

**Bidston & Claughton**

**Area Forum**

**Area Co-ordinator's Report**

**6<sup>th</sup> June 2005**

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# **Section One**

## **Community Initiative Funding**

## **Section 1: Community Initiative Funding**

For the 2005/06 financial year, each area forum will be responsible for allocating the following specific funding streams:

**Community Initiatives Fund** - small grants available for voluntary and community groups to support local projects and initiatives in line with area forum agreed priorities (£11,000 per forum);

**Community Safety** - specific funding ring-fenced for initiatives dedicated to tackling crime and nuisance (£3,000 per forum);

**Environmental Funding** - specific funding, provided through Local Agenda 21, for community based projects aimed at improving or maintaining the local environment (£1,500 per forum).

As in previous years, each area forum will be responsible for setting their own priorities and processes for agreeing and allocating funds.

### **Community Initiatives Fund Update**

#### **2004/2005**

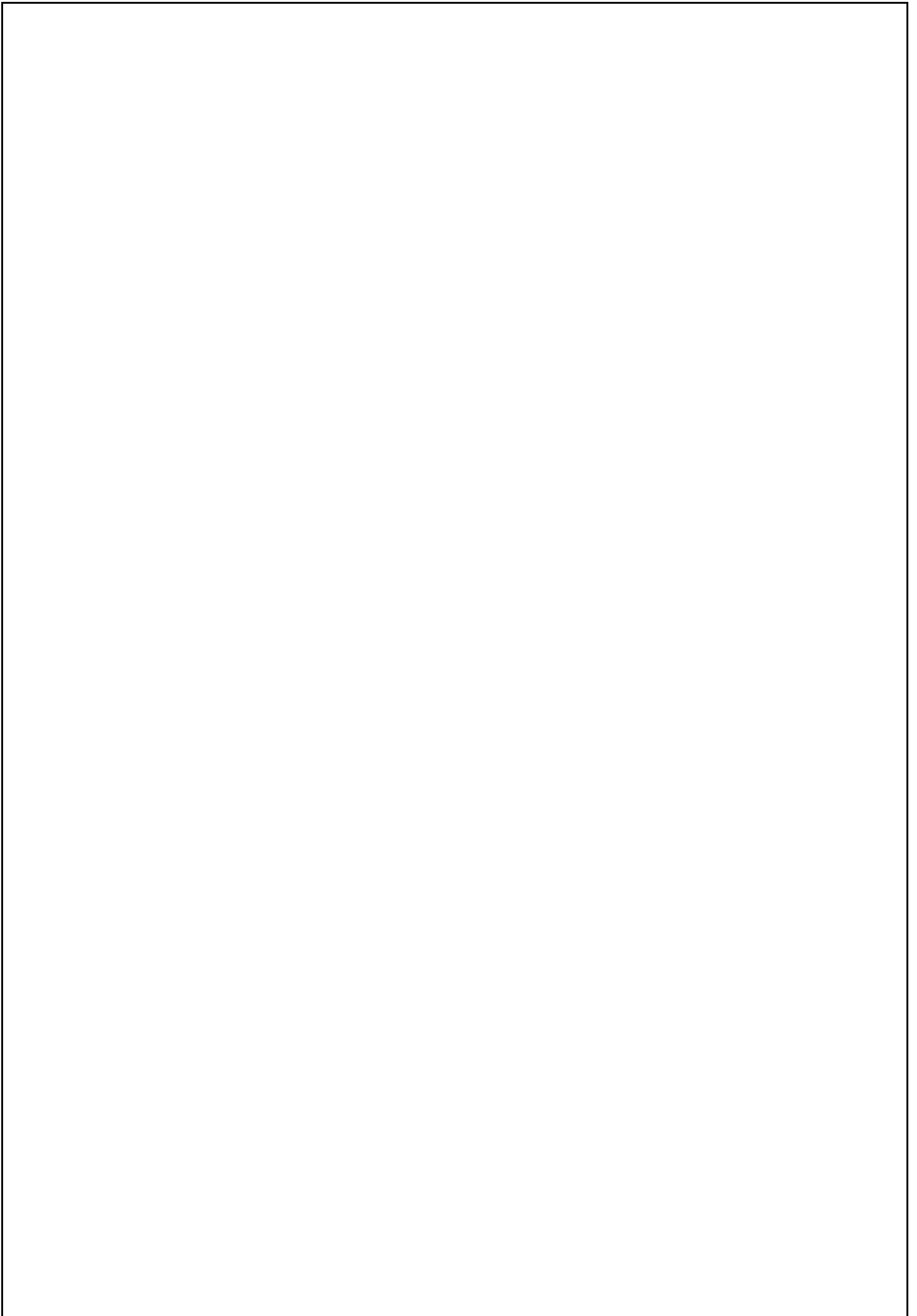
The forum had funding of £11,259.32 in 2004/05 (including sum carried forward from 2003/04) and awarded grants totalling £8,520.00 for twelve projects (detailed overleaf) at the panel meeting in January 2005, which were approved at Cabinet on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **2005/2006**

The forum has a carry forward of £2,739.32 and allocation of £11,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund; and allocations of £3,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund (for community safety projects) and £1,500.00 from the LA21 Fund (for environmental projects).

**This gives the forum a total of £18,239.32.**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project / Service</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Sundowns	To purchase paper, ink, envelopes and postage for the bi-monthly newsletter	<b>£750.00</b>
Birkenhead Park FC (Rugby Union)	To train volunteers in rugby coaching, child welfare and protection, refereeing and first aid. Also to purchase new equipment and kit.	<b>£750.00</b>
Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	To recruit, train and meet expenses of 25 new volunteers, to visit victims and their families over the whole of Wirral.	<b>£600.00</b>
Wirral Family Friends	To purchase a laptop and TV/Video/DVD player.	<b>£100.00</b>
St James with St Bede PLC	To purchase sports and craft equipment and storage lockers to enable the provision of additional activities for young people using St Bede's Hall.	<b>£620.00</b>
Wirral Women & Childrens Aid	To provide training for staff and volunteers and educational and development courses for women, to help them break the cycle of domestic violence.	<b>£750.00</b>
Groundwork Wirral	To help towards the cost of engaging an artist to work on Brassey Gardens, a new and exciting recreational space for children to play in.	<b>£1,000.00</b>
Wirral African and Caribbean Community Voice (WACCV)	To integrate the Black & minority Ethnic and the Irish Youth with their white counterparts, to build up the confidence of these young people to access current provision. The project will provide opportunities for integration through sport and youth activities.	<b>£500.00</b>
Beechwood Community Association	To cover the running costs needed for the association to provide services to the community.	<b>£1,000.00</b>
Beechwood Falcons	To purchase kit and equipment for the club, to enable engagement with young people.	<b>£250.00</b>
Power House Youth Centre (Beechwood Community Trust)	To employ a learning mentor to assist the IT facilitator in creating a Homework Club.	<b>£700.00</b>
Claughton Community Group	To contribute to advertising, setting up and administrative costs and equipment for a summer camp.	<b>£1,500.00</b>



# **Section Two**

## **Developing & Implementing a Local Area Plan**

## **Section 2:           Developing & Implementing a Local Area Plan**

### **Area Plan Update**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide forum members with an update of progress made in relation to the development of area plans and to suggest possible next steps for the forum to implement which will support the achievement of priorities identified locally for action.

#### **Background**

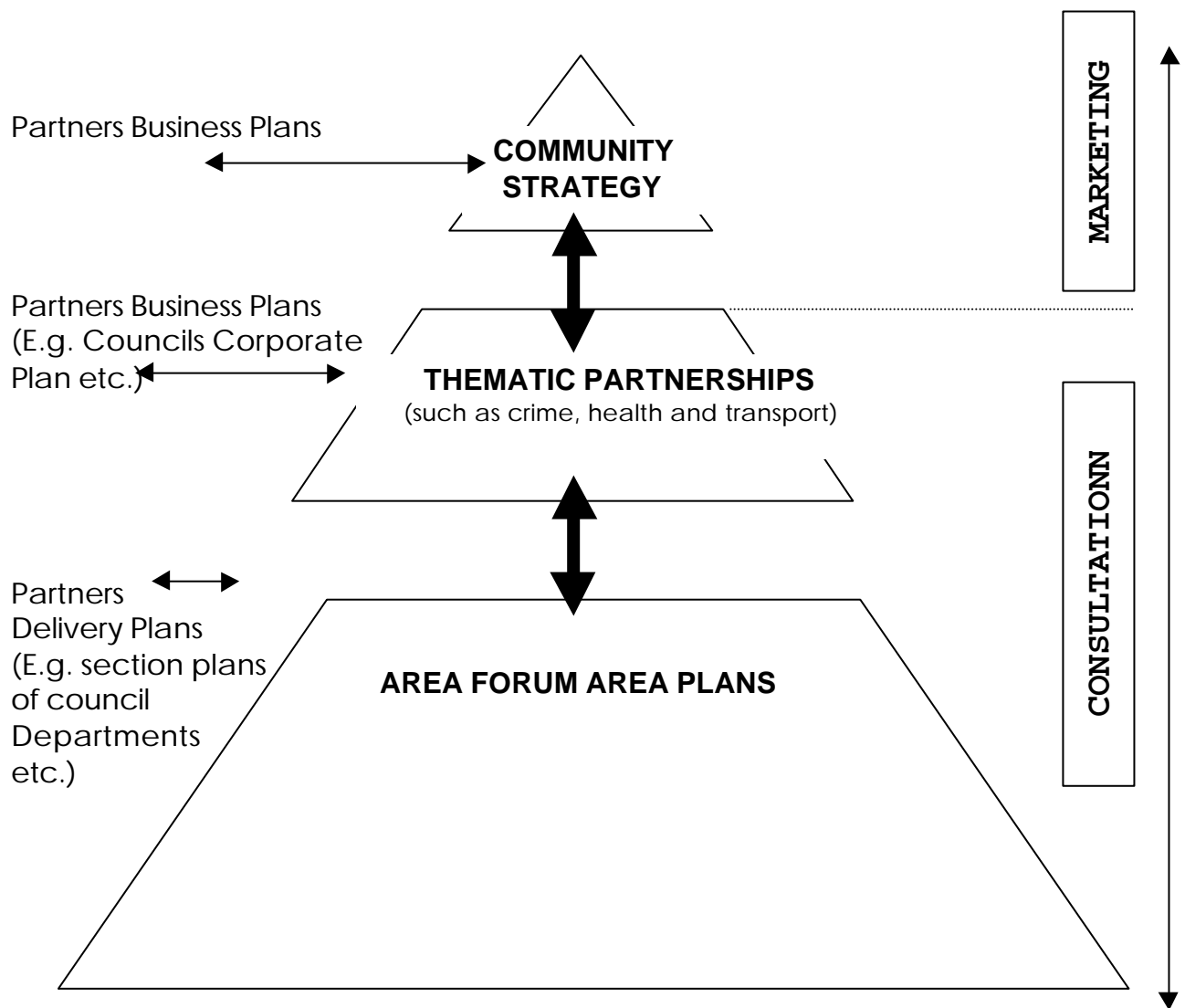
One of the key tasks envisaged for all area forums since their introduction in 2001 was the development of specific local area plans which reflected the needs and priorities of the area forum. The area plans form a key element of the overarching community strategy – developed through Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership – which sets out how the council and its partners will work towards improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of all communities in Wirral.

#### **Area plans are designed to:**

- Identify the needs and aspirations of the local community;
- Identify significant social, economic and environmental trends through establishing an overall demographic picture of the area;
- Promote initiatives that will address the identified local needs and priorities;
- Provide a work plan for the area forum;
- Provide a more local perspective to the overarching community strategy through identifying 'common' issues and needs across the area forums;
- Feed into the service planning cycles of the council and its partners to ensure that the identified local needs are influencing business plans and strategies.

The diagram on the next page, shows how the area plans developed by local area forums feeds into, and influences, the business plans and overarching community strategy for Wirral.





The development of area plans has been ongoing for the last 18 months. The work carried out by the area forum has also been informed by Quality of life surveys, Wirral's Citizen Panel, specific information drawn from area forums and existing consultation results.

### Next Steps

The development of the area plans has been further protracted by the recent changes to ward boundaries and the increase in the number of area forums, which has delayed the production of the plans.

It is proposed that the area forum:

- Approves the attached area plan, developing a work programme to support forum activities in meeting issues identified within the plan as being a priority for local people;
- Refreshes the existing plan (to be completed by December 2005 to allow for the plans to inform service planning cycles);

- Undertake further consultation with local communities – through specific mechanisms identified by the forum – to identify specific local needs and priorities around the new community strategy themes.

# **Section Three**

## Youth Forum Update

## **Section 3: Youth Forum Update**

### **Up 2 U Awards**

Wirral won the award for best Council on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2005. Weston Spirit runs the awards and there are a number of categories including Youth Service, which was won by St Helens Council

Young people judge all the awards. And they felt that in relation to Wirral it was improving and offering young people better services across the Council

### **Area Youth Forums**

- Consultation with transport dept and Police
- Allocation of forum money

The first half of the forum involved young people in a large group discussing transport issues as part of a wider consultation on Wirral. The police were consulting with young people on the best way to present information to young people. For the second part of the forum the young people present were divided into groups. Each group had a set of application forms (designed and filled in by young people). The groups spent about 20 mins discussing whom they would allocate funding to and why. We reformed into one big group and went through the process of negotiating and allocating the funding. Some of the unintended outcomes included: user groups sharing some resources as they were doing a similar project, freeing up money to be allocated elsewhere. Offering to fund raise for a particular group if it was unsuccessful in getting funding and putting prejudice aside to allocate money to a rival group.

#### **• Funding Allocated**

Greasby Outreach project	£250
Pensby barge trip	£250
Jigsaw video work	£100
Beaconsfield skills project	£100
Beaconsfield craft project	£100
Beaconsfield/Fender cultural project	£50
Powerhouse newspaper	£90
Fender YAP health project	£100
North end YPP Homelessness project	£110
Eastham YC D of E resources	£100
Eastham YC Drama activities	£100
Bromborough YC cooking project	£100
Bromborough YC Southport trip	£100
Bromborough YC Card Making	£100
YMCA senior member training	£100
Belvidere YC quiet room project	£100
WYPP social event	£100
Skateboard group / skating trip	£100
Leasowe health project	£100
Moreton senior club training	£100

# **Section Four**

Streetscene update

## **Section 4: Streetscene update**

### **Plans to spruce up Wirral for the Open**

Wirral Council has announced plans to invest £300,000 on the biggest clean up operation the borough has ever seen – so as the region shines for The Open golf championship in 2006.

The eyes of the world will fall upon Hoylake in July next year, when an estimated 40,000 visitors per day descend upon the area and the event is watched on television by 350 million people around the globe.

The authority is enlisting help from public sector colleagues, local businesses, landowners, schools and community groups to spruce up the region and guarantee a warm welcome for visitors.

Director David Green said: “The Open presents us with a fantastic opportunity to showcase Wirral to the rest of the world. We will be embarking on a mammoth tidy up campaign - spanning a huge area and involving people from a wide range of backgrounds. The Council can't do this on its own. We will be relying on the efforts of everyone in Wirral to get behind us, show their pride in the local area and get involved.”

Wirral Council already has a good reputation for its cleanliness - as recognised our recent inspection by the audit commission, and for its work developing innovative anti-litter campaigns that have been short-listed for national awards. This project builds on these successes and aims to ensure that Wirral looks its best for the Open.

The Council has been gathering intelligence from other host Councils to maximise opportunities created by the event and regeneration plans for the Hoylake and West Kirby area are now being implemented. Many of us are aware that work has already begun brightening up the street scene in West Wirral. More than 70 trees have been planted along Meols Drive, and roundabouts and shrub beds have been given a thorough revamp. A litter blitz is set to target key transport routes in and out of Wirral, together with Hoylake, West Kirby and neighbouring town centres. Land owners Network Rail have pledged to tackle waste issues along the Liverpool to West Kirby railway line. As the golf championship approaches, the Highways Agency and Mersey Tunnels will also be working tirelessly to clear their land of any illegally dumped rubbish.

Much work is being done by the local authority to catch the criminals responsible for fly-tipping in these areas and in other parts of Wirral. Every effort is being made to trace those responsible and take action against them. To help the Council with these investigations officers have the use of covert surveillance equipment that is sited in known hotspots. Further educational work will be taking place in Wirral's schools. The Council's award winning 'anti-litter' roadshow that encourages secondary school children to take more pride in their local environment, will be embarking on a new series of tours. Primary School litter clubs are also being asked to get involved in organising community clean-ups.

During the tournament community volunteers will be enlisted to serve as uniformed town guides. These guides, and additional volunteers from the business community, will be encouraged to report any environmental issues to our Streetscene contact centre for immediate action during the Championship. We will have an increased presence in terms of street cleaning staff, for the duration of the event.

## **Section 4: Streetscene update**

### **Support for Recycling**

Wirral residents have expressed overwhelming support for changes to rubbish collections, according to a recent survey.

More than 75% of householders responding to a waste questionnaire have said that they would like an additional bin or container for storing recyclable waste at home.

The Council's recycling team has been consulting with residents about how it can encourage more people to recycle. This recent survey is one of a series planned for the coming months. Results will be used to inform the Council of key issues to consider when planning the new kerbside collection arrangements.

Wirral Council's Director of Technical Services David Green said: "The reality is that less than 12% of waste is being recycled in Wirral while the rest of our rubbish is being sent to landfill. Changes to waste collections are essential if we are to boost this figure, meet government requirements and more importantly protect our local environment.

"We want to make it even easier for the people of Wirral to recycle. With the results from this recent survey, it is reassuring to see that residents are supportive of all recyclable rubbish being collected from outside their front door."

The local authority is about to embark on a major re-organisation of waste services that will see recycling rates soar - with paper, cardboard, glass, can, garden waste and clear plastic collections likely to come into effect in Spring next year.

These recyclables will be taken to a new Material Recycling Facility, which, after several years of negotiation, is currently being built in Bidston. The site will be managed and owned by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority. Here Wirral's waste will be sorted out and sent on to recycling companies for transforming into new materials.

### **Litter Prosecutions**

Enforcement officers are continuing in their fight against litter louts. Thoughtless residents are being warned that illegal dumping could cost them dearly – as two women were heavily fined by the courts this week.

Resident from New Ferry Road, was fined £150 plus costs at a hearing before Birkenhead Magistrates on Tuesday, April 5. The court heard how Miss Cole had dumped bags of rubbish less than 100 yards from her home in Salisbury Avenue last November 18, 2004.

Resident from Newling Street in Birkenhead was also fined £150 plus costs after leaving household waste in an entry between Newling Street and Prince Edward Street last October 29, 2004.

The women were caught by Wirral Council's environmental enforcement team, responding to fly-tipping reports from local residents. After searching through bags, the officers were able to trace the rubbish back to the owners.

After failing to pay a fixed penalty, both cases were taken to court by Wirral Council and they were found guilty of the offences in their absence.

## **Section 4: Streetscene update**

### **Road Safety Update**

Road safety officers have been out and about visiting Wirral schools to promote sensible driving.

Pre-driver training has been given to pupils at West Kirby Grammar school. Students were offered advice on selecting a driving school, learning about attitudes, risk and behaviour. They were also given an overview of the demands of both the Theory Test and the Practical Driving Test, taught practical checks (oil, water, brake fluid etc) and even changed a wheel!

Meanwhile students taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award scheme at Pensby High School for Boys welcomed road safety officers and two police motorcyclists to school for a talk this term as part of a traffic education training programme. The police officers took their bikes to the school and engaged the boys in the positive and negative points of being both a police officer and a motorcyclist. Students at the school have one more lesson learning about the physical damage caused by road traffic collisions and then they have to take an examination.

### **Switch off and Belt Up**

Road safety officers and Merseyside Police have launched a 'Switch off and belt up!' driver safety campaign.

Throughout April, Merseyside Police were cracking down on motorists they saw using a mobile phone whilst driving, and stopping drivers and passengers who were not wearing their seatbelts.

The police enforcement campaign was supported by an educational 'push' from regional road safety officers. They targeted local communities with publicity reminding motorists to switch off their mobile phones before starting the engine, and reiterating the message that seatbelts save lives. The initiative is in support of the ongoing Department for Transport 'Think!' road safety campaign.

Merseyside Police and road safety officers gathered at Tranmere Rovers Football Club at the launch of the road safety campaign. Young drivers who recently passed their test attended to take part in an off-road cone slalom - while using a mobile phone. Anna Cope from Support and Information Services was among those taking part. For safety reasons this was done using dual control cars, with assistance from local driving instructors. It proved the point that it is not possible to control a car with the distraction of a mobile phone.

David Midmer, the bereaved father of road traffic collision victim Nathan, also spoke at the launch to talk about his loss and the impact that careless driving can have on a family.

Wirral Council's road safety officer Dave Watson said: "We want to remind motorists that mobile phone and seatbelt laws are in place to protect people. People are still too complacent about using handheld mobiles whilst driving. Throughout the launch demonstration our young drivers have had great difficulty controlling the car while they had a mobile phone clamped to their ear. We've proved this in a safe environment, but how many people are out there on our roads, still ignoring the law? Anyone using a mobile phone while driving is not in full control of their car - it is a dangerous distraction. If you are setting out on



## **Section 4:           Streetscene update**

a journey, please be careful and take a moment to carry out your in-car safety checks. Don't forget to switch off your phone and belt up."

### **Success in Fighting Claims**

The number of claims being made against Wirral Council has fallen dramatically – as the local authority is establishing a winning reputation for itself in the court room.

Improved systems and procedures have brought about a staggering 66% drop in the number of claims pursued against the Council. Whereas two years ago the Council was receiving up to 180 claims a month, the authority now receives less than 60 claims each month. And of 41 cases taken to court in 2003/04, Wirral Council officers successfully defended 35, making for a win rate of 83%.

Recent years have seen local authorities up and down the country facing growing numbers of highway claims made against them. However, officers in Wirral have been working hard to counter this trend as part of its Streetscene overhaul of services.

Highway inspectors have been undergoing specialist training to give them more confidence in the court room. They have taken part in one-day intensive workshops which cover everything from preparations before going into court, dealing with cross examination, developing confidence in giving effective evidence and a mock trial.

Wirral Council has also enlisted the help of specialist risk advisors in a bid to make the borough's roads and pavements safer. Insurance giant Zurich Municipal has been assisting the local authority with implementing current industry 'best practice' for maintaining roads and pavements.

Inspection regimes have been re-organised, priorities for road repairs are now assessed differently, and there is a new Council policy for replacing paving flags with Bitmac. This has proven to be a much safer and cost effective alternative, particularly in areas where flags are repeatedly broken or lifted because of inconsiderate motorists parking on the pavement. Claims 'hotspot' areas are also mapped and closely monitored by inspectors.

As a result of all these changes the Council is now in a better position to prove that it fulfils its legal obligations for highway maintenance. Wirral will continue to work with industry experts to improve both the condition of roads and pavements and its claims record.

Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council David Green said: "We are striving to make roads and pavements even safer for the Wirral public. Much work has been done to re-organise the way in which we carry out highway inspections in line with national recommendations.

"We've also rolled out an extensive training programme to familiarise our highway inspectors with the court room environment and give them the confidence to provide good evidence. It is now reassuring to see our efforts are paying off with this massive reduction in claims being made against the Council."

### **Award winning litter campaigning**

Wirral Council has been shortlisted for a prestigious national environmental award – in recognition of its achievements with anti-litter campaigning to teenagers.

## **Section 4: Streetscene update**

The X:CELL4WIRRAL campaign has seen innovative partnership working between the Council, secondary schools, Radio City and Tranmere Rovers FC. Over the last year all have been involved the co-ordinated targeting of anti-litter messages at school children using the web, radio advertising, live stage shows, text messaging and community litter picks.

The X:CELL4Wirral initiative has already received regional recognition – winning the category for Innovation and Technology at the Merseyside 21 Awards earlier this month). The campaign has been deemed so impressive that it was also shortlisted for the annual ENCAMS ‘People and Places’ awards that took place in Birmingham this month, hosted by comedian Jasper Carrott. The environmental charity, which manages the ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ campaign, organises the awards to highlight work local authorities are doing to tackle local environmental quality issues that blight neighbourhoods.

### **New £1.3m BYPASS opens in SAUGHALL MASSIE**

#### **At a glance...**

- New £1.3m road scheme provides better transport links between West Wirral and the motorway network in readiness for The Open in 2006.
- Improved and safer facilities for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Partially opens to traffic this weekend after eight months of engineering and construction work.

Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council, David Green, said: “Wirral Council is committed to improving transport facilities across the region. This is a route of major strategic importance and the new road will provide better links between North West Wirral and the motorway network. “Not only will it reduce journey times for motorists, this road has also been designed to take into account the needs and safety of pedestrians, cyclists and even horse riders.”

# **Section Five**

## **Local Updates**

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

**Gangbuster'** appointed to spearhead Anti-Social Behaviour Team crackdown on youths.

WIRRAL Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team has appointed an officer to focus entirely on anti-social behaviour caused by gangs of youths.

From Monday February 14<sup>th</sup> 2005 a new officer begins a period of crackdown on youth anti-social behaviour.

Anti-social behaviour and annoyance caused by gangs of young people is one of the most reported issues affecting the quality of life of a number of Wirral residents and a concern raised at many neighbourhood forums and residents' meetings.

The newly appointed youth enforcement officer, Lucy Pritchard, who has four years' experience with the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, will be spending the next 12 months getting to grips with the gangs of youths who make the lives of some Wirral residents a misery.

Caroline Laing, Manager of Wirral's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, said, "The behaviour of gangs of youths can have a very detrimental impact on the lives of residents, particularly the most vulnerable members of our communities. This new post has been created specifically to deal with the problem and hopefully improve the lives of a number of Wirral residents.

We are very clear though that not all young people behave anti-socially, most are well-behaved, polite and respectful individuals. It is only the minority, who do not behave in a way that society expects, that we will be targeting. There are also many issues with tolerance, or more significantly the lack of, towards young people and this too is an issue we will be mindful of".

The newly-appointed officer Lucy Pritchard, commented, "There is much good work already being undertaken across Wirral to tackle this issue by the Council, police and other agencies and organisations. I am hoping to build upon this good practice and work closely with other stakeholders.

In particular, we want to hear from members of the public about what problems they are having and where.

Often such issues are not reported to the authorities and it is important that the Team embarks on this project with a clear idea of the extent and nature of the problem".

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **Withdrawn Bus Services 16/17**

Most bus services in Merseyside, and indeed throughout the Country, are operated on a commercial basis, which in essence means that the bus company that operates then decide when and where the route operates without the need to attain consent from Merseytravel.

This was the case with services 16/17, which were operated commercially by First who took the decision to withdraw the route.

Without actually operating any services ourselves, Merseytravel does have a limited budget to commission bus services for areas that require public transport as a social need, but are not otherwise served by the commercial network.

When contemplating the introduction or retention of supported services, amongst many considerations Merseytravel is required to take into account the level of alternative services, and to ensure that they do not substantially abstract passengers or revenue from commercial services.

Additionally any services we do financially support have to be justified in terms of providing “best value” for Council taxpayers as a whole.

In the context we do financially support a small number of services, which operate along Beaufort Road.

The services are marketed under the “Job Link” title and are primarily intended as services to employment areas, however they are available to all passengers and provide links to Arrowe Park Hospital and to Birkenhead Bus Station.

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **Residents show support for changes to recycling services**

April 2005

WIRRAL residents have expressed overwhelming support for changes to rubbish collections, according to a recent survey.

More than 75% of householders responding to a waste questionnaire have said that they would like an additional bin or container for storing recyclable waste at home.

The Council's recycling team has been consulting with residents about how it can encourage more people to recycle. This recent survey is one of a series planned for the coming months. Results will be used to inform the Council of key issues to consider when planning the new kerbside collection arrangements.

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The Council plans to take these recyclables to a new Material Recycling Facility, which, after several years of negotiation, is currently being built in Bidston. The site is owned by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority and managed by Mersey Waste Holdings on their behalf. Here Wirral's waste will be sorted out and sent on to recycling companies for transforming into new materials.

- The survey was carried out by non profit environmental consultants SWAP (Save Waste And Prosper) on behalf of Wirral Council.
- A total of 616 houses were selected to take part in the postal survey from a sample of postcodes across the borough.
- A total of 172 responses were received, giving a response rate of 28%. This is a high response rate for members of the public targeted with a postal survey.

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **Developing Skills for Neighbourhood Renewal**

Wirral Metropolitan College, Wirral Lifelong Learning Service, Birkenhead 6th Form College and the Worker's Educational Association

Working in Partnership

Wirral Metropolitan College, Wirral Lifelong Learning, Birkenhead 6th Form College and the Worker's Educational Association are working together in five Wirral wards; Leasowe, Seacombe, Bidston, Birkenhead and Tranmere to provide a range of opportunities in community settings for individuals who wish to improve skills in literacy, numeracy and communication.

Three development workers have been engaged and work as an impartial team in community locations across the Wirral.

They work with individuals on one to one basis providing information on opportunities offered by all the partner organisations and helping to overcome individual barriers. They can provide guidance with financial assistance to help with childcare, travel and books.

They also work collaboratively with other community based organisations and groups to provide customised provision in community locations.

By working collaboratively, using the expertise of each provider, the project aims to provide information about local English and Maths courses to individuals and respond to community needs with innovative ways of encouraging adults to participate in courses in the community.

If you would like to talk to a development worker about English, Maths and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses in your area, please contact

Carole Wilshaw at St James's Centre, Birkenhead or Beechwood Neighbourhood College	670 0359 677 9211
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Anna Douglas at Leasowe Early Years & Adult Learning Centre or Rock Ferry Adult Learning Centre	630 5069 645 9182
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Janet Castle at South Wallasey Neighbourhood College	691 2640
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## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **Local Transport Plan 2 Consultation In Wirral**

#### **Accessibility**

Free travel scheme for pensioners is good however the passes should be valid pre 0930hrs  
Access to work - public transport does not cater for the needs of shift workers.

Reliability of buses – cannot rely on them for journeys to work therefore limits opportunities.

Bus Networks – distribution of services is not balanced – some areas have lots of buses and others have none.

Access to hospitals difficult by public transport but also need to ensure that access to GPs is not overlooked. Shuttle buses from the villages and/or stations to the hospitals would benefit visitors and staff.

Need more evening bus services and Sunday services as accessibility to leisure and retail is limited (social inclusion issues). Train services also stop too early. As more people are now employed in leisure and retail this needs to be addressed.

Cost - Services are too costly – need more discounted tickets. Suggestion made to have tickets valid on all services for 60 or 90 minutes to make interchange between operators and modes easier. General comments regarding introducing standard fares and more integrated tickets.

Safety and Security issues affect accessibility as services are withdrawn due to vandalism. Buses and trains need to have conductors on and more visible staff. Need more CCTV

Customer care – inconsiderate attitudes of, and erratic driving by, bus drivers puts people off using the services. (Similar comments regarding private hire vehicles also made).

Bus operators/Merseytravel should be providing local services eg. Circulars around housing estates etc that feed into more strategic services along main routes.

We should all be looking at bringing services etc back to the communities so that we reduce the need to travel.

Information – there is still a need for more public transport information and a need to publicise its availability as a lot of people are not aware of where to get leaflets etc from. Also trains and buses need better information e.g. service numbers and destinations on buses. Need to be aware of information on train fronts not being easily read by partially sighted/elderly people due to “orange dot” format. Bus companies should not be allowed to handwrite their service number and destination on a piece of paper and stick it in the window. Buses should also have service number at the rear so you know if you have just missed it.

Pedestrians - Need more road crossing facilities. Footpaths which need to be in better condition. Crossings need to have clear visible indicators to show when safe to cross (some crossings don't have visible ‘green man’)

Bus shelters and bus timetables are much improved in recent years although timetables not always reflecting what the service actually does! – i.e. need speedier responses after changes to services.



## **Section 5: Local Updates**

Employers should be playing a bigger role in subsidising services in order to get people to their place of work.

Joblink – service is good but would it be better utilised and more time efficient taking people to the stations instead of direct to work – may reduce long journey times as rail journey often quicker.

Access to stations for disabled and parents with prams needs to be improved. Need to consider accessibility to areas outside Merseyside – particular support for electrification of Bidston to Wrexham rail line.

Interchange facilities at Liverpool for buses from Wirral need to be improved - buses through the tunnel do not go to the Coach Station or to Bus station. In particular problematic for the elderly or people with cases who have to walk up quite a distance after alighting from the bus. Should try to increase role of ferries

### **Congestion**

Congestion only occurs at peak times however it is unacceptable. Mixed views over the definition of congestion from 5 minutes to 30 minutes. General agreement that it has got worse in recent years.

Greatest problems outside schools, at the Tunnels, the A41, the Hospitals and the Motorway roundabouts. Main cause is school and work travel.

Congestion also caused by more localised issues such as road works – need better co-ordination of road works to reduce disruptions.

Park and Ride is key to reducing congestion however many stations need extensions to the car parks as it is pointless trying to encourage people to use the trains if no parking is available. Shuttle buses to key locations such as the Hospitals – would benefit visitors and staff.

Rail – rail is crucial in tackling congestion. Car drivers more likely to change to rail than to bus (social class issues). Strong support for the electrification of the Wrexham – Bidston line: would remove some cars off the road and increase accessibility to jobs

Could old railway track-beds be better utilised either through re-opening of rail services or making them available for walking/cycling routes?

Enforcement issues - specifically taxis and cars double parking needs to be enforced as this causes congestion.

Deterioration of bus services has led to increased congestion as more people won't use them. Therefore need to improve reliability and improvement of bus services – strong support that we should be looking at Quality Contracts/more public control of the bus network and more bus lanes (if properly enforced). However, acknowledgement that bus lanes can increase congestion if car drivers unwilling to make shift to bus.

Improvement and expansion of Community Transport and Demand Responsive Services. We should also be looking at car clubs. Could the planning system play more of a role with

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

regard to car free developments, or developments where facilities for a car club are designed in from new.

Traffic Management – signage needs to be clearer to avoid drivers getting lost and clogging up the towns. Signage painted on the roads is more useful than the signs on posts especially where several lanes of traffic. Improvements needed to traffic lights so that they do not stop cars and buses when there is no other traffic.

Need better integration between operators of buses and also better integration between buses and trains.

Walking and Cycling – need better facilities to attract people to cycling and walking e.g. storage facilities and changing facilities. Particularly to schools.

Mixed views on “stick” approach of reducing congestion, i.e. road tolling and car parking charges, however, agreement that can’t build more roads. Some feeling that Wirral residents are already tolled because of the tunnel.

Requests for Merseytram be extended to Wirral in the future.

Anti- social behaviour needs to be tackled if people are to be encouraged to get back on to public transport.

Flexible working/staggered school times – should be encouraging more companies/schools etc to allow flexible working/staggered school times.

Young people at the Youth Forum had not realised the link between congestion, air quality and cars - and their main desire was to own cars at age 17.

### **Road Safety**

Speed limits – differing views obtained; Some people thought speed limits should be more consistent (less changing of speed limits along routes) however others considered that variable speed limits at different times of day would work better. General support for lower speed limits in residential areas and more speed signs generally. View was that speed cameras work but traffic calming is less effective. Support for Homezones.

Enforcement – Residents should be trained to operate speed guns to warn drivers of speed? Should have cameras on buses to photograph cars in bus lanes. People should be more pro-active in reporting bad driving and reporting offenders (police systems would need evidence). General support for enforcement cameras however need for consistency, (not all functional) and their use needs to be further extended. Location of cameras should not be publicised but visibility of boxes could be improved - in Scotland, cameras are striped and were viewed as more visible. Incorrect parking should be more widely enforced.

Cameras – strong support, but preference was for speed/distance cameras as opposed to spot speeds which encourage people to slow down and speed up again once drivers have passed the camera. Mobile cameras keep people alert. Support for use of mobile speed warning signs to provide ‘surprise’ factor on roads.

Education – drivers need to be educated more – signage alone is not effective enough. Education should be more generally targeted and not just at the young – elderly people were

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

mentioned in particular. Mobile speed warning signs to raise drivers' awareness of their speeds are effective. "Gateway" markings were also seen as effective, as were the use of variable speed warning signs on approaches to known black spots.

Pedestrians and Cyclists - more roads to be pedestrianised to make it pleasant for walking and there is also the need to promote the health benefits of walking and cycling more. "Walking Bus" idea is excellent.

Rat running is a problem at peak times - need to address this.

Cycle lanes need to be continuous. Cycling on pavements needs to be addressed. Traffic calming measures need to take cyclists and motorcyclists into account as some speed ramps are too steep at slow speeds.

Driving standards – drivers should be re-tested periodically.

School buses – more enforcement required on vehicles - drivers cannot/will not control the children. Problem of unruly behaviour by school children also applies on public services.

### **Ideas**

Introduction of 'countdown system' at pedestrian crossings (like in Dublin) to indicate to waiting pedestrians how long they have to wait to cross.

Buses stop in roads rather than in laybys like in Leeds – cheap and effective traffic calming on busy routes.

### **Air Quality/Environment**

Strong agreement that transport is a significant contributor to poor air quality, however, apart from at specific spots, air quality was felt to be quite good on Wirral however noticeably worse during peak periods.

Main offenders were felt to be buses as they are usually from old inefficient fleets. As well as air pollution this also creates noise pollution.

Air quality and noise issue also raised in regard to Liverpool John Lennon airport and increasing numbers of flights over Wirral. Taxis were deemed to contribute to air pollution by leaving engines running

Alternative fuels should be investigated and encouraged - Buses should be gas/electric/hydrogen cell powered and trains can also be dual fuel or solar powered.

More control needed on HGVs with regard to parking, driving through centres, noise and fumes. More freight to be carried by rail to reduce the number of HGVs on the roads. Support for park and ride to reduce cars on the road.

Mixed views on "stick" approach of reducing congestion, i.e. road tolling and car parking charges. Suggestions for specified 'drop-off' locations near schools to avoid poor air quality at schools due to the numbers of waiting cars.

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

American yellow buses should be used for transporting children to school. Higher taxes for 4x 4's and sports cars. Need enforcement of parking on verges and pavements as these damage the streetscene.

Young people at the Youth Forum had not realised the link between congestion, air quality and cars - and their main desire was to own cars at age 17.

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **The St James Centre**

Managed by the newly formed North Birkenhead Development Trust. The Directors of the North Birkenhead Development Trust represent the Community in the area alongside Statutory Agencies. The Directors have undergone a Capacity Building Training Programme, provided by Pulse Regeneration, to develop the skills needed to operate the Trust, and to help in their understanding of the responsibilities in managing a building, and developing a wider regeneration agenda for the area.

The initial idea behind the St James Centre was developed in **2001** when Brock Carmichael undertook a feasibility study for Sure Start. Their recommendation was that Sure Start develop a multi-partner facility. At the same time there had been separate proposals for refurbishment or new building for the North Birkenhead Neighbourhood College, the Women's Centre and the Roundabout Centre, all close to the St James Church in North Birkenhead. Wirral Waterfront facilitated bringing the partners together and the different partners pursued funding, including Sure Start, New Opportunities Fund (from the Lottery), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Single Regeneration Budget (SRB). The Property Services department of the Council took on the design and project management of the building.

In **2002** Caroline Hyland and Mike Gilbert joined as Project Managers from Wirral Waterfront Initiative. A business plan for the building was drawn up with Pulse Regeneration in 2003. Also in 2003, the first stage of capacity building for the Board was undertaken after it was decided to form a development trust to manage the building and develop a wider regeneration strategy for the North End of Birkenhead.

In **2004** construction began on the building, the Trust developed further, including more capacity building with the shadow Board to develop their skills to enable them to manage the St James Centre and the Trust. A marketing strategy was developed by Pulse Regeneration with the marketing sub-group and a recruitment plan was drawn up and put into place, with job adverts going out and interviews taking place in November 2004. Also in 2004 the business plan was written to develop the Café in the St James Centre as a social enterprise. The name Open Door Café was chosen by the Café Sub-Group, and subsequently a logo developed.

### **The St James Centre**

The St James Centre is a flagship development and will boost investment in the area. The Centre will be open for business and providing local services from February 2005.

### **North Birkenhead Neighbourhood College**

North Birkenhead Neighbourhood College have moved from their old premises into the new St James Centre. The purpose built Neighbourhood College in the St James Centre, designed and proposed by the community is an excellent venue for learning. The College is situated on the first floor, with the relaxation area overlooking the Open Door Cafe below. Students have full access to the crèche and nursery in the building, and be able to use the library.

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **The Open Door Café**

The Open Door Café is situated on the ground floor of the St James Centre, and will be serving a range of healthy hot and cold foods as well as providing space for hire for parties and events. The Open Door Café, working with the North Birkenhead Community College will seek to inform the community about healthy eating and healthy cookery in a specially built cookery room from which a range of training courses will be offered.

### **The New St James Library**

A state of the art modern library is housed within the St James Centre. The Library contains a suite of 10 computers for public use and comfy seating areas. Local people are able to come into the library and find out information about all Council Services with a direct call centre contact, self access to the Internet, receipt of Council application forms for services and a non cash payment facility or drop in box. Most important of all is that there has been a substantial cash injection to boost the Library's book stock, so that not only is there be a wonderful new library, but also a brilliant new book stock.

### **The Miriam Place Neighbourhood Nursery**

The Miriam Place Neighbourhood Nursery within the St James's Centre will become part of the Sure Start Children's Centre for the Bidston & St James's ward. The Miriam Place Neighbourhood Nursery is a 35 place neighbourhood day nursery, providing daycare in an area with very limited current provision. The St James Centre also houses the offices for Sure Start Birkenhead North. Margaret Hodge M.P. (Minister for Children) visited the centre in June 2004 to perform the initial "ground breaking" ceremony. Mrs Hodge was very impressed with the buildings and was very positive about the effect that this would have on the lives of local families.

### **Sure Start Offices**

Office based within the building by the Sure Start team who deliver a variety of services to families with young children.

### **North Birkenhead Neighbourhood Forum**

The NBNF have been involved with the development of the St James Centre from the early planning stages. This is the main project that the NBNF are involved with at the moment. The purpose built Centre incorporates the needs of the partners these being Community facilities, Sure Start, Library, College and a Café all under one roof.

# St James Centre



**OLD LIBRARY**

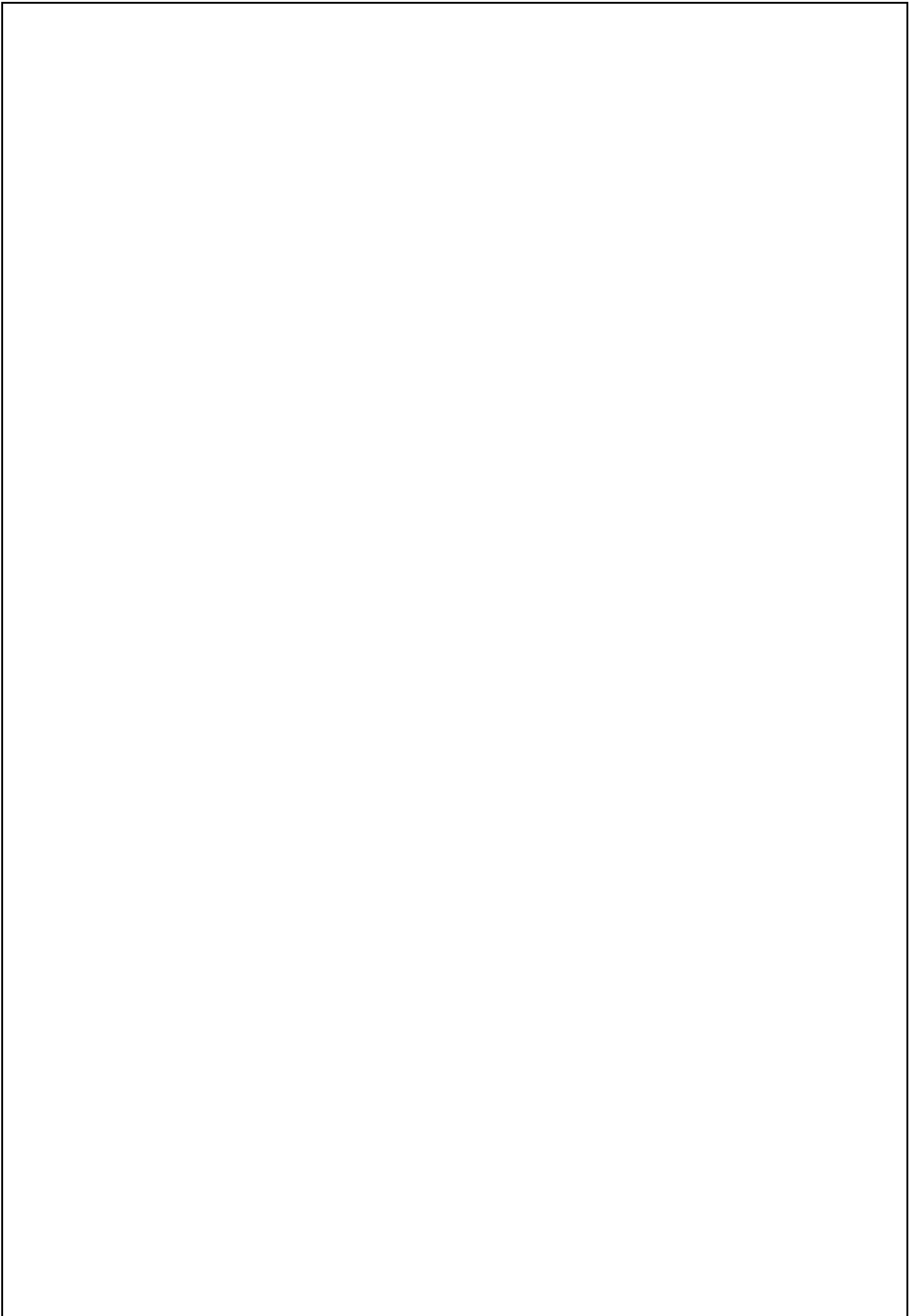


**BUILDING UNDERWAY**



**READY FOR OPENING**







## Section 5: Local Updates

### Youth provision in the wards of Bidston / Claughton

Day	Play Provision	Youth Clubs	Outreach	Voluntary Org
<b>MON</b>		6.30pm - 9.30pm Cavendish	Monday 7pm – 10pm B/H north end, Ballantyne Est. Beechwood Est. Park Road South Claughton Village	Birkenhead Youth Club 7pm - 9.30pm
<b>TUE</b>	3.30pm – 5.15pm 6pm – 7.45pm Beechwood play scheme Gautby Rd Play scheme		Tuesday 7pm –10pm Ballantyne Est. Beechwood Est. Cathcart Street	Noctorum Play Scheme 3.45pm - 5.45pm Birkenhead Youth Club 7pm - 9.30pm
<b>WED</b>	3.30pm – 5.15pm 6.00pm – 7.45pm Beechwood play scheme Gautby Rd Play scheme	7pm - 10pm Cavendish group work	Wednesday 7-10 B/H north end Ballantyne Est. Beechwood Est.	Birkenhead Youth Club 7pm - 9.30pm
<b>THUR</b>	3.30pm – 5.15pm 6.00pm – 7.45pm Beechwood play scheme Gautby Rd Play scheme		Thursday 7pm –10pm B/H north end Ballantyne Est. Beechwood Est. Park Road South Claughton Village	Noctorum Play scheme 3.45pm - 5.45pm Birkenhead Youth Club 7pm - 9.30pm
<b>FRI</b>	3.30pm – 5.15pm 6.00pm – 7.45pm Beechwood play scheme Gautby Rd Play scheme	6.30pm - 9.30pm Cavendish	Friday 7pm - 10pm B/H north end Claughton Village	Birkenhead Youth Club 7-10pm
<b>SAT</b>	10.00am - 12.00pm 2.00pm - 4.00pm Beechwood play scheme Gautby Rd Play scheme			Birkenhead Youth Club 7-10pm
<b>Schoo l Hols</b>	10.00am -12.30pm 2.00pm - 4.30pm Beechwood play scheme Gautby Rd Play scheme	Summer Play scheme Noctorum CC 4 weeks - times & dates to be confirmed		

## Section 5: Local Updates



### Media information from Wirral Council

May 5 2005

All aboard for Wirral's latest attraction!

#### At a glance...

- ❑ Over £500,000 EU funding tees up major new tourism package in Wirral
- ❑ Open-topped summer bus tour starts in July
- ❑ Other highlights include a major summer music festival and IT information kiosks

Wirral's latest tourist attraction means visitors and residents can see the peninsula from a new angle this summer – aboard an open topped bus.

The bus tour is the latest new development to be announced as a result of a large cash injection from the EU. More announcements will be made in the near future, including the launch of a new summer music festival to join Folk on the Coast, and the jazz and guitar festivals.

The open top tour begins in July and runs all through the summer, taking in all of Wirral's major historic and tourist sites before returning to Seacombe Ferry. There it will link with Liverpool via the Mersey Ferry, and take trippers directly on to the City's own open top tour.

Stephen Maddox, Wirral Council's Chief Executive said: " This is great news. We have a great deal to offer, from fantastic golf to our beautiful coastline and from the mighty industrial heritage of Birkenhead, to the tranquil Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight. We have something to offer everyone, and now we have an ideal opportunity to show it off."

There is info about all Wirral's attractions, accommodation and events on [www.visitwirral.com](http://www.visitwirral.com).

The Tour starts from the Mersey Ferries terminal at Seacombe, adjacent to the soon to be opened Spaceport, Wirral's new multi-million pound attraction where visitors can experience a virtual journey through space ending up in the depths of the Universe.

The Tour includes Birkenhead Tourist Information Centre and the Mersey Ferry Terminal at Woodside, before moving on to Wirral Museum in Hamilton Square, which is the largest group of Grade 1

Listed buildings outside the capital. The Tour then goes on to Lady Lever Art Gallery and its superb collection of pre-Raphaelite masterpieces and impressive Wedgwood and 18<sup>th</sup> Century furniture collections, before moving on to the Heritage Centre in

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

Port Sunlight. The Heritage Centre tells the fascinating story of Port Sunlight and its community, with displays of old photographs and early film footage, a scale model of the village and original plans.

The Wirral Bus Tour then returns to Seacombe via the Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, with its wealth of maritime heritage, and Historic Warships - one of the finest collections of 20<sup>th</sup> century fighting ships in the country.

The EU-funded project builds on Wirral's existing tourism development, and is a direct result of the peninsula's own tourism strategy. The strategy highlights the Open Championship returning to Hoylake in 2006, after an absence of more than 40 years, and the Liverpool's European Capital of Culture status in 2008, as major opportunities for the development of tourism in the Northwest.

The project also supports the Northwest Development Agency's "Great Destinations" guidance note and Merseyside's "Visiting Merseyside" tourism strategy, helping the region to become a major short-break tourism destination in the UK.

A 3 year synopsis bid ( 2006 to 2008) is currently with Government Office Northwest, to further market Wirral, and hopefully awaiting approval...

For information on the Wirral Bus Tour and all other attractions and events, the public can contact Birkenhead Tourist Information Centre on 0151 647 6780 or email [touristinfo@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:touristinfo@wirral.gov.uk).

Released by:

Jenny Grimshaw 0151 691 8088

**Wirral: Home of the Open 2006**

## Section 5: Local Updates

Media release

Wednesday 4th May 2005

### WIRRAL lends a hand to residents

#### At a glance...

- ❑ Wirral Council's handyperson Scheme dramatically cuts waiting times for home safety improvements
- ❑ Service open to over 55s in the five renewal areas at a minimal charge to the individual
- ❑ Residents have peace of mind as a safe and reliable tradesperson does work in their home

WIRRAL Council's new Handyperson Scheme has already proved a huge success, cutting waiting times for minor home improvements from several months to a week.

The Scheme is funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and the Housing Market Renewal Initiative and charges just £3.50 for the first hour and £7 per hour after that. Most of the calls only take one to two hours with the payment going directly back into the service. The team also fit Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Smoke Detectors without charge.

Tony Watkin, Handyperson Supervisor, said: "The scheme was launched in February with three of us attending calls each day in the renewal areas of Birkenhead, Seacombe, Tranmere, Bidston and Liscard. The service is open to over 55s with a lot of people being referred by Social Services' Occupational Therapy Team."

Margaret Campbell, Occupational Therapy Assistant, added: "It's a brilliant service. Grab rails could take months to be fixed up. Now our Handypersons do them and clients are getting their jobs done within a week of their assessment."

All the team are time served so customers are confident to have them in their homes and know the work will be to an excellent standard. Mrs Jacqueline Wilson used the service and was very impressed:

"I wanted some pictures and mirrors putting on the wall and couldn't do it myself so the Social Services OT gave me a leaflet about the scheme. I was so pleased to have someone do the job who was trustworthy, reliable, friendly and caring. The fact that they were recommended by Social Services gave me extra peace of mind but I think the service is too cheap!"

If you are over 55, live in the eligible areas and have a job that the Handyperson Scheme can help with, please call Joanne on 691 8371.

Committed to Supporting and Protecting Vulnerable People

Released by:

Gill Rutter. 0151 691 8570

**Wirral: Home of the Open 2006**

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **ABC Together**

ABC Together is in the process of setting up a scheme to recycle previously un-recycled cardboard from WBC into hypo-allergenic horse bedding.

This bedding will be sold and then picked up when soiled and recycled into high quality compost.

The Company is a social firm whose foremost goal will be to assist people with mental health problems reintegrate into mainstream employment.

There are few therapeutic facilities for people with mental health problems extant on the Wirral and Merseyside at present especially those which lead to real job opportunities.

We will be creating a vibrant social network and have several schemes we are hoping to set up in the first two years of our operation such as a therapeutic garden and a community kitchen.

We have forged links with many other environmental and mental health action groups and have attracted substantial funding already from CRED and MSEI.

We intend to also provide an educational and information service to local schools and businesses to increase awareness of environmental and mental health issues. Initially we will be benefiting around 30 people but as we have just mentioned our project will eventually be of benefit to a much wider section of the community.

ABC Together aim to create varied and therapeutic work opportunities for people who are presently excluded from society, especially those with mental health problems.

By integrating people into the mainstream we will be reconnecting people into society and enhancing their prospects of real recovery. By offering contact to carers, who also find themselves isolated, we aim to encourage active involvement and respite for this previously marginalised group.

We aim to do this by creating an essentially crucial environmental project that will considerably improve existing recycling objectives on Wirral and Merseyside. Our project is being developed by current carers and service users with a committee including key members of relevant organisations.

We have been working towards this aim for the last 3 years.

[derryhunter@hotmail.com](mailto:derryhunter@hotmail.com)

## Section 5: Local Updates

PRESS RELEASE

Monday 9<sup>h</sup> May 2005

### COUNCIL GAINS POWERS TO TACKLE HIGH HEDGES

**At a glance...**

- New legal powers see Councils able to take enforcement action against big bushes.
- Council officers to act as impartial referees in long-running hedge disputes.
- Residents who have experienced problems with a neighbours' overgrown hedges can call 606 2004 for more information.

Residents whose lives are blighted by horror hedges in neighbouring gardens will soon be able to get help from Wirral Council.

From June 1, 2005 the council will have new legal powers from central government enabling planning officers to step in and independently resolve long-running disputes. Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council David Green said: "This local authority takes its duties to protect the local environment very seriously.

"There are many people out there who have been left frustrated and upset by inconsiderate neighbours neglecting boundary hedges. This new service will see Council officers acting as impartial referees – going out to inspect hedges and see if they are causing any problems such as a loss of light or damage to fencing.

"It will always be our aim to negotiate a solution but the option will be there for us to take legal action and serve notice asking that the landowner reduces the size of the hedge. We've never had these powers before and we are hoping it will encourage people to be more mindful of their neighbours' needs and comfort."

Anyone interested in using the enforcement service must show that they have already made substantial efforts to settle the matter in other ways, including using mediation.

The new powers have come into force under Part 8 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. Planning experts aim to deal with each complaint within an eight-week period. Officers experienced in handling similar issues of unauthorised planning developments will be managing the new service. They are skilled in negotiating solutions to difficult situations.

Any residents interested in finding out more information about this new service can phone the Streetscene call centre on 606 2004 or email [streetscene@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@wirral.gov.uk)

Released by: Gill McLachlan. 0151 606 2089/Email: [gillmclachlan@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:gillmclachlan@wirral.gov.uk)

Committed to protecting and improving the environment

**Wirral: Home of the Open 2006**

## Section 5: Local Updates

Press Release

Tuesday 10<sup>h</sup> May 2005

### **'SUCCESS BREEDS SUCCESS' FOR COUNCIL PLANNERS**

#### **At a glance...**

- ❑ Excellence of planning team rewarded with massive injection of cash.
- ❑ Annual government grant increases from £52,000 to £860,000 due to improved Council efficiency in determining planning applications.
- ❑ New procedures for handling planning applications and increased numbers of planning officers.

Wirral Council has received recognition from central government for significant improvements to its planning services.

The Council has been awarded a record planning delivery grant of £860,000 for meeting targets and improving its service delivery. This is largely due to the speed and efficiency with which the Council now determines planning applications.

Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council, David Green, said: "We fully recognise the importance of managing safe building developments to protect Wirral's environment and support regeneration.

"Within the last year we've reorganised procedures for handling planning applications and increased staff numbers. There is great demand from residents and developers for our development control services.

We receive up to 300 planning applications a month – and a team of planning and administrative support staff works tirelessly to turn these around. We are now in this improved financial position thanks to their efforts and we look forward to significant re-investment in the service."

In March this year the Council determined 100% of major applications within 13 weeks and 80.6% of minor applications and 91.6% of other applications within eight weeks.

These figures are well above the national targets set by central government. A strategy will now be drawn up for re-investment into the delivery of planning development control services over the next year.

Released by: Gill McLachlan. 0151 606 2089/Email: [gillmclachlan@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:gillmclachlan@wirral.gov.uk)

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**Wirral: Home of the Open 2006**

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

Media info from Wirral Council

Tuesday May 10 2005

### **Red Arrows wing their way to Wirral**

#### **At a glance...**

- Council's Tourism staff help RNLI secure Red Arrows again
- August Bank Holiday display starts at 3pm
- Hoylake Lifeboat Day is the largest in the country

The Red Arrows will be winging their way to the Wirral coastline again this summer to support the Hoylake Lifeboat's famous Open Day.

Staff from Wirral Council's tourism team helped Lifeboat Day organisers secure the world-famous team which is a guaranteed crowd puller for the fundraising event.

The Open Day is on Monday August 29 and the Red Arrows will top an exciting bill of aeronautical and daredevil displays.

Crowds of up to 30,000 are expected.

Commented Carole Jackson, Wirral's senior tourism officer: "This is great news for Lifeboat Day and for Wirral as a whole.

The event is a magnet for day visitors, many of whom will see for the first time just how much Wirral has to offer."

Released by: Jenny Grimshaw, Snr Press/PR Officer 0151 691 8088

**Wirral: Home of the Open 2006**



## **Section 5: Local Updates**

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL**

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE**

**12 APRIL 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES**

**HIGHWAY STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2005/06**

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents to members the Highway Structural Maintenance Programme for 2005/06. Members are asked to endorse the report and refer it to Cabinet for approval.
- 1.2 This is a key decision which was first identified in the Forward Plan in 1 November 2004.

### **2.0 REPORT**

- 2.1 As last year, I present to members one unified programme as attached as Appendix A. That programme has been prioritised and details of the proposed works are included together with draft estimates. At this stage detailed design (if appropriate) and final estimates have not been prepared.
- 2.2 In identifying schemes and producing the prioritised programme I have used the agreed assessment criteria including:
- (i) Schemes highlighted from previous UKPMS surveys using CVI (Course Visual Inspection).
  - (ii) Schemes highlighted from this year's UKPMS survey using CVI (Course Visual Inspection) and DVI (Detailed Visual Inspection). The higher the ranking number (maximum 100) the greater need for works to be done.
  - (iii) Schemes highlighted by Members, Area Forums, the general public and my own staff which have been assessed for urgent attention in 2005/2006 are highlighted in the appendices with an asterisk.
  - (iv) Areas of constant repair mainly due to vehicle override and damage included from Highway Inspectors' safety inspections.
  - (v) The programme has been formulated taking into account the principles of an integrated approach to highway maintenance work. Issues concerning safety and the Environment as well as structural needs have been taken into account.

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

- 2.3 In addition a number of schemes have also been included as a result of the Open Golf returning to Royal Liverpool in 2006. A figure of £500,000 has been provided via the Council's capital programme specifically for these schemes. The schemes identified would not normally warrant inclusion within the programme due to their overall ranking, however, in recognition of the importance of the event a specific allocation of funding has been provided to allow these locations to receive attention. A similar provision also exists for other Open Golf improvements and associated support costs.
- 2.4 All works identified in the programme will be subject to either individual tender or the use of existing competitive term maintenance contracts.
- 2.5 The programme includes a greater number of schemes than the budget will sustain. This will allow maximum flexibility to manage disruption to the proposed programme as a result of Statutory Undertakers works or other unforeseen events.
- 2.6 Subject to approval by Cabinet the programme will be immediately circulated to the Statutory Undertakers to allow the necessary adjustments to be made as a result of their proposals.

### **3.0 AREA FORUMS**

- 3.1 All Area Forums were given the opportunity to contribute to this year's programme and submitted lists of work they considered to be local priorities. The programme clearly identifies those schemes included and they are marked "F" on that programme.
- 3.2 I propose to report back to the Area Forums on their suggested priorities and the reasons either for inclusion or otherwise.
- 3.3 Subject to members' approval I would propose the process of involving the Area Forums in the determination of local priorities should continue.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 In producing one prioritised programme I have sought to maximise all of the available financial resources contained within the Department's budgets.
- 4.2 It is proposed to undertake the programme in priority order (subject of course to the Statutory Undertakers activities) and complete as many schemes as possible from within the identified resources.

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no specific ethnic minority implications. Maintaining the highways in good condition is of particular benefit for pedestrians who are elderly, have disabilities or are pushing prams.

### **6.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

6.1 There are no planning implications.

### **7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no community safety implications arising directly out of this report. The condition of the highway and street lighting network has some influence on community safety. There is a need to provide safe footways and carriageways for users.

### **8.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **9.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The environmental impact of the proposed construction methods and processes contained within the programme are evaluated on a site by site basis.

9.2 Wherever possible the use of recycling processes are encouraged to reduce the tax burden through landfill and aggregate levies and to promote sustainable initiatives and benefits to the environment.

### **10.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT**

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

### **11.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 Relevant wards are shown in the appendix.

### **12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1 That the Structural Maintenance Programme for 2005/06, shown in Appendix A, be endorsed and referred to Cabinet for approval.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR  
TECHNICAL SERVICES

Name	Limits	Ward	UKPMS Ranking	Other Priorities	Estimate	Category	Description of Works
Boundary Road	Upton Road to Vyner Road South (One side only)	Bidston & St James	100	*	£18,000	Structural footway	P/L & L/R kerbs as req'd Reconstruct flexible footway
Boundary Road	Part	Bidston & St James	100	*	£1,500	Surface Treatment to footway	
Beryl Road	All	Claughton	100		£4,000	Surface Treatment to footway	
Noctorum Avenue	Part	Claughton	100	*	£35,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Grafton Street	All	Claughton	83		£25,000	Structural footway	P/L kerbs Remove flags & construct flexible footway
Grafton Street	All	Claughton	83		£3,200	Surface Treatment to carriageway	
Grange Mount	All	Claughton	66	*	£40,000	Structural footway	P/L & L/R kerbs as req'd Reconstruct flexible footway
Lansdowne Place	All	Bidston & St. James	52	*	£4,000	Structural carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Ashburton Road	All	Claughton	43	F	£45,000	Structural carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Eaton Road	All	Claughton	--	To complete scheme	£10,500	Structural Carriageway	Resurface carriageway

**SURFACE TREATMENT PROCESSES TO BE USED**

- ( 1 ) SLURRY SEAL                      THIN VENEER BITUMINOUS OVERLAY THAT FOLLOWS EXISTING PROFILE OF SURFACE  
( 2 ) MICRO ASPHALT                      A SURFACING MATERIAL THAT CAN REGULATE SMALL DEPRESSIONS  
( 3 ) SCHEMES IDENTIFIED WITH AN ASTERISK \* HAVE BEEN ASSESSED FOR EARLY ATTENTION.

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **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.

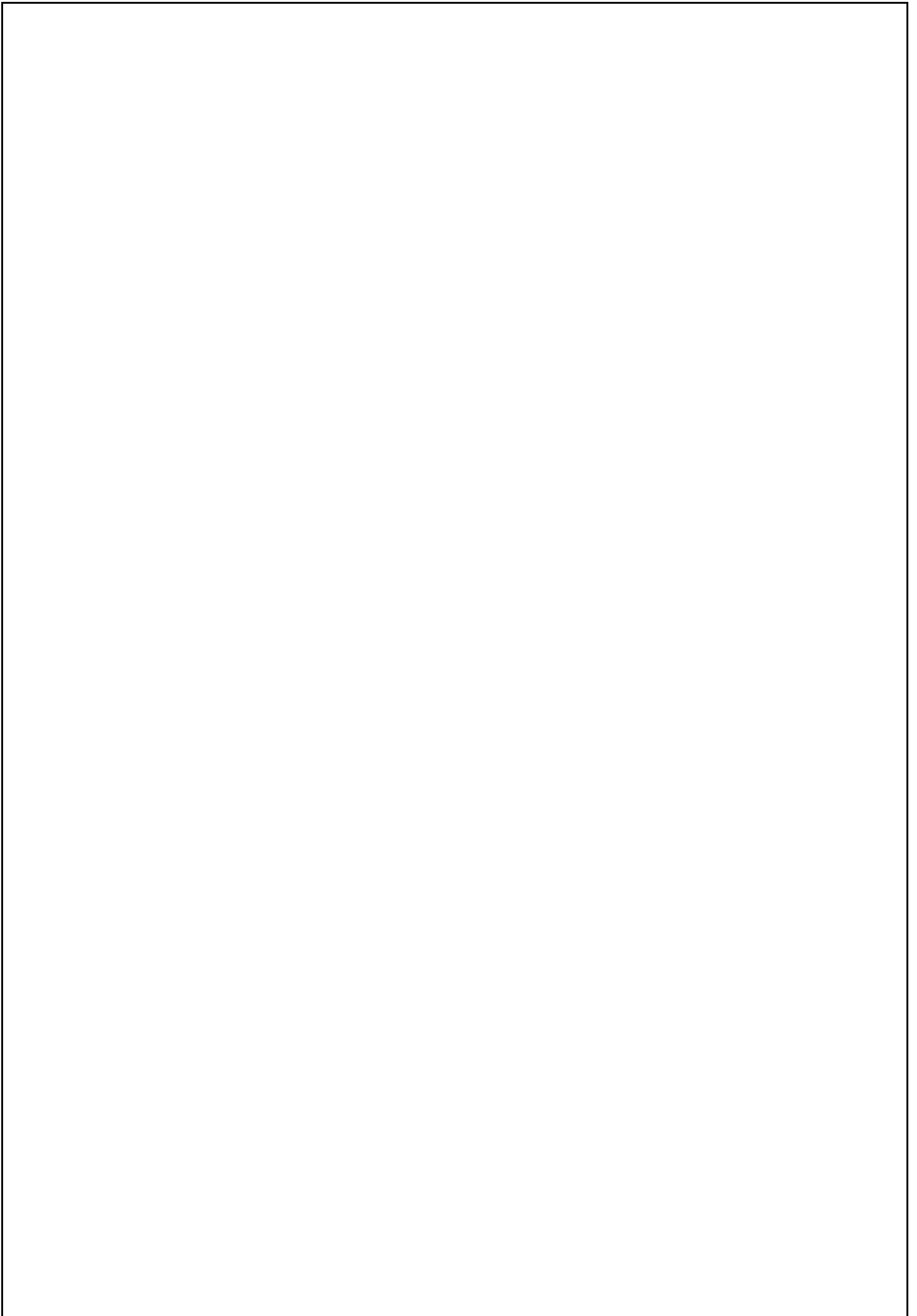
### **Community Safety Programme**

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

### **Future Area Forums**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2005 – venue to be confirmed

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 – venue to be confirmed



# Appendices

Minutes Bidston & Claughton  
2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005