Community Pipe Band	£905.92	£0.00	£0.00	£905.92
MA	77	Wirral Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	£4,625.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,625.00
MA	92	Wirral Society of the Blind and Partially Sighted	£3,128.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,128.00
MA	114	Victim Support and Witness Service Merseyside	£150.00	£2,850.00	£243.00	£3,243.00
MA	121	Wirral Raynet	£0.00	£700.00	£0.00	£700.00
MA	122	PTFA Elleray Park School	£1,000.00	£0.00	£3,950.00	£4,950.00
MA	123	South Wirral Young Persons Project (Wirral Youth Service)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

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## Bebington / Clatterbridge Area Forum funding Progress Report

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Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
8th Bebington Scout Group	To carry out security measures to the scout hut.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We have repaired the locks on the front door and purchased outside lights and a burglar alarm. We are also carrying out work on the toilet facilities, once all of the work is completed we will be canvassing the local area for community use.
Eastham Blades Junior Football Club	To purchase jackets and to provide opportunities to send volunteers on sports related training	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £360.00 towards this, to cover St Johns Life Saver, from the Community Safety Fund.	Jackets were purchased for the children and a number of the under 16s attended an eight week refereeing course at Acre Lane and are now qualified and have refereed games this season. We also sent a number to first aid and junior football organisers courses run through Bebington High School.
Wirral Life Education Centres	To contribute towards the costs of providing a mobile classroom at local primary schools.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £750.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	The Wirral Life Education Centre has been fully utilised throughout the last academic year visiting 53 primary schools in the borough and being attended by over 12,000 children. It has delivered its full range of programmes from Reception to Year 6 with the aim of helping children make healthy choices.

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Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Port Sunlight Rugby Football Club Ltd	To contribute towards funding multi sport training courses to offer students of junior and senior schools an opportunity to play sport in a controlled, safe environment.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £700.00 towards this, (£300.00 of which is to cover the cost of First Aid Training, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The pilot project your funds helped us to set up proved to be a great success, and we have been asked to extend the scheme to the 12 junior schools in our catchment area, thank you for your support.
Teehey Allotments and Gardens Association	To contribute towards the provision of a secure pre-fabricated concrete shed to house the Association's petrol driven lawn mower and other equipment.	Panel considered this to be a worthwhile cause and agreed to award £900.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	The shed was installed in May 2007 on the allotment community plot. The shed provides a safe and secure storage for equipment used to upkeep the allotment.
Bebington Royals Morris Dancers	To contribute towards transport costs for the troupe.	Panel considered this to be a worthwhile cause and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The award has provided transport to five of our weekly competitions.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Wirral Barn Owl Trust	To purchase the materials to construct and erect six barn owl boxes at the Levers Estate.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £300.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	<p>The boxes have been erected, and we have one breeding pair and another pair using one of the boxes.</p> <p>The Trust is delighted with this years breeding results and with 20 pairs and almost 100 young barn owls already recorded this year on the Wirral it looks like being a record year since we started from a base of only two known breeding pairs in the late 1990's.</p>
Fire Support Network	To contribute towards the DIG IT project, which is a diversionary activity for young people in the South Wirral area.	Panel considered this to be an excellent project and agreed to award £500.00 from the Community Safety Fund and £500.00 form the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	The project is facilitated by an outbuilding that is being renovated. The polytunnel is installed and work is about to begin on the renovation of the wildlife pond.
The Church Council of Christ Church Higher Bebington	To contribute towards cost of purchasing low energy long life lamps to replace traditional lamps to illuminate the interior of the church.	Panel felt that as the church building was being used by local community groups until the church hall is replaced, that this was a worthwhile project of benefit to the local community and agreed to award £500.00 towards this from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	<p>The energy lamps are now operational and are a great advantage for all users.</p> <p>A review of the electricity invoices for the church have revealed a significant reduction in energy consumption.</p>

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	To train / recruit 15 volunteers to work with children and their families who are affected by crime in their local area, and to cover volunteer's travel expenses.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £218.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	The grant enabled us to recruit and train 15 volunteers to deliver services to children and their families affected by crime (over 900 families across Wirral and 110 in this forum area).
Lower Bebington Methodist Church	<p>1. To contribute towards refurbishment work to the community rooms.</p> <p>2. To replace childrens chairs at the Methodist resource centre.</p>	<p>1. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>2. Panel considered this to be a good diversionary project and agreed to award £300.00 from the Community Safety Fund.</p>	<p>1. The grant you generously gave us was used towards the cost of renewing the floor of a community hall on our premises. The room is used regularly by many local groups.</p> <p>2. The funding you were kind enough to allocate to us was used to purchase junior stacking chairs used by the mums and tots group and junior youth club.</p>
Pets as Therapy - Wirral	To contribute towards the running costs of the branch and hold a training day.	Panel considered this to be a very worthwhile cause likely to benefit local people and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding has enabled us to have and be hosts to a Supporter's Day. This is a fantastic opportunity for people to get together and meet with other volunteers in the group.

# **Section Six**

## **Local Area Forum Plan Update**

The area forum plan is a useful tool for everyone who has an interest in improving the local area as it will not only provide area forum members with a work programme of actions to be addressed, but will also ensure that local people have a means of monitoring the impact and progress of the area forum and the difference it is making to quality of life in the area.

Area forum plans form part of a much wider agenda for improving local services across the whole of Wirral and will influence the work of the local strategic partnership and the ongoing development of Wirral's local area agreement.

This section provides an update on some of the issues that have been resolved for this area forum.

## CABINET – 20 JUNE 2007 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

### ROAD SAFETY

The Local Transport Capital Programme, which was considered and approved by Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007, sets out project details relating to proposed schemes within the areas of road safety, school travel, structural road maintenance, walking and cycling.

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Merseyside, which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The second LTP (LTP2) covers the period between 2006/07 and 2010/11 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets

On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007, Cabinet approved the report (Minute 310) on the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme described how, in accordance with Government guidance, the new LTP is constructed to relate to four “shared priorities” – Road Safety, Congestion, Accessibility and Air Quality/Environment.

Consequently, the LTP programme for 2007/08 has been revised to match these priorities and more effectively reflect LTP objectives and policy areas.

This shared priority contains the more traditional types of scheme to reduce road accident casualties as well as those to ensure a safe and well-maintained highway asset. Road safety measures undertaken as part of the LTP strategy can also contribute to the Council’s road safety stretched target

### WALKING AND CYCLING

The following programmes comprising of pedestrian signal controlled crossings, dropped kerb crossings, pedestrian refuges, pedestrian signing and public rights of way, are proposed to encourage walking through better environments where it safe and attractive to walking

The Walking Strategy deals with the following specific programmes and recommends works/allocations for each of the following headings:-

	<u>Allocation</u>
Pedestrian Signals	£140,000
Walking/Pedestrian Dropped Crossing	£26,000
Pedestrian Central Refuges	£26,000
Signing for Pedestrians	£10,000
Public Rights of Way	£15,000
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	£217,000
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Area Forum – Heswall, Pensby, & Thingwall	£16,300
Area Forum - Bromborough & Eastham	£16,300

Further details of this report will be included in the Area Forum Plan for 07/08. Please contact Michelle Gray or email [michellegray@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:michellegray@wirral.gov.uk) for more information



# **Section Seven**

## **Streetscene Update**

Wirral Council's Streetscene department is the main point of contact for people wishing to report issues affecting their area such as recycling, condition of roads, street lighting etc.

This section provides a report on the recent activities carried by the Streetscene department.

**Residents Parking Zones** The Residents' Parking Zones consultations for seven pilot areas have been completed. The seven areas were:

- **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.

The findings of the consultation were recently reported to Wirral Council's Cabinet. The resolution is that Residents' Parking WILL NOT be implemented in the 7 pilot areas as the majority of residents involved did not want the schemes. Wirral Council will now write to all those involved.

In future, people will refer to their Area Forum Coordinator to request a Residents' Parking Scheme. Area Forum Coordinators will be provided with information in time for the next meetings. (Not October's meetings)

**School children win road safety prize:** In conjunction with Merseyside Police and Radio City, Wirral Council have presented a £1000 prize to Rock Ferry High School for their outstanding entry in our Road Safety video competition. Pupils from Wallasey School, Park High School, Rock Ferry High School, and Woodchurch High School scripted, directed, filmed and edited videos, aimed at getting road safety messages across to other young people.

All of the films were excellent and we couldn't possibly pick the winner - so we gave the opportunity to Wirral's young people to vote online for their favourite video, and Wallasey were the clear winners. The videos can still be viewed online on Radio City's website [www.radiocity.co.uk/roadsafety](http://www.radiocity.co.uk/roadsafety)

**Traffic Safety Schemes – the following safety schemes have recently been completed:**

- St. Peters Way, Noctorum - 20mph/Traffic Calming Scheme
- Portsunlight Train Station to Clatterbridge Hospital - Cycle Route (including 3 Toucan Crossings :- Brimstage Road, Bebington, Church Road, Bebington, Bromborough Road, Bebington)
- Arrowse Park - Ambulance Priority Scheme (substantially complete)
- Hoylake Road nr. Danger Lane, Moreton- Puffin Crossing
- Townfield Lane, Oxton- Puffin Crossing (substantially complete)

**Puffin Crossings have been proposed at the following locations:**

- Hoylake Road / Stuart Avenue, Moreton - Conversion of existing zebra crossing, 13m West of its junction with Stuart Avenue
- Laird Street / Miriam Place, Brikenhead - 8m North-West of its junction with Miriam Place

- Irby Road / Fishers Lane, Pensby - Conversion of existing pedestrian refuge, 29m North of its junction with Fishers Lane
- Townfield Lane / Calverly Close, Oxton - 60m West of its junction with Calverly Close
- Eastham Rake / Plymyard Avenue, Eastham - 16m South-West of its junction with Plymyard Avenue

**Recycling update:** All Wirral Residents' should have recently seen a "Recycling Update" wrapped around the Wirral Globe Newspaper. To re-cap:

**Grey bins – recycling:** Since the roll out of the grey recycling bin across Wirral, the recycling rates for the borough have rocketed! The latest figures show that approximately 32% of Wirral's waste is being recycled, as opposed to 12% this time last year.

Grey bins have been rolled out gradually over the last 9 months and now 95% of properties are on the scheme. Those who live in flats or multiple occupancy housing will be joining the scheme soon. The grey bin is for plastic bottles, glass bottles, jars, cans and tins, paper and card and other dry recyclables. Whilst food waste, plastic bags, plastic containers, foil and textiles go in the green bin as normal, and garden waste goes in the brown bin.

Message from Director of Technical Services: "I would like to thank all the residents of Wirral for their support and participation so far. I am aware that there were teething problems to begin with, as all major changes take time to get used to, but now the system is working excellently and our latest recycling figures prove that."

Also, certain households who received their grey bins very early on in the scheme will be receiving literature very shortly, informing them that there has been a slight change in what they can put in their grey bin. As they were the first to get the bins, it was thought that the MRF recycling facility at Bidston would be able to process foil and certain plastic containers. However, foil and certain plastic containers such as yogurt pots are not able to be separated from the other materials very well. They tend to end up in the paper stream which increases the risk of the paper bails being rejected from the mill that finally recycle the paper. Therefore the only form of plastic that we can accept in the grey bin is all types of plastic bottles. All other kinds of plastic can not be recycled in your grey bin scheme. Neither can foil, or foil lids.

**Brown bins – garden waste:** 17,000 Wirral Households were taking part in a combined food and garden waste brown bin pilot. People on this pilot will have originally received a small brown kitchen caddy, along with their brown bin, and instructions about how food waste and garden waste could be put in the brown bin. These households will have recently received information telling them that the pilot scheme has now finished, and that brown bins will be for garden waste only from now on.

The pilot has concluded that is it better to collect garden waste only in our brown bins. This is because processing a combined collection of food and garden waste is a complicated and expensive way of collecting organic waste. If successful it could have helped reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill and increased Wirral's recycling rate. Unfortunately, due to a combination of the following factors, the scheme hasn't helped us to reach these targets:

- The composting units have struggled to maintain consistency with the biological reaction necessary for this type of enclosed composting.
- We've actually received very little food waste from residents as a whole, which meant the scheme was not cost-effective.

- Residents had concerns over putting food waste directly into a bin without wrapping.

Due to the above issues, the Council did not receive the benefit it expected in terms of weight of recycling, and now plans to reassess food recycling. There are many new options available, but these depend on facilities offered by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, with whom we are working to research and develop the best options.

**Home Composters:** We are offering low cost composters to Wirral households, in conjunction with Recycle Now. Up to a third of an average household bin can be composted. Items such as fruit and veg peelings, shredded paper, teabags, flowers and cardboard egg boxes can be easily composted at home.

[www.recyclenow.com/compost](http://www.recyclenow.com/compost) 0845 077 0757

**Footway works completed:** Wakefield Drive, Leasowe, The Laund, Wallasey Derwent Drive, Liscard, Dalmorton Road (part) New Brighton (in progress), awarden Avenue, Liscard, Bassenthwaite Avenue, Claughton, Nursury Close, Oxton (in progress), Well Lane, Bebington, Riviera Drive, Rock Ferry.

**Future footway works planned:** Upton Road (part) Claughton, Grafton Street (part) Birkenhead, Burlingham Avenue, West Kirby, Fieldway, Bebington, Croxteth Avenue, Liscard, Sussex Close, Pensby & Thingwall, Hillfield Drive, Pensby & Thingwall, Mere Farm Grove, Oxton, Lord Street (part) Birkenhead, Chester Street (part) Birkenhead, Downham Road (part) Birkenhead, Oak Road, Bebington, Reedville Road, Bebington, Richardson Road, Rock Ferry

**Carriageway resurfacing completed:** Sherlock Lane, Poulton, Brompton Avenue, Wallasey, Haydock Road, New Brighton Chadwick Street, Moreton, Wharfedale Road, Wallasey, Aysgarth Road, Wallasey, The Laund, Wallasey, Perrin Road. Wallasey, Acres Road, Bebington, Richmond Close, Bebington, Devonshire Road (part) Birkenhead, Townsend/Challis/Curlender Road, Bidston, Bedford Road (part) Rock Ferry, New Chester Road (part) Rock Ferry Bridge Street, (part) Birkenhead, Argyle Street, (part) Birkenhead, Mount Road (part) Bebington.

**Carriageway resurfacing planned:** Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge, Derwent Drive, Liscard, Neville Road, Bromborough, Dibbins Hey (part), Clatterbridge, Wirral Mount, Clatterbridge, Patterdale Road, Clatterbridge, Bassenthwaite Avenue, Claughton, Laburnum Road, New Brighton, Sandheys Road, New Brighton, Mount Road (access link to hospital entrance) Clatterbridge, Telegraph Road/Pensby Road, Heswall, Dock Road, Seacombe (part).

**Carriageway Retread sites completed:**

WESTBANK ROAD  
WILLAN STREET  
BRIMSTAGE LANE  
KNOWSLEY ROAD/VICTORIA DRIVE  
WILLOWBROW ROAD  
THINGWALL ROAD SERVICE ROAD HSE 51 - 77  
CALDWELL DRIVE  
MEADOW CRESCENT  
FLAXHILL  
BLACKHEATH DRIVE  
WILKES AVENUE  
HALSBURY/WOBURN ROAD  
ALLERTON GROVE  
HALDANE ROAD

PRENTON  
OXTON  
CLATTERBRIDGE  
ROCK FERRY  
CLATTERBRIDGE  
PENSBY & THINGWALL  
UPTON  
UPTON  
MORETON WEST & sm  
LEASOWE  
LEASOWE  
NEW BRIGHTON  
BIRKENHEAD & TRANMERE  
CLAUGHTON

**Carriageway Retread sites programmed:**

GRANT ROAD  
MACKENZIE ROAD

LEASOWE  
LEASOWE

HARVEST LANE  
DEVONSHIRE ROAD

MORETON  
WEST KIRBY

**Carriageway Surface Treatment sites completed (or due to be completed within the next 2-3 weeks)**

TEEHY CLOSE  
NAPIER ROAD  
INGLEBY ROAD  
WOODFORD ROAD  
BRILL STREET  
NEWLING STREET  
TRINITY STREET  
ABERDEEN STREET  
CRAVEN STREET  
RODNEY STREET  
HELENA STREET  
FOX STREET  
BRASSEY STREET  
RABY DRIVE/RABY AVE  
STATION ROAD (PART)  
GOTHAM ROAD  
GRANBY CRESCENT  
SILSTON CLOSE  
ORSTON CRESCENT  
ELTON DRIVE  
RADFORD AVENUE  
BRADDEN CLOSE  
BENTY HEATH LANE (PART)  
RIDGEVIEW ROAD  
MANOR HILL  
HEATHER BROW  
LYNDHURST/DAWLISH/GREENHEYS/SOUTH ROAD  
WOODLANDS ROAD  
DRAYTON CLOSE  
PORTO HEY ROAD  
SOUTH HEY ROAD  
SHAWS DRIVE  
WHITEHEATH WAY  
GREENHEATH WAY  
BLACKHEATH DRIVE  
CARTMEL DRIVE  
SEAFORTH DRIVE  
SHEEN ROAD  
RATHMORE ROAD  
BARKER ROAD  
PORTAL ROAD  
CUMBERLAND/CALDER/BOWNESS  
COLLEGE DRIVE  
NORTHBROOKE/DOMVILLE  
KILN ROAD  
ROBIN WAY  
BRIDGE FARM CLOSE  
GLEBE HEY ROAD  
BIG MEADOW ROAD  
MONKSWAY  
FLECK LANE  
LYNDHURST ROAD

BEBINGTON  
BROMBOROUGH  
BROMBOROUGH  
BROMBOROUGH  
BIDSTON & ST JAMES  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIDSTON & ST JAMES  
CLATTERBRIDGE  
CLATTERBRIDGE  
CLATTERBRIDGE  
CLATTERBRIDGE  
CLATTERBRIDGE  
CLATTERBRIDGE  
CLATTERBRIDGE  
CLATTERBRIDGE  
CLATTERBRIDGE  
CLAUGHTON  
CLAUGHTON  
CLAUGHTON  
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY  
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY  
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY  
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY  
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY  
HOYLAKE & MEOLS  
LEASOWE  
LEASOWE  
LEASOWE  
MORETON WEST & SM  
MORETON WEST & SM  
NEW BRIGHTON  
OXTON  
PENSBY & THINGWALL  
PENSBY & THINGWALL  
PRENTON  
ROCK FERRY  
UPTON  
UPTON  
UPTON  
UPTON  
UPTON  
UPTON  
WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON  
WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON  
WALLASEY

**Carriageway Surface Treatment sites programmed: Vyner Road North, Bidston & St James, Wroxham Way, Upton, Seabank Road (part) Liscard**

**Footway Surface Treatment sites completed (or due to be completed within next 2-3 weeks)**

RUSSELL STREET  
CRAVEN STREET  
RODNEY STREET  
HELENA STREET  
FOX STREET  
KNOWLES STREET  
JULIET AVE  
PORTIA AVE  
MIRANDA AVE

BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BEBINGTON  
BEBINGTON  
BEBINGTON

CRESSIDA AVE  
BEATRICE AVE  
ROSALIND AVE  
NAPIER ROAD  
NEW FERRY ROAD  
INGLEBY ROAD  
CECIL ROAD  
BEVERLEY ROAD  
SHOREFIELDS  
APSLEY AVENUE  
DEARNFORD AVE  
DEARNFORD CLOSE  
BRINLEY CLOSE  
BRONINGTON AVE  
SPRINGHILL AVE  
REDBROOK CLOSE  
MILLERSDALE CLOSE  
WHARFDALE AVE  
DARLEYDALE DRIVE  
MALLOWDALE CLOSE  
WENSLEYDALE AVE  
EDALE CLOSE  
SWALEDALE CLOSE  
LYNDHURST/DAWLISH/GREENHEYS/SOUTH ROAD  
WOODLANDS ROAD  
DOWNHAM DRIVE  
SHAWS DRIVE  
WILKES AVE  
FLAXHILL  
HARVEST LANE  
CARTMEL DRIVE  
SEAFORTH DRIVE  
HOLLAND ROAD  
BARKER ROAD  
THINGWALL DRIVE  
DEMESNE ST& BORO ROAD EASTSEACOMBE  
RANKIN STREET  
LIMEKILN LANE  
BIG MEADOW ROAD  
NORTHBROOKE /DOMVILLE ROADUPTON  
HILLSIDE ROAD  
FLECK LANE  
DEVONSHIRE ROAD  
KIRBY PARK

BEBINGTON  
BEBINGTON  
BEBINGTON  
BROMBOROUGH  
BROMBOROUGH  
BROMBOROUGH  
BROMBOROUGH  
BROMBOROUGH  
BROMBOROUGH  
BROMBOROUGH  
EASTHAM  
EASTHAM  
EASTHAM  
EASTHAM  
EASTHAM  
EASTHAM  
EASTHAM  
EASTHAM  
EASTHAM  
EASTHAM  
EASTHAM  
GREASBY, FRANKBY & IRBY  
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY  
HESWALL  
HOYLAKE & MEOLS  
LEASOWE & MORETON EAST  
MORETON WEST & SM  
MORETON WEST & SM  
MORETON WEST & SM  
MORETON WEST & SM  
NEW BRIGHTON  
PENSBY & THINGWALL  
PENSBY & THINGWALL  
  
SEACOMBE  
SEACOMBE  
UPTON  
  
WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON  
WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON  
WEST KIRBY  
WEST KIRBY

# Section Eight

## Equalities & Diversity

The Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG) provides a framework for local authorities to deliver continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

The standard has six strands or pillars:

- Race
- Disability
- Gender
- Age
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion or belief

## **New equality and diversity policy and strategy for Wirral Council**

The Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG) provides a framework for local authorities to deliver continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

The standard has six strands or pillars and these are: Race, Disability, Gender, Age, Sexual Orientation and Religion or belief

Wirral has a new equality and diversity policy which sets out the council's commitment to fair employment and equitable service delivery and includes detailed statements in relation to all six strands of the equality standard. It also sets out the legislative framework within all local authorities must operate.

The council currently has 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.

Main site [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)  
or use the following link [http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO\\_Policy.htm](http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm)

Alongside its new equality and diversity policy, Wirral has introduced an equality and diversity strategy. The strategy recognises that Wirral has particular challenges in relation to this area of work, and that the council must work at all levels to progress this important agenda.

The authority has mechanisms to ensure all departments regularly discuss equalities. There is, for example, a cross-cutting corporate group which meets regularly to assess the progress of departments through the equality agenda. In this way the council works to address any areas of weaknesses in employment practice or service delivery.

### **Council staff diversity forums go from strength to strength**

An employee diversity forum has long been established within the council. This group consists of staff from across the local authority and brings together issues relating to the six strands of the equality standard.

The group meets regularly before the council's corporate group, in order for the forum's views to inform strategic discussions. For more information about the employee diversity forum please contact Steve Russell (Chair) on 0151 691 8656 or email [steverussell@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:steverussell@wirral.gov.uk)

More recently, two further staff diversity forums have been set up specifically designed to align to a particular strand, the gender diversity forum (women's group), and disability diversity forum.

The gender diversity forum has met twice since their inaugural meeting in May with the next meeting scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> September. The focus of this meeting will include agile working and transforming working practices to meet the future and addressing the gender imbalance within the top 5% of staff within the Council.



For more information please contact Christina Bebbington (temporary Chair) on 0151 691 8063. or email [christinabebbington@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:christinabebbington@wirral.gov.uk)

The disability diversity forum has met three times since their inaugural meeting in May discussions have included terms of reference for the group and discussing council communications aimed at raising awareness about the reasonable adjustments to which people with disabilities are entitled.

For more information please contact Ged Smyth (temporary Chair) on 0151 691 8217 or email [gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk)

If you are interested in finding out more about what the council is doing about equality and diversity please visit the council's website where you can also have your say.

## **Wirral Black and Racial Minority Partnership established**

The Wirral Black and Racial Minority Partnership (WBRMP) held its inaugural meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

The aim of the WBRMP is to provide Wirral Black and Racial Minority communities with a co-ordinated voice to enable them to become more involved in local issues that affect their lives.

The Partnership has recently agreed its constitution and appointed officers. Presently, they are being supported by the Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network, Community Engagement Team at Bebbington CVS.

The Partnership is hoping to hold their official launch on 3<sup>rd</sup> October this year in The Laurie's Centre.

Current members of the Partnership include; Wirral African and Caribbean Community Voice, Wirral Cultural Diversity Group, Irish Community Care, Wirral Change, Wirral Sikh Association amongst others.

If you are interested in the work of the Partnership or wish to join please contact Julie Johnson or Karen Livesey 0151 645 4038.

## **Mayoral reception for Wirral's leading BME community members**

The Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Phil Gilchrist, held a reception for Wirral's leading BME community members at on 6<sup>th</sup> September in the Round Room, Wallasey Town Hall.

The council recognises the growing diversity in Wirral and wanted to provide a forum to meet with those who represent both the established and the emerging minority communities.

Although informal, the reception offered an opportunity to discuss any issues that are of concern and a selection of senior council officers were in attendance.