

Bidston & Claughton Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

3rd October 2005

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Contents

Section One

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

Section Two

Local Updates

Cohesive & Sustainable Communities

- ASBO Campaign turns heads

Equity & Access

- Wirral receives 14 million pounds for Neighbourhood renewal

Quality Environment

- Shaping Health – Wirral patients & public involvement
- Age Concern – Shape future of local services
- Electoral register
- Bogus doorstep collections
- Wirral top in Merseyside for Council Tax collection
- All change for cash payers
- Get off the line
- Customer Services up for National Award
- Children's parliament on the environment
- Wirral is speaking your language
- Wirral's anti-litter campaigning short-listed

Section Three

Community Initiatives Funding

Section Four

Local Area Plan

Section Five

Youth Update

Section Six

Streetscene

Section One

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes - Area Forum (Bidston and Claughton) Meeting - 6 June 2005

Present	
Chair	DE Roberts
Ward Councillors	JR Cocker , George Davies , S Foulkes , Ann McLachlan , H Smith
Community Representatives	Pat Landsborough (Claughton Community Group) , Collette McDonagh (Slatey Road Area Residents Association)
Lead Officer	Kevin Miller (Director of Social Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Michelle Gray
Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT	Ms C Maddaford (Director of Nursing and Quality)
Council Officers	Julie Barnes (Technical Services) , Gary Cummings (Area Streetscene Manager) , Ritchie Humphreys (DAAT) , Jan Johnson (Minute Taker) , Peter Riley (Lottery Officer) , Tracey Smith
Apologies	Rev. Pat Billsborrow (Prenton Churches Together) , Graham Cole (Business representative) , Jean McIntosh , Alison Moulder (Bidston Community representative)

Index to Minutes

- Minute 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
- Minute 2 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT/AREA PLAN UPDATE
- Minute 3 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
- Minute 4 - COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUNDING
- Minute 5 - LOTTERY FUNDING PRESENTATION
- Minute 6 - LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2 UPDATE
- Minute 7 - COMMUNITY SAFETY
- Minute 8 - PRIMARY CARE TRUST
- Minute 9 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Minute 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Denise Roberts, welcomed members and public to the Area Forum for Bidston & St James/Claughton, being held in Our Lady's Social Club, Park Road North, Claughton. A round table introduction was held to ensure members of the public were aware who was present.

29 members of the public attended this meeting.

Minute 2 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT/AREA PLAN UPDATE

Michelle Gray, updated on her Area Co-ordinator's report which is an ongoing account highlighting activities in the area covered by this Forum. Information was provided on the following areas:

- Community Initiative Funding, the total available for 2005-6 is £18,239.32. Projects that had been successful in the previous round were listed together with the amount awarded.
- Section 3 covered information regarding youth forums and included a funding allocation.
- Streetscene update in Section 4 included the clean up operation for the Open

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Golf Championship, Support for Recycling, and Litter Prosecutions.

- Section 5 provided information on local updates that affect this area including press releases.

Members of the public were invited to take the report away to read, contact details were available within the report for any queries.

The Area Plan for Bidston & Claughton was published in May and provides information about the local area, including statistics relating to the area and lists issues that have been brought up from roadshows, forums and events such as the Tranmere and Wirral Shows. Again copies were available for people to take away and have a look at. Michelle confirmed that the consultation process needs to be completed by December 2005.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - that the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for her report

Minute 3 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Q – A member of the public pointed out that the picture of Bidston Windmill within the area plan is incorrect.

A – The Area Co-ordinator agreed to correct this.

Q – A question was raised about whether the previous minutes should be accepted as a true record at the start of each Forum

A – The Chair confirmed that if there was something to raise from the previous minutes it could be raised now. It was agreed to include an opportunity to raise issues on future agendas.

Q – Minute 9 mentioned non-policing of our areas. A member of the public had corresponded with Chief Superintendent Alan Jones who had confirmed that concerns were in hand, including new intake of 14 Community Support Officers. It was noted that there was no representative from the Police at the Forum and no apologies had been received. A question that would have been put to the Police was which areas these CSO's been designated to, and how to get in touch with them when you need to?

A - Lead Officer, on behalf of Area Forum, would approach Police to get some information about general deployment, contact numbers and non attendance.

Q – Query about the ERIC service. Concern about prices, with report of £40 charge to remove a 3 piece suite. Also fear that the amount of fly tipping would increase.

A – With every budget setting round it is difficult to select priorities. A charge for service has been put in place and this was £15 per visit and up to 5 articles could be taken, excluding white goods. There was no evidence that this has resulted in additional fly tipping but the service was being monitored. People who are irresponsible are irresponsible. We are monitoring service. Monies raised would help towards Council tax and raising number of hit squads. A number of voluntary schemes were entering into recycling service and contact details could be provided.

Q – What happened with the paper collection? Putting blue bags out but not being collected.

A – There was no information available on this but the Area Co-ordinator will look into this.

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Q – On the issue of Policing there don't appear to be any Community Support Offices on duty after 9.00 at night.

A – One of things raised with Mark Smith was timing of the CSOs, who apparently can only work until 10.00 p.m.

A comment was made that there was fly tipping in quite a lot of rented properties, and this was general negligence on part of some landlords.

Q – traffic problems around 'the triangle' were highlighted. Problems with cars speeding and traffic calming such as 20 mph speed limit or speed bumps had been requested around Upper Brassey Street and Norman Street, which is a designated cycle route. Where do we go from here?

A - Gary Cummings responded, he'd been involved originally in 2003 when measures were taken based on accident stats. GC would get details after the meeting and report back.

Q – Problem highlighted since Bidston Avenue had been blocked off, with all traffic directed one way.

A – An issue had been included in the consultation around St James' roundabout. Sumner Road is also going to be 'no entry' from Norman Street. It is up to the Forum to decide whether they want to make 'the triangle' a priority for investment. It would be useful to have another meeting with Technical Services and ward councillors on this.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - that:

i the Area Co-ordinator arrange for the picture of Bidston Windmill to be replaced

ii. future agendas will be amended to include an opportunity to raise issues from the previous minutes

iii. Kevin Miller to request information from the Police re: general deployment, contact numbers and non attendance

iv. the Area Co-ordinator to look into and report back on the failure to collect blue paper recycle bags

v. Garry Cummings to investigate traffic problems around the triangle and report back on this at the next meeting

Minute 4 - COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUNDING

The forum has a budget of £18,239.32 for 2005/6. Money is to be spent on voluntary community groups to support local initiatives within the area and includes funding ring-fenced for community safety and environmental projects.

A question was raised about a late application in the last round of bids and the Area Co-ordinator confirmed that this will be considered in the current round. Adverts will be going in the Wirral Globe on 6th and 20th July, with the closing date 15 August.

It was noted that, as public money, all successful and unsuccessful bids were reported to Committee.

Minute Decision :

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Resolved - that the Area Co-ordinator put forward the application from the Norman Street Residents Association for consideration with the next round of Community Initiatives Funding applications.

Minute 5 - LOTTERY FUNDING PRESENTATION

Peter Riley – Lottery Officer, Corporate Services addressed the Forum on Lottery Funding and offered to answer questions at the end. He also offered to give advice about individual projects, and can be contacted on 691 8112.

Peter detailed the different types of lottery awards available, including the Big Lottery Fund which has a £4m pot. Under the Awards for All bid, lottery funding to date amounted to nearly £1m and the Heritage Lottery Fund had awarded £7m to Birkenhead Park. There are now new rules for engagement from the original priorities, with the general principle that if you are a constituted group with own bank account and a committee structure, you are eligible to apply for funding. He provided a list of websites offering information on this.

The Chair thanked PR for his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Q – Is the limit for awards per bid, per group or per project?

A – The limit is per project.

Q – A member of the public asked about access to funding to repair damage to allotment site in Tollemache Road.

A – depends if fulfils the general principles and the specification of the project and what it is aiming to do. Suggest look at information on website

Q – there appears to be great difficulty of funding with Arts Council in Birkenhead.

A - don't have a production theatre in the town which is therefore not viewed as a specific arts area.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - that Peter be thanked for his presentation.

Minute 6 - LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2 UPDATE

Julie Barnes, Principal Officer, Technical Services, attended to present an update on the Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2). This is a strategy document, containing a clear programme of plans for the next 5 years, that Merseytravel have to submit in partnership with Wirral and other Merseyside districts. It aims to continually improve transport conditions on all modes of travel - buses, cars, trains, bikes, freight, etc. A full consultation on the Travel Plan will go out in October and presents an opportunity for people to have an input into the process. The date for the final submission is March 2006. There will also be a consultation on the Accessibility Strategy in February, with a feedback session setting out the results of the consultation before submission in March. The outcome of the process will be a 5 year plan, with annual updates and monies linked to progress that has been made. Julie would answer questions on any of the wider issues but would have to refer back on any specific issues on roads.

A member of the public had attended meeting looking at increased use of tram to Birkenhead Park and Tam O'Shanter and suggested another idea might be to have a monorail.

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Q – What are emerging priorities for Wirral?

A – Councillor Harry Smith responded, as Chair of Environment & Transportation Select, that the Local Transport Plan comes under 5 authorities of Merseytravel and there had been joint agreement on priorities for the whole of Merseyside.

Q – what are you going to do about getting transport access for public? Double-decker buses going through tunnel, for example, with no access for families or disabled.

A – Are aware and taking forward and acknowledge that community transport is needed.

Q – Problem of people being reluctant to travel out of areas due to safety reasons was highlighted. Would the Forum support electrification of the new line and proposed stations?

A – Councillor Foulkes confirmed this had been discussed at Cabinet level and Councillors were keen to see progress on this issue and were given some assurance from Neil Scales Chief Executive of Merseytravel.

Q – Query about whether planners think far enough ahead.

A – Councillor Harry Smith stated his view that transport was not a serious issue for Government until 1997, when Labour came in and prioritised it. Issues are being addressed and Select Committee have agreed £300k towards Merseytravel plans to extend Birkenhead Bus Station.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - that Julie be thanked for her presentation.

Minute 7 - COMMUNITY SAFETY

Richie Humphreys from the Drugs & Alcohol Action Team, gave an update on Community Safety. The latest survey of the Citizens Panel indicates a reduction in crime levels, and that people feel safer.

He gave details of the work currently being undertaken, including neighbourhood wardens, expanding CCTV, Ant-Social Behaviour Orders, closure of crack house, and Operation Hawk - which had been a very positive exercise.

Less information on crimes is being received from the community and the Police wish to receive more information from the public. They could be contacted directly or via the freephone Crimestoppers number - 0800 555 111. Information stands in the Pyramids and at events such as the Wirral Show provide facts and statistics about drugs.

Q – Another problem that needs to be addressed is youths' drinking.

A – It is acknowledged that this is a growing concern and we are currently co-ordinating an Alcohol Strategy. Information on where alcohol can be bought by youths should be forwarded to DAAT/Police who will then target the areas.

Q – Youths should be encouraged to undertake other activities/projects, to distract from drinking alcohol.

A – A Schools Advice Pilot was introduced last year and we are now recruiting new staff so that we can expand this scheme. Work is going on via Education targeting truancy.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - that Ritchie be thanked for his update.

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Minute 8 - PRIMARY CARE TRUST

Cathy Maddaford, Director of Nursing & Quality, Birkenhed & Wallasey PCT, provided an update on the Trust.

The Patient Satisfaction National Survey had been completed recently and this indicated a high level of satisfaction in terms of communication. The PCTs do want to hear from people in order to tackle and address issues. Problems highlighted nationally included pre booking appointments and access to NHS dentists - about 18% of people who responded to the questionnaire are not registered with dentist.

The PCTs are producing an achievements document which will be published along with the Annual Report. Another issue that they need to implement locally, is to support people with long term conditions to manage their condition more effectively. This would involve providing community matrons who will support the individual and be a named person to help them within the community.

Cathy referred to other developments including roles of health visitors, midwives, school nurses, the expansion of Children's Centres, and St James' Centre and drew attention to 'Healthy Progress' - the PCT's annual stakeholder event being held Pacific Road Theatre on 28th June 2005.

Q – People felt accessibility to NHS services was good between 9.00 – 5.00 p.m. but that it was difficult to get to Arrowse Park Hospital on public transport from some areas. Could GPs increase their hours?

A – The GP out of hours can be used at other times and there is a taxi service that people can access. There is a national programme about supporting the hours of GPs.

Q – Why aren't there always doctors on duty at Arrowse Park Hospital? (A member of the public waited for over an hour but there was no doctor available so had to travel to Victoria Central Hospital, which would have been difficult without own transport).

A – Cathy confirmed that there wasn't always a doctor at VCH either, but would take on board the need to publicise this more with the public.

Q – Getting a taxi can be a problem re: costs (went to APH but only received a refund for bus fare).

A – Cathy agreed to follow this up.

Q – A Member of the Public raised the issue of pylons on the Beechwood Estate and wondered whether the Council would do a survey looking at the risk of cancer?

A – The Area Co-ordinator has looked into this and will pass on her findings. There was no substantial evidence that there is any risk from pylons. A report was put to the Environment & Transportation Select Committee in 2001 which went into detail about this issue. Michelle also contacted the National Radioactivity Production Board and is waiting for information from them, and will include information on this in the next Area Co-ordinator report.

INFORMATION ON WIRRAL EMERGENCY OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

How to contact Wirral Out of Hours Service: with a single phone call - All you have to do is dial 0151 678 8496

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

When to call 0151 678 8496:

-Monday - Friday 18:30 to 08:00 the whole of the weekends, Bank Holidays and Public Holidays

- When your GP surgery is closed (including Bank Holidays) and you or your family have an URGENT healthcare problem and your problem cannot safely wait until the next routine surgery.

What the Wirral Out of Hours Service will do for you:

- Give health advice
- Provide telephone advice by a GP
- Invite you to attend one of our Primary Care Treatment Centres or arrange a home visit if necessary
- Direct you to another service such as ambulance, Walk in Centre, local pharmacy etc.

TRANSPORT / TAXI SERVICE:

Patients wishing to attend the Out of Hours (OOH's) Centre need to make their own transport arrangements. For those patients who do not have their own transport we ask that they arrange for a friend or relative to bring them to the centre or use public transport. If there is no transport available and it is absolutely necessary for the patient to attend the OOH's centre (urgent health care need) we will provide transport (Taxi).

Michelle Preston is the Primary Care Development Manager for Wirral Emergency Out of Hours Service/Arrowe Park Hospital/Birkenhead and Wallasey Primary Care Trust. Her contact details are: Telephone via GP Out of Hours Reception - 0151 488 3700 / Direct Line - 0151 488 3703 / Mobile - 07799 430613 / or via e-mail: Michelle.Preston@BKWPC.T.nhs.uk

Minute Decision :
Resolved - that:

i. Cathy be thanked for her update

ii. the Area Co-ordinator include information re: risks from pylons in the next Area Co-ordinators report.

Minute 9 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Pat Landsborough referred to interesting demographic data in the Area Plan and made particular reference to youth provision, which showed 28% of population in Bidston and 16% Claughton were under 16. This highlighted a glaring omission in various provisions for youth, in both Bidston and Claughton. He noted that the Claughton Community Group are offering a play scheme this Summer at Tam O'Shanter Farm, but felt that the plan should include data indicating some provision for youth in Claughton.

The Chair thanked speakers for their interesting presentations and Our Lady's for use of the club. If anyone has an issue that they would like on the agenda for the next Forum please contact Michelle.

The next meeting will be held at St James Centre on 3 October 2005.

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Matters arising

- **Risks from Pylons**

Information packs & Press releases are available at this meeting (October), however listed below are links to various web-sites that give further information regarding pylons; If you would like to contact direct there address and telephone numbers are also listed below;

http://www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/understand/at_a_glance/index.htm - click on the icon alongside Electric and Magnetic Fields.

http://www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/understand/radiation_topics/emf/index.htm

http://www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/understand/information_sheets/magnetic_fields.htm

Press and Information Group:

Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards

Health Protection Agency, Chilton, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0RQ

Tel: (01235) 822745/Fax: (01235) 822746/Email: information@hpa-rp.org.uk

Website: <http://www.hpa.org.uk>

- **Update on Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2)**

(presentation on this was delivered to previous Forum in June 2005)

In line with the Government Guidance and based on all the consultation to date, the provisional Local Transport Plan for Merseyside was submitted to the Department for Transport at the end of July 2005.

The full copy of the document is available at ww.transportmerseyside.org The vision of the Plan is - *"a fully integrated safe transport network for Merseyside which supports economic and social regeneration and ensure good access for all and which is operated to the highest standard to protect the environment and ensure quality of life"*.

The plan was prepared jointly by the five local authorities on Merseyside, together with Merseytravel and we believe it represents the agreed priorities for Merseyside.

Between October and December there will be further consultation on the provisional plan and then the plan will be further developed in to the final document is due to be submitted in March 2006.

Should you require more information on the plan please contact :

Principal Officer Julie Barnes (juliebarnes@wirral.gov.uk)

Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council - Forward Planning and Strategy

Technical Services Department - Cheshire Lines Building

Canning Street, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 1ND

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Matters arising

- **General Issues**

Helplist - Assistance to elderly/disabled people who are unable to carry their full recycle bags? – Streetscene do offer a service to register you need to contact Streetscene and ask to be put on the “help list” 0151 606 2004 or email streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

Collection Days - The following link provides an online database of collection days, simply enter the road name and it will give the option of paper, garden waste or refuse collection days. It will show a collection calendar for the particular service which can then be printed out by clicking the print button to the top right of the calendar. www.wirral.gov.uk/be/recycling or alternatively you can contact Ben direct.

Ben Parker - Assistant Recycling Officer
Wirral Borough Council
Technical Services Department
Cheshire Lines Building
Canning Street, Birkenhead
CH41 1ND, Tel : 0151 606 2427
Email : benparker@wirral.gov.uk

Section Two

Local Updates

Section 2

Local Updates

Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership (a partnership of key members from the council, police, health, private and voluntary and community sectors) has a lead role to play in supporting the delivery of the themes listed below and in planning existing services better to deliver their vision for the people of Wirral.

They have undertaken a lot of work over the last 12 months to ensure that they are focusing on those areas that matter most to local people. They have updated their first community strategy to keep it in line with the views and priorities of local people, focusing on those issues that you have said will make Wirral a better place both now and in the future.

Wirral's second community strategy "*Getting Better Together 2005 - 2008*", sets out all that they will be doing over the next three years to make Wirral a better place where people will want to live, work, visit and invest.

Based on your views they have agreed to focus on the following four main themes, and these will be adopted by the area forums to enable them to link into the community strategy:

- ◆ **Worklessness** – *We want all residents of Wirral to have access to well paid jobs. We want to ensure a range of opportunities and training are open to all of our communities, supporting work as an option and the development of an enterprise culture where local businesses are supported and entrepreneurship is encouraged.*
- ◆ **Cohesive and Sustainable Communities** – *We want to make Wirral a place that people are proud of, where all of our communities are safe and supported and where our young people are given the best possible start in life to achieve their potential and secure their futures.*
- ◆ **A Quality Environment** – *We want to make Wirral a clean, green, attractive borough, and through working with, and supporting our local communities, we will protect and improve the built environment, ensuring Wirral is a place where people want to live, work and visit.*
- ◆ **Access and Equity** – *We want to make Wirral a place where all people can easily access services and local facilities such as shops and healthcare. We want our communities to be empowered and involved in local decisions affecting local services and where all people in all areas have similar life chances.*

• Cohesive and Sustainable Communities

ASBO Campaign Turns Heads

WIRRAL Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team has launched its second awareness campaign focusing on the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.

The first phase of the campaign uses local buses and pay & display parking tickets to get the message across to the public. The campaign features 'mug shots' of a male and female, entitled "Get a life, not an ASBO".

Caroline Laing, Manager of Wirral's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, explains that: ASBO's are used to place restrictions on the behaviour of people who have engaged in conduct that has caused harassment, alarm or distress to other residents. "The purpose of the campaign is to make clear the impact that an Anti-Social Behaviour Order can have on a person's life, in the hope that in some cases this will act as a deterrent to behaving anti-socially."

The campaign poses key questions. Did you know that:

An ASBO could ban you from swearing or shouting in public, from being aggressive or intimidating?

An ASBO could ban you from visiting certain areas, such as a particular road, shopping centre or town?

An ASBO could ban you from leaving your home after a certain time at night?

An ASBO could ban you from associating with your friends?

If you breach an ASBO you could be arrested?

Breach of an ASBO can result in up to 2 years' detention for a person under 18 and up to 5 years' imprisonment for an adult?

The campaign runs on from an earlier campaign in November 2004, which won the Team a national award, presented by Viacom Outdoor, part of the largest media and entertainment group in the world. Local resident, Mr Edwards from Greasby, said, "The posters are very eye catching, I did a double take when one went past me and I saw the two large faces looking at me. Hopefully they will have the desired effect."

Mrs Brown of Moreton, said, " Anti-social behaviour is a terrible worry and I hope people think twice about what will happen to them if they do not change their behaviour. The posters are very striking and I am sure they will get the message across." The second phase of the campaign will be extended into local secondary schools during the new school term, spearheaded by Youth Enforcement Officer, Lucy Pritchard, who has responsibility for dealing specifically with anti-social behaviour perpetrated by gangs of youths. Caroline Laing, added: "The second phase of this campaign recognises that most young people are decent members of our community. The campaign is aimed at the minority who do not behave in a way that our communities expect."

- **Access and Equity**

Wirral Receives 14 million pounds for Neighbourhood Renewal

Wirral has been awarded a further £14million from the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) programme began in 2001 and the award of £14,386,115 for the next two years will enable the Council to work with a wide range of partners through Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership to support regeneration in priority neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood Renewal is a programme designed to help narrow the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of Wirral by working with communities in those areas to modernise the delivery of public services.

The programme aims to improve standards in health, education, housing, and the environment, and reduce crime and worklessness.

Alan Stennard, Director of Regeneration for Wirral Council, said: "The allocation of a further two years funding for NRF enables us to continue and expand the existing programme beyond March 2006. With our partners we will now review priorities and look at how we can best continue to narrow the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest of the Borough."

To date a range of successful services have been funded. These include a Mediation service to help people resolve issues such as neighbour nuisance and anti social behaviour, and a wide range of community based projects such as a drop-in centre for elderly people in Tranmere and provision of homework clubs and nursery facilities.

The NRF programme has worked with Beechwood Community Trust to deliver a range of projects including the Powerhouse Youth Project and, through improved safety and security facilities, allowing school playing fields, unused out of school hours, to be available for use by the whole community.

Alan Stennard added: "The work carried out to improve the quality of life for people in Beechwood is a great example of the Neighbourhood Renewal programme funding local services, developed and delivered by local people."

- **Quality Environment**



WIRRAL PATIENT & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORUMS

Have you got an interest in local health services? Would you like to join the **Extraordinary Voice** on the Wirral? Wirral Patient and Public Involvement Forums are helping to re-shape health services on Wirral for the better and have the power to influence change.

Forum Members are ordinary people with an **Extraordinary Voice** and are all volunteers who care deeply for the National Health Service but are completely independent of it.

Join one of the 4 Wirral Patient and Public Involvement Forums who work with:

**Birkenhead & Wallasey Primary Care Trust
Bebington & West Wirral Primary Care Trust
Clatterbridge Centre of Oncology NHS Trust
Wirral Hospital Trust**

By joining a Forum:-

- You can gain the satisfaction of knowing you are shaping and influencing the way local health services are delivered.
- Create a great impact by giving just a few hours per week of your time.
- Receive free training relevant to the role of Forum Member.
- Receive out of pocket expenses including carer/childcare costs which will be reimbursed for all Forum business and meetings.

FOR AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION AND FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:

**LYNDA DENMAN OR KAREN PRIOR
AT THE FORUM SUPPORT ORGANISATION: WIRED
ON 0151 670 1500/Email: senppico_ord@btconnect.com**

- **Quality Environment**



Older people invited to shape future of local services

Older people in Wirral are being invited to share their views of today's society at Wirral's 5th Annual Older Persons Conference.

The one day event, "New for Old", is being held at Hulme Hall in Port Sunlight, and will bring together local older people and local professionals from across all sectors, including Social Services, local Health organisations, and Wirral Borough Council, to consider new developments and new ways of working that will affect the independence and well-being of older people living in Wirral.

BBC Radio Merseyside presenter, Roger Phillips will host a "Question Time" style debate with a guest panel, including senior representatives from Wirral Borough Council, Wirral NHS Hospital Trust, the local Primary Care Trusts and a local MP.

Myrtle Lacey, Chief Executive of Age Concern Wirral says: "It will be a great opportunity for local older people to make a contribution to service development and to make their voices heard on the issues affecting older people here on Wirral."

The Conference is being held on Thursday 13th October from 9.30 to 4.30pm. Anyone wishing to attend this conference, should ring 0151 666 2220 to request a conference booking form. Entry will be by ticket only.

Delegates will take part in workshops to shape proposed services, such as the Bereavement and Loss service and also comment on the formation of the anticipated Wirral Pensioners Parliament. An electronic voting system will be used to enable local policy makers and service providers to consult conference delegates on current issues and future plans for the area.

Throughout the day, presentations will be delivered to inform delegates about local new service provision, as well as there being lots of displays and exhibitions to visit.

For more information about this conference, or about Age Concern Wirral, please contact:

Jamie Anderson, Senior Manager, Support Services, Age Concern Wirral.
t: 0151 666 2220 email: jamieanderson@ageconcernwirral.org

Section 2

Local Updates

• Quality Environment

ELECTORAL REGISTER

At a glance...

- A newly revised electoral register will be in force from 1st Dec 2005
- Return your registration form for your chance to have a say in local, national and European elections.

WIRRAL Council is urging residents to return their voting registration forms to ensure that no one misses out on their right to vote in forthcoming elections.

New electoral registration forms will soon be arriving on doorsteps throughout Wirral in order to update the list and ensure it is accurate.

Everyone should fill in or amend the registration form whether they are regular voters or not, as in order to have the opportunity to vote, your name must be on the new list.

Lesley Hales, Senior Electoral Registration Officer states: "People who have recently moved house, young people who will soon be 18, and new voters should all sign up to the new list to enable them to have their say in future national, local and EU elections.

"Having your name on the new register is also useful as banks and finance companies check this when deciding on approving or disproving financial applications."

If you have not received a new registration form by the 14 September or if you have any queries telephone the Helpline on (0151) 691 8046.

For more information on the revised electoral list, please go to www.wirral.gov.uk

- **Quality Environment**

Bogus Doorstep Collections

Trading Standards are warning Wirral residents not to give clothing to a bogus Third World Clothing Appeal.

A leaflet is left with the homeowner, supposedly from a company called ASD Ltd (a legitimate steel business and not involved in the scam).

The purpose of the leaflet is to persuade residents to leave unwanted clothes for the scamsters to sell. The leaflet also refers to two company registration numbers for Olonex Ltd and Help Line UK Ltd. Both of these companies were dissolved in 2004 and are not able to trade legally.

John Malone Trading Standards Manager said: "I strongly advise the public not to leave any clothing in response to this request. There are plenty of genuine, local charities who would be more than happy to receive your unwanted goods."

Wirral Top in Merseyside for Council Tax Collection

Wirral Council is the best performing Metropolitan authority in Merseyside for collecting Council Tax in 2004/05 according to figures released by the ODPM.

The report shows that the Council collected 97.4% of Council Tax in 2004/05, placing it fifth out of 36 other Metropolitan districts in the country.

Improved collection rates can be linked to the fact that 70% of taxpayers pay by Direct Debit, making it easier for the customer and cheaper for the council. Customers have four payment dates, 5,12,20,28 per month in which to pay by Direct Debit.

Ian Coleman, Director of Finance, said: "This result is testament to the hard work of all involved. Many people wonder why collection is so important but the more we collect on time the more it helps future years Council Tax levels.

We aim to ensure that we continue to be one of the highest performing metropolitan authorities in the country." "Its not all about collection, Wirral operates a Fair Debt policy which has helped over 500 people deal with over £1 million of debt, maximising benefit entitlements, making affordable arrangements. This shows you can perform well at collection and help people in poverty at the same time."

Section 2

Local Updates

• Quality Environment

All Change for Cash Payers - Wirral Council is set to make major changes to cash payment facilities involving the closure of six of the seven cash offices and replacing them with the Paypoint and Post office network.

The changes will greatly enhance the service on offer to customers, as they will be able to pay cash for their council services at 171 locations in Wirral as opposed to the current seven.

The Paypoint sites are located at convenience stores, newsagents and petrol stations. Many of these facilities offer extended opening times and some offer 24 hr, 7 days a week access. Payments by cash and cheque will also be possible at your local Post Office. Ian Coleman, Director of Finance, said: "Residents will be able to pay their bills when they want to rather than when we are at work. Getting the Post Offices on board with this is of major significance as many of our customers, particularly the elderly, feel very comfortable with using their local Post Office and will be able to collect their pension and pay their bills all in one trip from now on."

If you wish to pay by either of these methods in the future you will need to order a new bill with a converted bar-code on it. All bills issued after 15th August 2005 will have the correct bar-code.

Six cash offices based in the One-Stop Shops at Bebington, Moreton, Rock Ferry, Seacombe, Heswall and West Kirby will close from 14th October 2005. However, the main cash office based in Birkenhead at the Conway Centre will remain open. All of the One-stop shops will remain open for other business. The cash offices based in the Housing Offices in Liscard, North Birkenhead and Woodchurch (now managed by Wirral Partnership Homes) will also remain open for customers who need to pay rent only.

As well as enhancing the cash payment facilities, Wirral Council have also introduced credit and debit card payment facilities via One-stop shops, the Call Centre, the Internet and an automated telephone payment facility for some services. Customers will be notified on their bill of the types of payments that are available.

Payments via Paypoint and Post Offices will be available from 5th September, initially for the following services: -

- Council Tax/Housing Benefit overpayments/Miscellaneous income invoices/Social Services – Domiciliary care (only via swipe card) More services will follow and customers will be notified on their bills when this happens.

Why are we making these changes?

Over recent years, Wirral Council has noticed a steady reduction in the use of cash offices as customers move to more convenient ways to pay such as Direct Debit. Also, by moving to the Paypoint and Post Office network the Council can significantly reduce the charges incurred for collecting cash. This means that more of the money paid to the Council will go towards improving services and less on cash processing charges.

So what do you need to do next?

If you don't pay by cash these changes will not affect you. If you currently pay by cash but wish to switch to another method of payment such as Direct Debit you can visit your local One-stop shop who will help you to change over. If you wish to continue paying cash you can do so by either:- Continuing to pay at the Conway Centre.

If the Conway Centre is inconvenient for you and you would rather pay your Council Tax at your nearest Paypoint facility or Post Office, you will need to order a new bill with a bar-code on it.

You can do this by phoning 0151 606 2002 or by visiting your nearest One-stop shop.

Section 2

Local Updates

- **Quality Environment**

Get off the line

Visitors to the Trading Standards display at the Wirral Show voiced their concerns to staff about the frequency of unwanted telephone calls.

The calls try to interest them in home improvement services or offer them the chance to win a luxury holiday.

Worryingly, half of those questioned had ex-directory phone numbers and were concerned how the telemarketers had obtained their personal details.

John Malone, Wirral's Trading Standards Manager, said: "Unsolicited telephone calls are intrusive and inconvenient. I would urge anyone wanting to stop these calls to register with the Telephone Preference Service. Call 0845 070 0707 or register on line at www.tpsonline.org.uk"

Customer Services Up for National Awards....Again !

Wirral Council's excellence in customer service has been recognised once again at the National Customer Service Awards to be held in September.

Following a successful year that saw our One Stop Shops and the Call Centre win the 'Excellence in Customer Services' award from the IRRV we are now finalists in the prestigious 'National Customer Service Awards' for the category Public Services and Education.

There were over 900 applicants from industry, commerce and public sector organisations, so we are extremely proud to be finalists.

Why are we leading the way nationally? We work very closely with partner organisations such as the Department for Work and Pensions and the Primary Care Trusts. What's important and does make us stand out above others is that within the Call Centre and One Stop Shops we are far more than message takers as we strive to offer in depth responses to our customers' queries.

- **Quality Environment**

Children's Parliament on the Environment

SCHOOLCHILDREN across Wirral have had their say at the Children's Parliament on the Environment.

The debate-style event considered the proposal: 'The Open Golf Tournament in Hoylake in July 2006 will bring a unique opportunity for Wirral people to improve their environment'.

Pairs of Yr6 and Yr7 schoolchildren from 18 schools brought up a range of issues both for and against the borough hosting the internationally important tournament. Short-term impacts were balanced against improvements to the infrastructure in support of the golf.

Everyone also recognised the potential for tourism to help the sustainable development of Wirral. Ultimately they voted in favour of the event being of positive value to the borough.

Steve Maddox, Chief Executive of Wirral Council said: "The Children's Parliament is a fantastically successful annual event and I learn a great deal from the comments the youngsters make.

Environmental issues are one of Wirral's main priorities and the impacts of the golf tournament on environment, transport, wildlife and residents are vitally important to the organisers."

In two hard-fought contests, winners of the individual debates in the Primary School category, were New Brighton Primary and, in the Secondary School category Wirral Grammar School for Girls.

One of the judges, John Turner, Captain of Royal Liverpool Golf Club, said: "It was an immensely high standard of debating.

The Open is very exciting for us, and important for long term economic benefits for the region, bringing more money and jobs in the longer term. It is a matter of balance"

Section 2

Local Updates

• Quality Environment

WIRRAL IS SPEAKING YOUR LANGUAGE

At a glance...

- ❑ Interpreting service offers up to 150 languages for easier access to Council services
- ❑ Interpreters accurately and securely relay information between the operator and caller

Wirral Council's One Stop Shops and main Call Centre can now offer its customers an interpreting service covering 150 languages by using the telephone interpreting and document translation facilities of National Interpreting Service.

With this new on-demand capability, Wirral Council can now communicate with its customers swiftly and easily in their own language through the use of highly skilled professional interpreters.

Through a three way telephone conversation, interpreters accurately and securely relay information between the limited English speaker and the One Stop Shop / Call Centre member of staff.

Contact Wirral Council on:

All departments and general enquiries: 0151-606 2000

Housing Benefits or Council Tax: 0151-606 2002

Streetscene (roads & pavements, refuse collection, street lighting): 0151-606 2004

Social Services, (information and advice): 0151-606 2006

General information and advice: 0151-606 2020

Section 2

Local Updates

• Quality Environment

Wirral's anti litter campaigning short-listed

At a glance...

- ❑ Council short-listed for national Association of Public Service Excellence award.
- ❑ Work with anti-litter campaigning to teenagers receives recognition.
- ❑ Ceremony to take place in Glasgow on Thursday, September 9.

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

The X:CELL4WIRRAL campaign has seen innovative partnership working between the Council, secondary schools, Radio City and Tranmere Rovers FC. Last year all were involved in 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 campaign has been deemed so impressive that it has been shortlisted for the annual Association of Public Service Excellence awards taking place in Glasgow on Thursday, September 9.

Director of Technical Services David Green: "Wirral Council recognises that there is a problem with litter in the borough. This is a national issue, which our officers are keen to tackle locally. We have been working hard with local schools and the regional station Radio City (96.7fm) to come up with this innovative and effective way of educating young people not to drop rubbish and to take more pride in their local environment.

"Run-of-the-mill educational posters, leaflets and presentations aren't always effective when dealing with teenagers. By using radio, the web and live events we are more able to successfully communicate anti-litter messages to secondary school children. "We were overjoyed that this campaign has received so much recognition – at both a regional and national level and look forward to attending the APSE awards ceremony."

The association organises the awards to highlight best practice among local authorities. Officers within Technical Services environmental team will be keeping their fingers crossed to see if they win the category for Best Sustainability initiative.

Wirral's anti litter campaigning has already received regional and national - recognition – winning the category for Innovation and Technology at the Merseyside 21 Awards and being short-listed for the national ENCAMS environmental awards.

Section Three

Community Initiative Funding

Section 3

Community Initiative Funding

Community Initiative Funding Progress Report

Projects that have previously received funding from the Bidston and Claughton Area Forum through the Community Initiatives Fund – September 2005.

Beechwood Falcons	To purchase kit and equipment for the club, to enable engagement with young people.	Report received from Beechwood Falcons - July 2005: Thank you for the funding, which has been used to provide first aid kits for every team and footballs.
St James with St Bede PCC	To purchase sports and craft equipment and storage lockers to enable the provision of additional activities for young people using St Bede's Hall.	Report received from St James with St Bede PCC- August 2005: We are very grateful for the award which has benefited the children of our area. The lockers and equipment were purchased for the 9th Birkenhead Scout and Guide Groups. They have very much appreciated the new equipment, particularly playing with the parachute, and being able to store it on site.
Sundowns	To purchase paper, ink, envelopes and postage for the bi-monthly newsletter	Report from Sundowns received August 2005: The funding has enabled us to produce and distribute the August 2005 Newsletter.
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.	Report received from Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside - August 2005: We have recruited and trained 16 new volunteers and are in the process of training a further 9 to meet the needs of victims. Since April we have supported over 2,000 victims, made nearly 400 home visits to victims and their families and given 785 sessions of telephone support.

Section 3

Community Initiative Funding

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.	Report received from Birkenhead Park FC (Rugby Union) - August 2005: As part of our ongoing youth development programme we have trained six new rugby coaches, two new referees, coaches in child protection, run a coaching programme in local schools and TAG rugby tournament for schools and purchased new kit and equipment.
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.	Report received from Wirral Women & Childrens Aid - September 2005: We have run staff training courses, set up a resource library and formed a group for residents / ex residents on self esteem to raise awareness and build confidence.
Beechwood Community Association	To cover the running costs needed for the association to provide services to the community.	Report received from Beechwood Community Association - September 2005: The Association has continued to deliver services to the community and is moving forward in a positive way and are looking into setting up a Helping Hands / Good Neighbour Scheme.

Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

- **Update**

The area forum had **£13, 739.32** in the Community Initiative Fund, **£3,000** from the Community Safety fund and **£1,500** from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.

The CIF panel met on 23rd August 2005, the panel consisted of;

Councillors Denise Roberts, Harry Smith, and George Davies the Community Representatives were Pat Landsborough, Alison Moulder and Jean McIntosh and the Advisory Representatives were Area Co-ordinator Michelle Gray and Ian Lowrie from the Community Safety Team.

The total amount spent on

- **Community Initiative Fund £13, 173.75 leaving a balance of £565.57**
- **Community Safety £3,000 leaving a balance of nil**
- **LA21 £1, 500 leaving a balance of nil**

Details of the recommendations of the panel are attached. A report went to Cabinet on 22nd September 2005 for final approval. Cheques will be issued to successful applicants at the beginning of October after the 10-day call in period.

ID	Bid No	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Comments of Panel	Community Initiatives Fund	Community Safety Fund	Local Agenda 21 Fund
Budget							£13,739.32	£3,000.00	£1,500.00
724	1	£800.00	£800.00	Norman Street and Area RTA	To purchase a computer and printer for the association.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £800.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund. Panel suggested that the applicant could contact Wirral Voluntary & Community Sectors Network (tel: 647 1227) for help and advice on raising funds.	£800.00	£0.00	£0.00
741	2	£1,000.00	£0.00	Wirral Tuesday Club	To help cover costs associated with running the club, including transport costs, hall hire, presents, trips and providing / updating music.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
746	3	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	St Peter's St Vincent De Paul Conference (SVP)	To send 20 children of any denomination to an outdoor pursuits centre in July 2006 for a challenging week of team building; confidence building; appreciation of the environment; outdoor pursuits etc.	Panel considered this to be a good project, and agreed to award £2,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00

Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

758	4	£3,000.00	£2,000.00	Laird Street Baptist / Family Support Centre	To provide a new path.	Panel considered this to be a good project, and agreed to contribute £2,000.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
782	5	£1,000.00	£0.00	Stanley Special School PTA	To set up a Parent / Carer Resource Unit.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
799	6	£4,500.00	£4,000.00	Claughton Community Group	To provide CCTV for the entire length of Claughton Village shops.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £2,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund and £2,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund towards this.	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
Mr PD Landsborough, Councillor G Davies and Councillor D Roberts declared an interest in the above and took no part in the decision.									
800	7	£4,000.00	£2,500.00	Birkenhead Park FC (Rugby Union)	To provide new and improved facilities for a wide range of sporting and community activities and promote Birkenhead Park as a Sports Hub.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £2,500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund towards this.	£2,500.00	£0.00	£0.00
Mr PD Landsborough declared an interest in the above and took no part in the decision.									

Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

829	8	£2,000.00	£0.00	Age Concern Wirral	To provide perimeter fencing to the side and rear of Devonshire Resource Centre building.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
830	9	£1,132.00	£0.00	Birkenhead Community Regeneration Partnership	To produce 4 issues of a BCRP newsletter over 2005/2006 to publicise and promote the partnership and encourage community involvement.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications. Panel suggested that the applicant liase with Endeavour (tel: 691 8382 / 630 6423) on future funding.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
831	10	£565.00	£565.00	Thorneycroft - Plumer - Rundle - Carrington Streets Residents Association	To provide security lights, CCTV cameras and CCTV signs in area.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £215.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund and £350.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	£215.00	£350.00	£0.00
832	11	£500.00	£0.00	Wirral Cultural Diversity Group (WCDG) - part of Partnership for Racial Equality	To run and support various multi-cultural events.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
833	12	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	Claughton Community Group	To extend the Claughton Community Group Summer Playscheme by increasing the scope and range of activities offered and extending the age range to include 14-15 year olds.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,500.00	£0.00	£0.00

Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

Mr PD Landsborough, Councillor G Davies and Councillor D Roberts declared an interest in the above and took no part in the decision.									
834	13	£500.00	£0.00	ABC Together	To run a cardboard recycling scheme.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
835	14	£2,158.73	£2,158.75	Bidston and North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group	To promote local residents awareness of caring for the environment, dangers of flytipping and to clear and build a garden at the local community house.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,158.75 from the Community Initiatives Fund and £1,000.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	£1,158.75	£0.00	£1,000.00
Ms A Moulder and Ms J McIntosh declared an interest in the above and took no part in the decision.									
836	15	£1,298.37	£650.00	Bidston Rise Tenants Association	To install an intruder alarm system at the Community House.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £650.00 from the Community Safety Fund. Panel suggested that Wirral Partnership Homes be approached, as the owner of the building, with a view to funding the remainder of this project.	£0.00	£650.00	£0.00
Ms J McIntosh and Ms A Moulder declared an interest in the above and took no part in the decision.									
837	16	£250.00	£0.00	Wirral & Deeside Standing Conference of Women's Organisations	To hold a one day event including speakers from both old and young sections of the community, to allow an opportunity for discussion and debate.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

838	17	£2,500.00	£0.00	Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	To publicise the organisation and its services on Buzz FM Radio over a 12 month period.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
839	18	£500.00	£500.00	Wirral Local Agenda 21 Forum	To run a community exchange day.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £500.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00
840	19	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Power House Youth Centre	To continue funding a youth facilitator responsible for sustaining the Homework Club at the Interbase Cybar Cafe.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
926	20	£325.00	£0.00	Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	To train all victim support staff and volunteers, and to cover travel expenses for volunteers, to conduct home visits to support victims of domestic violence.	Panel did not consider this application as it was received after the closing date and were already over subscribed with bids in this round.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Spend							£13,173.75	£3,000.00	£1,500.00
Total Carried Forward							£565.57	£0.00	£0.00

Section Four

Local Area Plan

Section 4

Local Area Plan

Update

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.

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.

Subgroup;

The subgroup met on Tuesday 13th September, the group is made up of; Councillors, Police, PCT, Community Reps and other Council officers, the group reviewed the plan and decided to concentrate on two themes; “Safer Communities” and “A Healthy and High Quality Environment” . Feedback to Michelle Gray by end of October, and subgroup to meet again in November.

Section Five

Youth Update

Section 5

Youth Update

Youth Update - over the past 6 months the participation work on Wirral has involved the following:

UKYP: the support of the current Members of Youth Parliament (MYP's) for Wirral. This work has included enabling MYP's to attend a regional conference in Hawkshead and a national conference in Leicester. As part of these conferences MYP's have to sign up to one of 7 constitutional issues. The Wirral MYP's have signed up to the teen pregnancy strategy and are in the process of applying for places on a teen pregnancy conference in Brussels. As well as this they are meeting with Brook Advisory to look at the educational material available for young people in Wirral. This information will then be shared at a regional meeting in Oct with a view to producing some material for the region. The MYP's are currently organising a Democracy Dinner as part of a national initiative to consult on issues around voting. The Dinner will be hosted on Sept 28th for a group of ten young people. The MYP's are currently involved in planning this years UKYP election.

Area Youth Forums: the area youth forums have recently been involved in consultation on the Charter of Participation, their results have been fed back to the planning group. The forums are beginning to look at more local issues. Birkenhead forum is concerned with safety for young people and lighting in sports cages. West Wirral are concerned with lack of facilities in a local park. South Wirral would like to look at facilities for young people particularly the Youth Engagement Scheme and Wallasey are concerned with skateboard parks.

Young people from the youth forums have recently completed training to be Youth Evaluators, which will enable them to assist in monitoring the youth service. We have now joined British Youth Council and this will enable us to access national training and opportunities.

Next meeting of youth forums

- ◆ Wallasey Forum on Tuesday 27th September 2005 at Wallasey YMCA, Manor Road Wallasey.
- ◆ Birkenhead Forum on Thursday 29th September 2005 at Shaftesbury Youth Club, Mendip Road, Prenton.
- ◆ West Wirral Forum on Tuesday 4th October 2005 at Kylemore Community Centre, Kylemore Drive, Pensby.
- ◆ South Wirral Forum on Thursday 6th October 2005 at Bromborough Youth Club, Acre Lane, Bromborough.

Other initiatives: As well as the above participation work has also included:

- The development of a pack to skill up young people to be involved in club forums, management committees etc.
- Raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities of young people
- Provide resources to increase participation
- Plan the youth conference
- Plan the UKYP elections
- Involvement in a range of initiatives including hear by rights strategy, Beacon Status bid, Children's Plan consultation and regional and a national participation networks.

Section Six

Streetscene update

Streetscene;

The last co-ordinators report for this forum detailed the Councils preparation for the Open golf championship in 2006.

Whilst Hoylake will become the centre of interest, it is important not to forget the remainder of the borough, as no doubt many visitors will take the opportunity to explore the area.

A key factor when forming a view on an area can be the condition of the footpaths and roads.

The Government has set local authorities the target of ensuring there are no roads left, requiring structural maintenance by the year 2010.

A challenging target. However not one we are going to shirk, whilst most of you will be aware that reporting simple highway faults can be carried out through the Streetscene call centre (606 2004), it may of some interest to describe the detail behind the structural maintenance programme.

This is the method through which we plan and carry out our pro-active maintenance programmes for footway and carriageway renewal.

Each year external consultant's tender to carry out a highway condition survey. The successful contractor utilises the United Kingdom Pavement System (UKPMS). This allows the existing highway condition to be ascertained using either machine or visual inspection methods. These results are then analysed with the appropriate computer software which produces a list of roads and their condition, the worst being first.

At this point suggestions from the Area Forums, Members and officers are integrated where possible into the programme. The finished list is then presented to Members for approval.

To give an indication of the size of the programme, this year will see 49 footways reconstructed and a further 35 tarmac footways given a sealing coat to extend the working life. This will cost in the region of £1.6m.

For carriageways, 65 schemes will be completed; with 51 other sites receiving a sealing coat. The cost of the work is expected to be £2.1m.