



Bidston & Claughton

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

2nd February 2005

Contents

Section One **3**

Community Initiative Funding Update

Section Two **7**

Developing & Implementing a Local Area Plan

Section Three **9**

Youth Forum Update

Section Four **15**

Streetscene Update

Section Five **21**

Local Updates

- Tackling ASB
- Wirral Council Spreads the warmth
- Are you registered to Vote
- Licensing Policy update
- Public Consultation
- Wirral WBC supporting Tsunami Disaster
- Future Presentations/Forums

Appendices **30**

Minutes Bidston & Claughton Area Forum

18th October 2004

Section One

Community Initiative Funding

Section 1: Community Initiative Funding

The Assessment panel for funding consists of;

- **Councillor Denise Roberts (Chair)**
- **Councillor Harry Smith**
- **Councillor George Davies**
- **Community Representative Pat Landsborough**
- **Community Representative Alison Moulder**
- **Area Co-ordinator Michelle Gray (officer support)**

Carry over of; £1,259.32 to this year's CIF 2004/2005.

The CIF allocation for 2004/2005 is £10,000 giving an overall allocation of

£11,259.32

The Community Initiatives Fund was advertised in the Globe on 10th and 24th November 2004, with a closing date of 20th December 2004.

The panel is meeting on Monday 10th January 2005, to discuss the 23 bids received, the panels recommendations will go to Cabinet on Thursday 10th February 2005.

Posters and leaflets were sent to, Local and Wirral Wide Information Points, Forum members, Interested Persons, Wirral Voluntary and Community Sectors Network etc.

Details were sent to / included on, Public Relations (to arrange a press release), Wirral Council's Website and GME Website.

Responses

We surveyed some of the 498 requests for application packs for the 11 area forums to find out how they heard about the funding with the following results:

Website	4
Leaflets/Mailshot	60
Globe	26
Forums/Forum Members	33
Requests via e-mail	17
Word of mouth	6
Applied previously	14

Applications received

A total of 282 applications have been received with a total of over £260,119.34 being requested (some of the applications didn't specify an amount so the amounts requested may be higher as these have not been included in the figures), for a variety of different projects across Wirral. These are broken down as follows:

Bidston and Claughton	£21,395.00
Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie	£18,742.00
East Wallasey (Liscard / Seacombe)	£16,613.73
New Brighton / Wallasey	£22,020.33
Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch	£37,139.78
West Wirral	£32,191.75
Heswall / Pensby and Thingwall	£20,056.00
Bromborough / Eastham	£20,440.54
Bebington / Clatterbridge	£25,818.02
Birkenhead and Tranmere / Rock Ferry	£28,152.19
Oxton / Prenton	£17,550.00

- Community Safety funding might be used to supplement grant applications or as a possible alternative where applications do not meet the criteria for the Community Initiative Fund. For further details contact Andy Dams on 666 5098 or Jim Thompson on 666 5097.
- The Community Planning Team receives regular updates from the Charities Information Bureau on a variety of funding opportunities. If you would like a copy of the latest information please contact a member of the team on 691 8266/8069.

Section Two

Developing & Implementing a Local Area Plan

Section 2: Developing & Implementing a Local Area Plan

Draft Area Plans

The draft area plans have been produced using information from a variety of sources, including:

- ward roadshows
- area forums
- youth forums
- the Wirral Show and other local events
- The Citizen's Panel and census information etc.

The area plans bring together – under the overarching themes of the community strategy – those broader issues that local people have said are important to them. They therefore do not attempt to pick up all of those specific local issues that have been raised but rather to provide a 'flavour' of the main issues that affect the area.

Since the preparation of the area plans began a number of changes have taken place, including changes to wards boundaries and the re-grouping of wards within area forums. As such, the original information collected during 2004 has been re-aligned where possible to reflect the new boundaries/area forums.

From June to August 2004 consultation took place around the draft area plans with a number of different stakeholders and organisations including:

- area forums members
- elected members
- Primary Care Trusts
- departmental co-ordinators
- Chief Officers
- Wirral Voluntary and Community Sectors (WVCSN)

The consultation plan adopted across the area forums was designed to ensure that as far as possible the information in the area plans reflected local needs and was up to date and relevant.

The area plans now provide a baseline for the area forums to further develop them into truly local plans, which reflect local needs and aspirations and provide a list of priorities to which the area forum can respond over the coming months. During February 2005 the area forums will be asked to adopt the draft area plans and consider ways in which to expand/improve upon them and take the local issues identified forward.

For further information on area plans please contact:

Rachel Flood
Community Planning Co-ordinator
Tel: 0151 691 8063
E: rachelflood@wirral.gov.uk

Section Three

Youth Forum Update

Section 3: Youth Forum Update

Since the last set of forum meetings the Youth Forums have met once. The purpose of these meetings was to start a programme of grant giving. Each youth forum has a small amount of money to grant to other youth groups, and therefore these meetings focused on the protocols and procedures for doing this. The method used was giving the group examples of bids and discussing the process and relative merits of each bid. This will prepare the members to do the exercise for real in the March forums.

The groups also discussed the consultation requests that have been made:

Work based Learning, Community Safety and Local Transport Plan

Youth Conference Update

As part of local democracy week Wirral organised a youth conference. Key elements of the day included:

Stands from local organisations and council departments, A variety of workshops
And a Hotseating session

What is Hotseating?

Hotseating provides an opportunity for the young people present on the day to get up close and personal with key decision makers and question them about issues of their concern and to interview key people about issues which have emerged during their debate and discussions.

Speakers involved in the Hotseating session included Howard Cooper, Director of Education, Chief Supt Alan Jones Merseyside Police, Ward Councillors and a number of others representing a diverse group of service providers and organisations.

A report is currently being written to evaluate the success of the event, and to provide pointers for the next conference. The evaluations from the young people that attended the event, have largely, been very positive, as well from the agencies and organisations that took part in the day. Overwhelmingly the Hotseating was the most popular part of the day from all that attended, and this session will be extended at the next conference.

The following agencies, organisations and individuals were involved in providing stands / workshops and or the Hotseating

Bebington and West Wirral Primary Care Trust
Ben Chapman MP
Birkenhead and Wallasey Primary Care Trust
Connexions
Councillor Hilary Jones
Councillor John Cocker
Councillor Simon Holbrook

Education and Cultural Services
Forum Housing
HMP Liverpool Prison
Housing and Regeneration
Merseyside Police
Merseytravel
Social Services Department
Stephen Hesford MP
Technical Services Department
Wirral Children's Champion
Wirral Children's Fund
Wirral Drug and Alcohol Outreach Team
Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Wisch Arrowe Park Hospital

The following people were involved in the planning and delivery of the conference:

Debbie Dawson – Youth & Community Service
Lauren Elliott – Community Planning Team
Chris Rummery – Advisory Teacher Humanities
Marie Jones - Advisory Teacher Humanities
Katrina Roberts – THRP
Lorraine Jones – Greater Merseyside Connexions
Tricia Jones – Children's Champion

UK Youth Parliament Members

This year Wirral has 2 Members of the Youth Parliament (MYP's) and 4 deputies, previously it has always been 2 MYP's and 2 Deputies. To ensure as many young people as possible had an opportunity to get involved and vote the elections were conducted electronically.

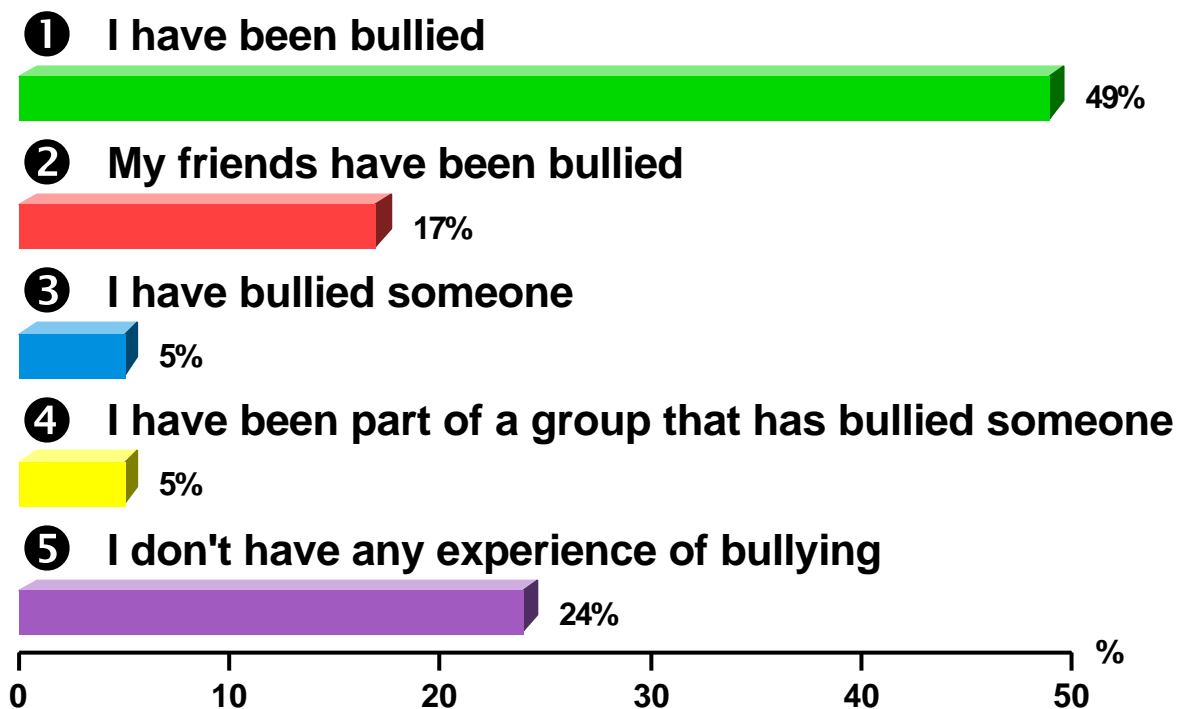
This meant that there were 43 candidates, from a variety of schools, and a total of 634 votes were cast. Previously only the candidates have been able to vote.

The election results were announced at a session held at Wallasey Town Hall. This consisted of a buffet lunch, an electronic voting session on the issues that most concerned them and finally announcing the results.

Over the page is a selection of the responses from the electronic voting session:

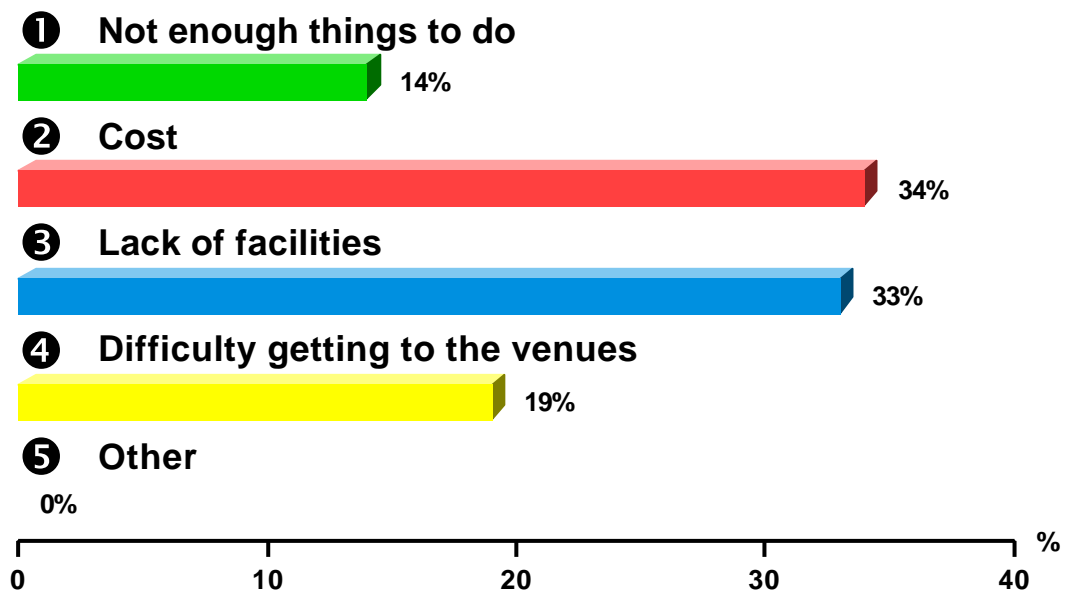
Bullying

What is your experience of Bullying?



Leisure & Entertainment

What is your main concern?



Risk Taking Behaviours Sub Group

This group is a multi agency approach to working together to minimise young people's risk taking behaviours.

The group is made up of representatives from:

- Primary Care Trusts
- Wirral Brook
- Merseytravel
- Community Safety Team
- Youth & Community Service
- Response
- Wallasey Extended School
- Community Planning Team

The group had an away day to work up a set of priorities to turn into effective actions to minimise the effects of risk taking.

The priority the group has decided to take forward is education for both young people and parents.

The parents of primary school age children will be approached in the pilot scheme, it is hoped that another agency such as sure start or parentline plus could become partners in this initiative. The session for parents will be called "keeping your child safe".

If any forum member is interested in this please contact either Lauren or Tracey in the office for more information

Youth forums have been scheduled for;

22nd	February 2005	Wallasey
24th	February 2005	South Wirral
1st	March 2005	West Wirral
3rd	March 2005	Birkenhead

Section Four

Streetscene update

Section 4: Streetscene update

Safe Cycling

The Council's road safety team is turning attention to keeping cyclists safe in Wirral this winter. With the appointment of a dedicated cycling road safety officer, Stephen Corlett, members of the public will see more and more educational initiatives aimed at getting people out and about on their bikes over the coming months.

School Crossing Patrols go orange

Wirral Council is trialling a new uniform for its School Crossing Patrollers in a bid to make them more visible and promote a more responsible attitude from drivers. Patrollers at six sites across the borough can be seen sporting the new-look fluorescent orange outfit.

The new uniform is being given a 'test-run' in Wirral to coincide with national Road Safety Week 2004, organised by the charity Brake. Council officers are trialling the orange outfit to see if it improves safety for school crossing staff and the thousands of pedestrians that they help across the road every day. For some inattentive motorists the local lollipop person alarmingly goes unnoticed. The switch to orange has proven popular elsewhere in the country for increasing visibility and ensuring that motorists stop for the patroller.

Director David Green said: "Any initiatives that improve road safety are given a high priority here at Wirral Council. Thankfully we live in a safety-conscious age, where increasing numbers of people can be seen out on our roads wearing fluorescent yellow. But this means that we need to do more to make our School Crossing Patrollers distinguishable – and we hope to achieve this by switching to orange outfits."

Recycling Team Get Interactive

A new and interactive recycling education pack has been launched by our Department to support The BIG Recycle for National Recycling Awareness Week.

Pupils at Heswall Primary School have been among the first in the borough to view a specially commissioned video / DVD for children, which highlights the importance of reducing and re-using waste in Wirral.

The 30-minute film introduces children to The Recyclables – a series of colourful cartoon characters that are based on items that can be re-used. These include a newspaper called Daley Mail, a nappy called Terry and a drinks can Ally. They each introduce children to the different types of recycling processes in easy to understand terms. Former Red Dwarf actor and Robot Wars presenter Craig Charles also features in the film, providing the voice-over for the lead character 'Wheelie' – a bin who appeals to the children not to send all their rubbish to landfill. A 'life-size' Wheelie, with an interactive touch-screen computer kiosk, is now touring schools to generate interest in the new educational pack and appeal to youngsters to get recycling. This is also complemented by a dedicated recycling website for the

borough, www.letstalkrubbish.org – which carries information about all the recycling services available in Wirral, frequently asked questions about rubbish and much more. The £25,000 project has been developed over the last twelve months, with support from recycling officers, school teachers and the Council's graphics section. The educational packs will now be distributed to more than 90 schools to assist with the key stage two curriculum, which targets seven to 11 year-olds.

Dealing with dangerous skips

Unsafe and poorly lit skips on Wirral roads are being targeted in a Council campaign this winter. From Monday, December 13 enforcement officers have embarked on drive to remove any skips found on the borough's roads without an approved Council permit. When it comes to hiring and paying for a skip, the Council is calling upon members of the public and builders to make sure the company they use is operating within the law. Here are some guidelines to avoid getting caught out:

- The company must have approval from the Council to site each skip – you can ask to see a copy of a skip permit.
- The telephone number of the skip hire company must be clearly marked on the sides.
- Lamps must be attached to the skip and lit when it is dark.
- Each skip must not exceed five metres by two metres in size.
- All waste removal companies should be registered with the Environment Agency and hold an official licence to carry waste – you can ask to see a copy of this licence.

Skip Prosecutions

The owners of four Wirral skip-hire companies have been fined for illegally placing more than 80 skips on the borough's roads. The four skip operators work out of the same yard in Wallasey. The court heard that they had not gained permission from the Council to place a total of 84 skips on roads throughout Wirral between January and June this year. This was in contravention of the Highways Act 1980, Section 139 and both men pleaded guilty to the charges.

This is the largest successful skip prosecution of its kind in Wirral – upping the total number of successful prosecutions for the Council from three to 87 in just one day.

Enforcement officer said: "Unsafe skips have become an increasing problem across the borough, posing a risk to both motorists and pedestrians. Many skips are being left poorly lit, creating an obstruction, looking unsightly and causing damage to pavements.

"We would ask people to plan ahead and choose their skip hire company carefully. The company must have an approved permit before a skip can be put on the road. Any skip without a permit could be removed by one of our enforcement officers."

Litter Prosecutions

Wirral Council is taking a tough stance with people caught dropping litter in the borough. Thoughtless residents are being warned that illegal dumping could cost them dearly.

The Council has served some 160 fixed penalties for 'fly tipping' and littering over the last 12 months and people who don't pay up have been taken to court and given hefty fines ranging from £100 to £1200. These latest cases bring the total number of successful litter and fly-tipping prosecutions in Wirral this year to nine with a further 15 pending.

New Litter Arrangement agreed with Tranmere Rovers Football Club

Technical Services has been in talks with Tranmere Rovers FC – to arrange additional litter collections after matchdays.

Arising from the meeting with Rovers Chief Executive Mick Horton, an additional litter collection for Sunday morning following Saturday home games has now been introduced, in the main because the primary cause of concern amongst the local community has been the delay in collection till the Monday, by which time, particularly during the winter, any litter and other debris has been blown far and wide. Furthermore, we have agreed with the club to provide a number of wheelie bins, with a suitable partnership logo, to Rovers which will be put out prior to games and then brought back into the club afterwards for next day collection by our contractor.

Traffic Club

A special birthday party has been held in Wirral – to celebrate with the first ever three-year-olds to join a new road safety Traffic Club.

Wirral Council has teamed up with Surestart to set up a Traffic Club for youngsters in Birkenhead and Wallasey. Parents with children approaching their third birthday will be invited to register for the road safety club through their local Surestart branch.

Once enrolled, children will be posted a traffic awareness activity book on their third birthday, free of charge. Further educational activity packs will then be sent out every three months until the child reaches four-and-a-half years of age. The Traffic Club books have been specially designed for parents to work with their children and are packed full of colourful pictures, stories, stickers and other activities.

The scheme is being targeted at under-threes in Birkenhead and Wallasey as research shows children living in these areas are most at risk from being involved in a road accident.

Mega-drive Event

Wirral teenagers are being taught good driving practice at a series of events hosted by road safety officers. 'Megadrive' sees 15 to 17-year-olds being given a chance to get behind the wheel of a car and try their hand at driving under the guidance of

expert instructors. More than 800 pupils have been given the opportunity to take part, in training this term making Wirral's 'Megadrive' one of the biggest and far reaching events of its kind in the country.

Driving Standards Agency examiners, the Institute of Advanced Motorists, representatives from the driving theory centre Prometric and drug awareness group Response have teamed up with the Council to make the event possible. Merseyside Police will also be supporting the event. Tranmere Rovers FC has offered use of their private grounds for the young motorists to test their skills in a controlled and safe environment.

Megadrive is targeted at teenagers who are thinking about learning to drive within the next 12 months. It is aimed at encouraged good driving behaviour and attitude from an early stage. Pupils from Bebington High, Oldershaw School, St Mary's College, Park High School, Rock Ferry High and Plessington Catholic High are taking part in the training. It involves several activity sessions including: driving test examiners telling pupils about what the test involves, Response highlighting the dangers of substance misuse and how it can affect driving, sample theory testing, and an introductory driving lesson by local driving schools.

Winter Parking

Wirral Council has a legal duty to keep roads and pavements in a safe condition.

We are appealing to car owners not to park on grass verges this winter. The Council has been inundated with complaints about the tyre damage caused to verges because of recent wet weather.

Many residents are surprised to learn that there are legal obligations to keep pavements and grass verges free from obstructions, such as cars. And anyone found responsible for causing damage to the verge could be billed for the cost of repair work. Our Council enforcement team is currently reviewing how we tackle this problem.

In the meantime, if you are suffering at the hand of inconsiderate parking, you might be interested in adopting a tree for a nearby grass verge. Planting a tree has proven successful elsewhere in the borough in deterring motorists from parking on verges.

If you have any additional queries or want information about the 'Adopt a Tree' scheme that Wirral council operates, please call our Streetscene contact centre on 606 2004.

Parking Attendants Prove Popular

Parking attendants have proved they are popular in parts of Wirral – after the Council has received a rush of requests from residents and businesses for enforcement action against dangerous motorists.

Within the last twelve months, more than 500 people have contacted Wirral Council to ask for tougher measures to deal with problem parking. The Parking Services section has responded to concerns by sending out attendants to 'blitz' each area. This news comes one year on from the introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in the borough in late November 2003. Service managers say they receive as many as five requests for help per day – from residents who are frustrated by motorists flouting parking rules. And many of these callers get back in touch with the department to express their appreciation for Council efforts. Areas where parking attendants have helped residents over the last year include:

- Tackling abuse of the resident's parking scheme in the area surrounding Tranmere Rovers football club on match days.
- Addressing a safety issue caused by parents parking on yellow lines outside Allport School in Bromborough.
- Easing congestion caused by Sunday car boot sales in Leasowe – after residents complained about people parking on double yellow lines outside their homes in Pasture Road.
- Attendants have been working with Birkenhead market and The Grange shopping precinct to address problems caused by shoppers parking in the access road at the back of the market.
- Responding to residents of Menai Street in Birkenhead who expressed safety concerns over HGV vehicles parking on yellow lines at night narrowing access for both the road and pavement.

Director David Green said: "Many people are quick to criticise the work of parking attendants – but the reality is that these enforcement measures are vital if we are to keep our roads safe and free from congestion. There are residents out there who fully support the work that our parking services team are doing. In fact we've received more than 25 thank you letters from people who are extremely grateful that we have addressed parking problems that have previously made their lives a misery."

Short-listed for awards

The shortlist for the Merseyside 21 Awards has been announced and once again Wirral has done well.

Although the winners of the prestigious environmental awards are not announced until 3rd February, projects from Wirral Council departments and schools are in with a chance as they go forward to the next stage.

Within Streetscene related services we have been shortlisted for our work with aggregate recycling, anti-litter roadshows and green garden waste collections.

Section Five

Local Updates

Section 5: Local Updates

- **Wirral announced as one of top 50 areas for tackling ASB**

Wirral was announced today as a TOGETHER Action Area by the Home Office, celebrating Wirral's continuing recognition for best practice and innovation in tackling anti-social behaviour.

Through agencies in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, Wirral has had a number of successes in tackling and reducing anti-social behaviour in our communities. Wirral has one of the country's longest running Anti-Social Behaviour Teams, which in a few months will head into its seventh year of operation. The Team had dealt with hundreds of cases of anti-social behaviour across the Borough since it was created and last year expanded its service into the private sector. Earlier this year two police officers also joined the Team.

Powers available to key agencies, including the Council and police, to tackle anti-social behaviour have been utilised. This has included the use of mediation, evictions, injunctions, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, Closure Orders, Designation of Areas, etc. There is also a significant amount of work being undertaken in Wirral in relation to the prevention of anti-social behaviour.

Today also marks the first anniversary of the TOGETHER Campaign launched across England and Wales by the national Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, which takes a stand against anti-social behaviour and puts the needs of the local community first. The campaign represents a commitment by everyone involved to take a stand, be accountable for their actions and uphold standards of decency and behaviour. The creation of TOGETHER Action Areas is a key element of this campaign.

As a TOGETHER Action Area, Wirral will step up its fight against anti-social behaviour, tackling the worst offenders of both anti-social and criminal behaviour. It will commit to ensuring people can access its service and make sure that residents are clear about what action can be taken and how. Those involved in tackling anti-social behaviour across Wirral, are also committing to make sure that all agencies and organisations have a part to play and assist in dealing with this problem.

Alan Stennard, Wirral Council's Director of Regeneration said: "This announcement shows that Wirral has been one of the areas at the forefront of tackling anti-social behaviour and that we will not tolerate such behaviour. As an Action Area we will, with the support of our communities, continue our fight against anti-social behaviour. We want to help our communities to put back the power in the hands of the law-abiding majority."

Superintendent Colin Matthews, of Wirral police, stated: "Neighbourhood policing is all about addressing community issues - and anti-social behaviour is something which concerns every one of our communities. The TOGETHER initiative is a massive opportunity for the Crime and Disorder Partnership to reach out to more local people, gather their support and improve the quality of life for residents of all

ages. For our part, the police will take positive action against offenders and support our local people who want to stand up and be counted."

Caroline Laing, Manager of Wirral's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, who has been dealing with the hardcore of anti-social individuals for many years said: "We made a decision a number of years ago that anti-social behaviour would simply not be tolerated and we have made good progress to tackle this behaviour. We will continue to work as hard as we can to tackle the small minority of individuals who makes the lives of decent people miserable and destroy communities, but we need the support of residents to do this. Those individuals and communities who have had anti-social behaviour dealt with in their areas, are those individuals and communities who have said enough is enough and stood up to be counted. I cannot emphasise enough that anti-social behaviour can only be tackled with the support of residents and this is not the responsibility of one or two brave people it is the responsibility of everyone."

- **Wirral Council Spreads the Warmth**

Residents have started to benefit from a new scheme launched by Wirral Council to help make homes warmer, reduce bills and help stop climate change.

The 'Cosy Homes' scheme gives residents in privately owned or privately rented properties in the Housing Market Renewal Initiative (HMRI) area the opportunity to receive grants to make their homes warmer.

Residents in parts of Bidston & St James, Birkenhead & Tranmere, Liscard, Rock Ferry and Seacombe wards are being encouraged to take advantage of the scheme.

And one resident in Liscard has already taken advantage of the scheme. The 60-year-old who lives in a terraced house has received loft insulation and cavity wall insulation free of charge.

He said: "I strongly recommend people take advantage of the scheme, it's fantastic. I received a leaflet through the door and after calling up for further information I was pleased to be told I would receive free insulation."

The grant offers residents generous discounts, for an average 2/3 bedroom terraced house the price of loft insulation is £88 and cavity wall insulation is £64, approximately a quarter of the normal price.

And if you receive welfare benefits or are over 60 years of age the insulation is free of charge. Householders receiving the grant will also receive free low energy light bulbs and a hot water tank jacket if required. If you already have loft insulation and it is less than 75mm (3 inches) thick, you could get it topped up to the current standard of 270mm (approx 10 1/2 inches).

'Cosy Homes' is funded by NewHeartlands as part of the Government's HMRI initiative. To apply for a grant contact 0800 512 012 or write to MEEAC, Freepost NWW 3227, Wallasey, CH44 6YZ (no stamp required).

- **Are you registered to vote?**

Wirral Council electoral staff are reminding local adults to check they are registered to vote – as if a general election were called for May, voters would need to have applied for inclusion on the register of electors by 11 March to be eligible.

Anyone who has moved address or moved into the area since December 2004 needs to notify the Town Hall of the change by the March deadline if they want to be included on the register and be eligible to vote.

To check you are on the register, call 691 8046, or call in at Wallasey Town Hall during normal office hours.

- **Licensing Policy Update**

Following the Consultation process a Statement of Licensing Policy has been developed. This policy was approved by the Council on 20 December.

This Policy is now available on our web site. www.wirral.gov.uk

As the Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003, we are now able to transfer existing licences into the new system of licensing from 7 February 2005.

These licences will not come into effect until after the second appointed date which is yet to be announced by the Government. Should there be any applications to vary existing licences the holder of the licence will have to advertise this application and a process of consultation will take place.

All applications to vary will be sent to Ward Councillors as well as the Police, Fire Service and other responsible authorities.

- **Public Consultation**

There appears to be general concern being expressed in Area Forums about the problems presented by alcohol in terms of drunkenness ease of access and underage purchase and consumption of alcohol.

Forums also identified that vandalism and youths causing annoyance was a real problem effecting communities. However, it was also considered that part of this problem related to a perceived lack of facilities for young people.

What has become clear from Area Forum discussions is that communities want the Police to deal with antisocial behaviour. At the same time there is a recognition prompted by the police that due to resource issues and the subjectivity of the problem, this problem will only be solved by the Police, the Local Authority and the affected communities working together.

Positive feedback was also given at many forums and areas gave approval of alley-gates and praise was given in the New Brighton forum for how the police and Local Authority deal with Antisocial Behaviour and problem families.

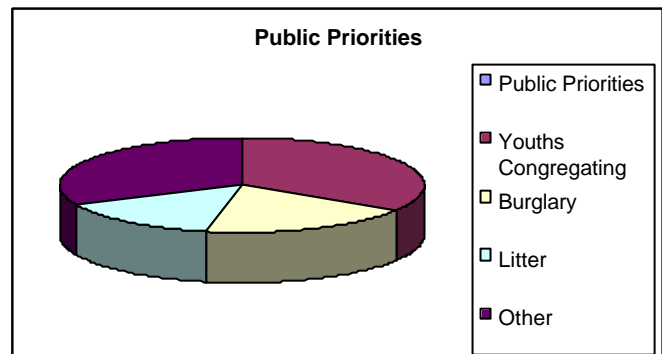
Area Forum Consultation Conclusions

In 2004 the number of forums increased from 8 to 11. All of the residents attending the 11 Area Forums were given a brief presentation from the Wirral CDRP on the findings of the Crime and Disorder Audit and the Drugs and Alcohol Audit. A short questionnaire was handed out and the results compiled as follows:

Out of 116 residents who responded, 93% felt very or fairly safe in the daytime and 54.4% felt fairly or very safe at night.

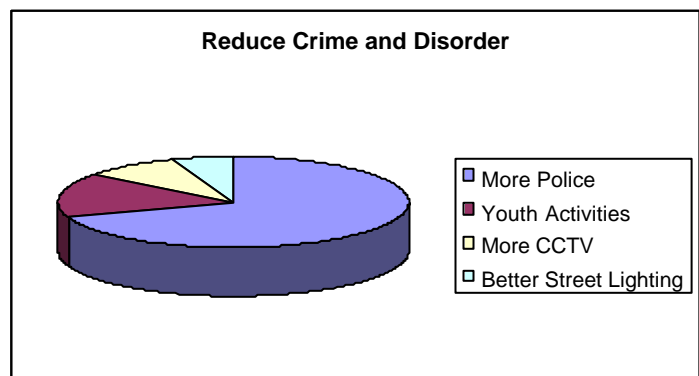
The top two priorities for Community Safety perceived by the sample of Wirral residents were:

Youths Congregating, (34%)
Burglary (19.9%)



When asked what they thought would help reduce Crime and Disorder

64% thought more police,
15% thought more youth activities
8% believed more CCTV
5.3% thought better street lighting



When asked how threatened they felt by general crime in Wirral, 35% felt not threatened or not very threatened by crime.

When results were analysed and broken down by postcode, the majority of residents identified youths congregating at the most serious problem, except in CH60 and CH61, who perceived burglary as the most serious problem in Wirral.

Wirral Youth Forums

Youth Forums are held every 2 months and represent the four main areas of Wirral; Wallasey, Birkenhead, West Kirby and South Wirral. The following feedback was taken from the July 2004 youth forums.

In the Wallasey youth forum, the local community issues that the youths reported were:-

- Not enough police
- More activities in local areas -skate parks + Football area
- More activities for youths
- More lighting in parks
- Improvement on the state of roads and pavements and need to clear up rubbish.
- Need for more football Cages – Improve cages outside youth club in Moreton.
- Sports facilities improved and more accessible.

Birkenhead Youth Forum stated that their local community safety issues were:-More facilities/ activities and improvements of existing facilities/parks.

- Drug use and users- More workers to deal with drug users
- Vandalism
- Improve the feeling of safety in their area
- Better lighting
- Phone boxes that work
- Public transport
- More youth clubs
- Reduce and eradicate bullying incidences
- More speed cameras
- More police patrolling the streets
- Shatter proof windows in bus stops
- More cameras around the estate
- More Alleygates in the area

West Kirby Youth Forum - The main community issues that were important to the youths of West Kirby were:-

- Need for greater Police engagement with young people.- Would like conference with Police
- Improvements and repair of phone boxes
- Curfew is wrong – should be imposed by parents not Police
- Should be cheaper fares on public transport – more accessible for young people.
- More facilities/activities -Open Youth club at w/e - Football pitches

- Groups of no more than two causes problems with social activities, just target the troublemakers not the whole group – introduce a form of self-responsibility.
- *Somewhere for bands to practice*

South Wirral Youth Forum - The local issues that most effect the young people of south Wirral were:

- *Glass in skate park*
- Groups of young people aged 16-20 hanging round Eastham shops / flats – they are very intimidating.
- Community Patrol / Police should visit the area more often.
- Vandalism / graffiti
- More activities especially over summer holidays –
- Re-open Ritzy for under 18 nights
- Caged sports area

Summary of Key Action Points:

For West Kirby the issue of designated area (Group Dispersal) was the biggest concern for the young people in the area. (*)¹ The group felt that individuals would be vulnerable on their own, and they shouldn't be separated on the streets. It would be really useful for them to discuss this with the Police.

For all areas the common concerns were the need for more activities for young people, more police patrols and an improved environment with better street- lighting and a reduction in vandalism and graffiti.

Specific to Birkenhead, the youths highlighted a concern with drug users in the area and stated that they would like to see more workers involved in reduction of users in the area. It was also minuted that they would like to see more alleyways gated.

Children's Views on Being Safe

At the Youth Voice Conference on 22nd October, 2004, the Local Authority held a focus group on the five outcomes of the green paper " Every Child Matters". Young peoples safety was amongst many of the issues, which were discussed. The main concerns highlighted were;

Gangs hanging around/roaming the streets – Intimidation

Not enough Police around Birkenhead

Lack of security on public transport

Young people drinking and peer pressure to drink

Scared to report incidents to police

The young people involved suggested ways in which to improve safety in Wirral:

Greater police presence to raise confidence

Crack down on bars serving alcohol to underage people

Raising awareness of services

- **Tsunami Disaster – How Wirral MBC is supporting the fundraising:**

The developments around fundraising in Wirral for the tsunami disaster.

A meeting of Wirral Council staff fundraisers, chaired by the Chief Executive Steve Maddox, was called late last week to respond to the many approaches from staff, the media and the public, all asking for guidance and a focus to the local effort.

The following points were agreed:

Many people have already given very generously, and many council sections are organising their own events. The Chief Executive's meeting did not seek to 'control' any of these activities, but to try to support them and offer an added focus to them.

Wirral has adopted Friday January 21 as a special day of fundraising across the Authority, with staff from all sectors being encouraged to raise more money. (It is emerging as the day many authorities up and down the country are having a special effort). In Wirral, this day has been dubbed "Snowdrop Day". (*Snowdrops, which will be in flower by then, are a symbol of better times to come, and white is the colour of mourning in the east*).

All staff are being strongly urged to take advantage of the Gift Aid scheme. *This scheme means the charity can add 28p to every £1 donated by a UK taxpayer. For example, Finance Department staff have already collected a fantastic £2,100 which has swollen to £2,614 because of Gift Aid*. There are two forms which can be used – a "gift aid form" which is sealed in an envelope with your donation and remains private and Sponsorship Forms which are open for all to see, but is easier for a group of people who don't mind their colleagues knowing what they have given. Both attract the additional 28p for every £1 given.

We know many of you have already given very generously, but if you can manage a little more, please do. It's up to you what you do – a 'non-work clothes' day, staff collection, coffee morning. All the money being collected from staff until Snowdrop Day is being donated to the DEC Tsunami Earthquake Appeal.

Collections can be taken to any bank, building society or Post Office, none of which are charging. Money should be counted and bagged, gift aid/sponsorship forms collated, cheques made out to DEC Tsunami Earthquake Appeal.

Friday Jan 21 is not intended be the end of fundraising, but it will provide a focus for the current activities.

The Council is already being advised of medium-term help, which may be required, such as adopting a village, supporting a school etc. Details will be passed on to staff as soon as the position is clear.

- **Future Presentations**

There may be requests from Education & Cultural Services to discuss some of the major service changes, with the Area Forums, however once a request is made I will inform the forum. If there are any matters of priority for forum members please get in touch, to see if it is possible to arrange a presentation / information about the matter.

It may be useful to decide presentations on the basis of priorities identified within the area plan. We try to have presentations at all our Area Forums. These presentations are informative and interesting to the community within our Ward boundaries.

Community Safety Programme

The Fire Service would like to come along to a future Area Forum and do a presentation about their Community Safety Programme.

Keith Phillips Community Fire Safety, Wallasey Fire station, Mill Lane, Wallasey 0151 5419/5420

Lottery Funding

Peter Riley who is a Lottery Advisor/Officer in the Special Initiatives Team, Planning & Economic Development. Would like to come along to discuss lottery funding, this would be an interesting topic, especially for us to point people in other directions for funding for when CIF hasn't been successful.

Peter Riley Corporate Services (previously Planning & Economic Development), SIT, Wallasey - 0151 691 8112

Future Forums

- 6th June 2005, Our Lady's Social Club, Claughton, Wirral
- October 2005 – to be arranged

- **Appendices**

- Minutes Bidston & Claughton 18th October 04

Minutes - Area Forum (Bidston and Claughton) Meeting - 18 October 2004

Present	
Chair	DE Roberts
Ward Councillors	JR Cocker , George Davies , S Foulkes , Ann McLachlan , H Smith
Community Representatives	Rev. Pat Billsborrow (Prenton Churches Together) , Pat Landsborough (Claughton Community Group) , Ms C Maddaford (Director of Nursing and Quality) , Collette McDonagh (Slatey Road Area Residents Association)
Lead Officer	Kevin Miller (Director of Social Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Michelle Gray
Merseyside Police	Inspector Mark Smith
Council Officers	Gary Cummings (Area Streetscene Manager)
In attendance:	Cathy Newman (Community Safety Team) , Margaret O'Donnell (Principal Officer, Licensing) , Mindy Rutherford (Head of DAAT) , Jim Thompson (Crime and Disorder Project Officer)
Apologies	Alison Moulder (Bidston Community representative)

Index to Minutes

- Minute 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
- Minute 2 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT
- Minute 3 - AREA PLANS
- Minute 4 - COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND
- Minute 5 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
- Minute 6 - PRIMARY CARE TRUST - UPDATE
- Minute 7 - LICENSING POLICY - PRESENTATION
- Minute 8 - COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE (DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM)
- Minute 9 - UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN - UPDATE
- Minute 10 - OPEN SESSION
- Minute 11 - FUTURE MEETINGS

Minute 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Denise Roberts, welcomed members and public to the first meeting of the Bidston & Claughton Area Forum, being held in the Discovery City Learning Centre, Noctorum Avenue, Claughton, Wirral.

39 members of the public attended this meeting.

Minute 2 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Michelle Gray, Area Co-ordinator, updated the forum on this document which was an ongoing report, highlighting activities in the area covered by this Forum.

Minute 3 - AREA PLANS

Michelle Gray indicated that the key task for each of the Area Forums was to develop an Area Plan, representing the local needs and priorities of each area. Area Plans would provide Forums with a 'to do' list of actions to help improve the environment for the local communities. The Area Plan was

currently out to consultation with comments/input requested by the next Area Forum meeting, scheduled for February.

Minute 4 - COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND

This fund currently stands at £11,259.32. The money from the fund was to benefit projects within the Bidston & St James/Claughton district. Adverts go out in the press around November time to enable any groups, business, partnerships to apply for this funding to benefit their area. Background information on Area Forums and this funding was available for the public to take away and think about for future forums. Anyone wanting further information on funding can contact the Team on 0151 691 8266/8069

Pat Landsborough proposed that each CIF application should be judged on its merits and a decision made before moving on with the agenda. Following discussion on the process, it was agreed that Youth and Crime would still be priorities, but that each individual application would be considered on its own merits. It was noted that bids could not be accepted from individuals or secular, religious or political groups. Groups should also be aware of the possibility for match funding.

Minute 5 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public asked what happened in the event of people not receiving the free newspapers, who could, therefore, miss out on the opportunity to apply for this type of funding. Agreed that the Forum needs to ensure information is passed to them and suggestions for distribution round groups was requested. One idea was for an A4 poster to be designed and distributed round groups and also a list of successful bidders in the last round to be circulated to give an idea of what to aim for. Discussion on whether to stay with particular themes, such as Youth and Crime which were the key focus items for last year, or whether to keep it open. The Area Forum has been successful in getting the money out there into the community.

The Forum's attention was drawn to the problem of youths riding motor bikes in the area and a question raised of whether any funding could be made available for a facility to be set up for motorbike maintenance. Reference was made to the excellent job/operations being carried out by the Police, who were happy to take names and addresses and follow up.

A member of the public, on behalf of Wirral Transport Users Association, referred to the electrification of the Wrexham line and a proposed new station to serve the Beechwood Estate and asked what progress had been made and whether it was possible to move forward as soon as possible. Councillor Harry Smith agreed to approach the Director of Technical Services to check on feasibility and feedback before the next Forum.

The issue of regeneration was raised, with people in the Thorneycroft Street vicinity unclear about proposals in their area. Councillor George Davies briefed on the consultation process, part of which had involved 4 open meetings, all of which were poorly attended. He would raise the consultation process with the Director of Housing and Environmental Protection and look to widen and include everyone in the area. This could be done by door knocking and using the community groups to deliver information. Councillor Davies explained the timescale for consultation, with a report coming back to community groups in January 2005. Councillor Davies would respond to

an individual question tomorrow.

Minute 6 - PRIMARY CARE TRUST - UPDATE

Cathy Maddaford, Director of Nursing and Quality, Primary Care Trust, updated the forum on the work of the PCTs. Views of local residents and users of the Health Service had been incorporated in the newly established Patients Forum. Cathy also briefed on the well established Patients Advice Service which was moving shortly when the new Lauries Project opens, making it more accessible. An annual guide to local health services has been produced, which was going to be dropped to every household during October. A website was available providing information on the services provided and how the public can be involved in influencing them. Cathy updated the forum on the massive Government agenda around Health, with one of the key themes being around choice. From December 2005 anyone referred to a hospital or any other service should be given a choice of 4/5 providers. Proposals included:

§ A programme to develop a firm system you can start to pick appointments and developing information systems to enable that to happen.

§ Making services more localised and looking to relieve difficulties in parking.

§ Already started to develop cardiac/orthopaedic clinics.

§ Looking to develop more modern and user friendly environments and accommodation, with a new walk-in centre at VCH early December this year.

§ GP surgery developments, looking at the consultation around new GP practices and more modern surgeries.

§ Local Authority services for Older People to enable them to be more independent.

§ The development of Children's Centres.

§ Looking to improve the health of the local population, just produced an annual Public Health report involving the local communities.

Cathy would provide contact details for anyone requiring further information. Noted that the consultation process for the closure of the 2 wards at VCH commences today.

Questions raised:

The lack of public transport amenities in getting to hospitals, particularly Arrowe Park and VCH was discussed. A suggestion was made to locate walk-in centres more locally and Cathy agreed to feedback the accessibility issue. Reference was also made to the fact that the x-ray department shuts at 5.00 p.m. at VCH and Cathy would also feed that back.

Car parking difficulties were discussed, particularly in reference to Arrowe Park Hospital. Councillor Foulkes reported that, as part of ongoing discussion with the Hospital and Council about the car parking at APH, a task had been set to come out with a way forward to ensure that day time visiting was monitored and something done about managing the car parking issue. A decision has been agreed, in principle, which should enable greater provision of car parking spaces. It was essential to ensure that the park and ride scheme continues and residents parking scheme operates in the immediate area. Agreed that if bus services were improved more people would use public transport. Noted that part of the Area Plan refers to transport links with primary medical services and the Transport Plan takes all measures into account, including looking at car sharing for staff in hospitals.

Question raised: - Ownership of a piece of land in Duke Street. Councillor McLachlan had some information and would feedback to individual following the meeting.

Minute 7 - LICENSING POLICY - PRESENTATION

Margaret O'Donnell, Principal Officer, Licensing gave a presentation on the implications of the new Act, which cites major changes to licensing legislation starting next year. The Government was looking to streamline the process and Margaret briefed on the fundamental changes to the way licenses would be issued. All existing licenses will be transferring into a whole new system administered by the local Council. Copies of the draft policy were available to take away and read. The timescale for the process was tight. Government passed legislation in July last year, but only published guidance in July this year. The Licensing Policy had to be in place by 7 January next year, which means the consultation period would finish early November, report presented to Licensing Committee on 22nd November and to Council on 20th December.

Questions raised: - Issue of why fireworks aren't licensed. This was an issue for the Government, however new legislation has come into force re fireworks and Trading Standards would be undertaking tests. Anyone suspecting a shop of selling fireworks to anyone under 18 should report this to Trading Standards.

The structure of the new Licensing Committee – this would consist of 15 Council members, together with a sub committee made up of 3 members of that 15. There would be an appeal process in place.

Minute 8 - COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE (DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM)

Jim Thompson reported to the Forum on the Wirral Crime & Disorder Audit 2001-2004. The Wirral Community Safety Team is a central point of contact for all crime reduction agencies and co-ordinates the crime reduction activities of the 3 lead agencies - Police, Council and PCTs in Wirral. Jim produced maps of the wards after 2004 and Police Neighbourhoods covering each, with contact names highlighted. He also produced comparisons between wards on incidents of burglary and violence across the Borough. Priorities identified from the audit were violence, primarily alcohol related and domestic/anti social behaviour/motor vehicle theft. Noted that questionnaires had been sent out to the public.

Mindy Rutherford, Co-ordinator for Wirral Drug and Alcohol Action Team, shared some of the work DAAT were currently undertaking. Mindy provided a general overview of DAAT and went on to talk about what it does, its achievements over the last few years and what it hoped to achieve in the future. She also briefed on how Wirral was performing against some of the Government's targets.

The local DAAT plan highlights all activity. All programmes being developed would be evidence based and, as part of that developing planning process, we are required this year to carry out an audit review of the nature and scale of drug use on Wirral. This should be completed by the end of December and would guide our plans for the next 3 years and Mindy offered to come back and report on the final review. Noted the Government Department has commended Wirral for its effective treatment service. A questionnaire was available to fill in and inform of any concerns. Contact details were on the form.

Minute 9 - UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN - UPDATE

Kevin Miller provided an update on the Wirral Unitary Development Plan. A report of alterations to the UDP was placed on deposit for public consultation over the summer. The period for objections to this first stage now complete. Economic Regeneration and Planning Strategy Select Committee received report on 12th October, summarising the objections and would consider issues raised at a meeting scheduled for January 2005. Following this meeting the plan will again be placed on deposit for further public consultation, when fresh objections can be made. If Council cannot agree with objectors, a Public Inquiry will be held in October 2005. The final plan has to be adopted by the Council before 21st July 2006. Kevin highlighted the major changes within the plan affecting Bidston & St James and Claughton wards.

There was an opportunity to comment/register concerns and details were available on the Council's website www.wirral.gov.uk or by contacting Richard Lewis on 0151 691 8222 or Andrew Fraser on 0151 691 8218. or via email richardlewis@wirral.gov.uk or andrewfraser@wirral.gov.uk.

Minute 10 - OPEN SESSION

The Chair indicated that there were only a few minutes remaining and asked if anyone had any urgent issue to raise.

Bidston Preservation Trust were concerned about proposed alterations to UDP and highlighted the need, within Wirral, for an Archeological Resource Unit.

Under the UDP item concern was raised amount of brown belt that we have got owned by Merseyside Docks & Harbour Board in the docks area, with a request to discuss future plans with MDHB.

Comments were made on the colouring scheme for new library at St. James's.

Minute 11 - FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 2nd February at Out Lady's Social Club, Claughton.

The Chair thanked the Learning Centre for the use of the room, the speakers for their presentations and everyone for attending the meeting.