

# **Bidston & Claughton**

## **Area Forum**

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

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

**Michelle Gray**

**Community Planning, Area Co-ordinator**

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

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

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# SECTION ONE

## Minutes - Area Forum (Bidston and Claughton) Meeting - 2 February 2006

Present	
Chair	DE Roberts
Ward Councillors	JR Cocker , George Davies , S Foulkes , Ann McLachlan
Community Representatives	Ray Rowland (Noctorum Residents Association)
Lead Officer	Kevin Miller (Director of Social Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Michelle Gray
Primary Care Trust	Kath Doran (Chief Executive, Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT) , Ms C Maddaford (Director of Nursing and Quality) , Dr Abhi Mantgani (Bebington & Wirral PCT)
Merseyside Police	Inspector Mark Smith
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Daryl Oprey
Council Officers	Andrew Brannan , Jan Johnson (Minute Taker) , Joan Worthington (Community Safety Team)
Apologies	Rev. Pat Billsborrow (Prenton Churches Together) , Graham Cole (Business representative) , Gary Cummings (Area Streetscene Manager) , Pat Landsborough (Claughton Community Group) , Collette McDonagh (Slatey Road Area Residents Association) , Jean McIntosh , Alison Moulder (Bidston Community representative) , Cllr Harry Smith , Shaun Stewart (Community Safety Team)

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### Minute 1 - Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Councillor Denise Roberts, welcomed forum members and 25 members of the public to the Area Forum for Bidston & Claughton, being held for the second time at The Discovery Learning Centre. The Chair informed people that there was a loop system available for anyone with sensory impairment. The meeting will include time for questions and, if not able to provide answers at the meeting, the Area Co-ordinator will follow up and feedback information on these.

Iain Smith (Secondary Curriculum Project Manager) from the Discovery Centre went through the housekeeping details, including location of fire alarm and toilets.

The forum members introduced themselves and apologies received were noted. The Chair informed the forum that Jean McIntosh, one of the community representatives, was not attending as her organisation - BNBEAG has been nominated for a Local Agenda 21 (LA21) award and she is attending the award ceremony this evening.

The presentation on WIRE will not be made to this meeting, as WIRE has also been nominated for a LA21 award. Michelle will try to re-arrange for WIRE to come to

either the June or October 2006 Area Forums.

The Chair welcomed Ray Rowland, the newly appointed Community Representative for the Noctorum area, to his first meeting.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Michelle to re-arrange WIRE presentation for a future meeting of the forum.

### **Minute 2 - Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting (3 October 2005)**

The issue of teen shelters was raised at the previous meeting. The Area Co-ordinator mentioned that anyone who would like further information on this can contact Roger Calvert on 0151 637 6008 (full contact details are included on page 9 of the February Area Co-ordinators report).

Details of the proposal to upgrade Noctorum Road, an unadopted footpath, were minuted in the October meeting. Subject to agreement by all parties, the work will be scheduled for April-June this year. Further advice or information is available from Shaun Brady or John Sixsmith on 0151 606 2429 (full contact details are included on page 9 of the February Area Co-ordinators report).

### **Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinators Report and Area Plan Update**

The Area Co-ordinator talked through the sections of her report, copies of which were available on the evening.

Section 1 of the report contained minutes from the last meeting and any matters arising.

Section 2 contains press releases and local updates, including Neighbourhood Project; Recycling schemes; transport funding; results from consultations carried out in 2005; details of the Proposed Supplementary Planning Document - Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Operators – if anyone would like further information on this or wishes to comment on this please contact Eddie Fleming, Senior Planning Officer from Strategic Development on: 0151 691 8129, or [eddiefleming@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:eddiefleming@wirral.gov.uk)

Section 3 provided information on funding progress, this will be a regular section of the report. It is anticipated that the funding for the new financial year – 2006 / 2007 will be advertised in the Wirral Globe during April 2006. If anyone wishes to receive an application pack please contact the Community Planning Team on 0151 691 8650. The forum was allocated £11,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund; £1,500.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund and £3,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund last year. The allocation for 2006/2007 is still to be agreed.

Section 4 included information on the Local Area Plan, and it is hoped that this will be completed by the end of March.

Section 5 included a press release aimed at young people/parents affected by crime, covering areas of victim inclusion and youth inclusion. Further information on this is available from Eddie Patterson, who can be contacted on 0151 929 7756.

Section 6 included information on the Arrowe Park roundabout, the expansion of the cycle network, approach to litter dropping, plans to remove footbridges, funding for transport schemes in Wirral and proposed environmental improvements.

Michelle mentioned the equal opportunities questionnaires, which had been placed on chairs, and asked if people could complete and return these, in the self addressed

envelopes provided.

The Chair introduced a new forum member, Daryl Oprey from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service. Daryl provided a briefing on the service, which has recently been voted the best performing fire and rescue service in the country. Upton Community Fire Station is setting the standard for the rest of the country for fire response and community integration. The service is getting more involved in community work, a new community sensory garden has opened at the station, and is being used for meetings and events by both the Fire Service and the community. Daryl mentioned that if anyone requires a smoke detector please contact the service on 0800 731 5958. The following questions were raised:

Q – does the smoke detector scheme apply for businesses in the area?

A – it is mainly domestic.

Q – do you come out to home watch areas to talk to groups?

A – we are happy to come along to talk to groups when invited.

Councillor George Davies raised the issue of linking the Area Plan to the new Local Area Agreements (LAA). The community will be engaged in the challenging process of LAA and it is important that reference is made to housing needs within the 4 blocks of the priority areas. Michelle confirmed that the plan is currently being updated and will ensure that this is raised at the next meeting of the sub-group due to take place in March - April 2006.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that the Area Co-ordinator to raise issue Re: importance of reference to housing needs in the Area Plan at the next sub-group meeting.

#### **Minute 4 - Friends of Flaybrick**

John Moffat, Secretary from Friends of Flaybrick attended the Forum to provide information on this scheme.

The group, which seeks and needs partnership with the community, currently has 70 paid up members. Frank Field is it's patron, and Professor John Tarn was elected as the first president of the group on 28th March 2004.

Achievements made by the group include: site name change to Flaybrick Memorial Gardens; eradication of drug use from site; production of a CD-rom (with 582 inscriptions and summer guided walks); setting up of a website; and raising the awareness of Flaybrick's importance on a national and European level. At the recent AGM in Berlin of the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe, the group submitted a joint bid, with Wirral Council, to hold the 2008 AGM in Wirral and this bid was successful.

John briefed the forum on problems encountered, including vandalism and health and safety. A Safety Officer post is planned, to deal with memorial safety. Councillor Harry Smith had arranged a meeting of the Police, the Council and the Friends of Flaybrick to look at these issues. Subsequent meetings have taken place with Inspector Mark Smith and are scheduled to continue.

The group is currently seeking funding for thorn hedging/cctv cameras for the 26-acre site and is currently exploring funding options to finance a £1.25m project, proposed by the ranger for Flaybrick, for a National Bat Study Centre.

A copy of this presentation is attached to the agenda.

The following points / questions were raised:

A Member of the public remarked on the tireless work John carries out for the group

and recommended people to go on one of the organised walks.

Member of the public - did Landican used to be a town cemetery, and are there any plans for a friends group for Landican? John – yes Landican used to be a town cemetery, and I am not aware of any plans to set up a friends group.

#### **Minute 5 - Public Question Time**

The Chair asked for any questions from the audience.

Beechwood resident – raised concerns regarding the new WPC for the area, who has been asked to attend meetings but has still not made contact with the residents; the size of the area covered by Community Safety Officers (CSOs); and why aren't crime reports being received?

Inspector Smith – contact should have been made by the WPC and she is also responsible for the crime reports in that area, I will ensure that these are remedied. With regard to the CSOs he explained about the new neighbourhood model, which had changed slightly since 30 January 2006, about community and enforcement covering 3 strands of neighbourhood policing:

Dedicated – there are 13 dedicated officers for Bidston/Oxton/Claughton, with a minimum of 3 per ward and they could not be pulled away to do anything else.

Support – there are 7 officers based at Laird St to support the activity of the dedicated officers. They can be called on to cover other activities and are extremely flexible.

Patrol – this is the traditional, 365-day 24/7 service, and these are the officers that attend when you call for service.

Q – if we have got 22 wards and have 3 dedicated officers per ward this means there are 66 officers. Have we got 66 new officers?

Inspector Smith – there are 66 dedicated officers on Wirral.

A comment was made on the effectiveness of the Area Forum as, following the previous Forum, the Police did make contact to look at issues raised. It was agreed to be an effective network.

Mr Garrett raised the following local transport issues. Will there be a park and ride in the vicinity for Birkenhead North railway station? What progress has been made on Bidston railway station and will there be a park and ride service? Can we ensure there will be disabled access? Can any of £170m for the tram scheme investment now be invested in Wirral schemes?

Councillor Foulkes commented that it now looks unlikely that the tram scheme will go ahead, although Merseytravel are appealing the decision. We will make a representation requesting that the money remain within the Mersey region and will be putting in a bid for the Bidston/Wrexham line. If Councillor Smith had been at this meeting he could have provided an update on the Local Transport Plan. However in his absence the Area Co-ordinator will pass on the questions raised and report back to Mr Garrett.

Q – could any money go towards the Flaybrick scheme?

A - no, as this is not a transport scheme. The Friends of Flaybrick should be congratulated for the work they have done to substantially raise the profile of the area.

Mr Garrett - what is the situation with regards to train station on Beechwood?

A – this links into the electrification of rail line, as Beechwood would be an extension to this. The first hurdle is to get the allocation of funding and further lines will follow.

Mr Garrett also informed the forum that the 437 bus is now operating on a 10-minute service enabling people to get from West Kirby to Liverpool.

Q – is there any money to provide a bus from Noctorum to Claughton 6th Form College, twice a day, in the morning and in the evening?

A – there was a service from Beechwood, that turned round at Park High, but members were not aware it had stopped running.

Councillor Foulkes informed the Forum that, since bus deregulation, Arriva decides which routes they want to run. Merseytravel subsidise some services but have a very small portion of their fund available for this. It is up to users to put a case together and present it to them. It was agreed that the Forum would contact Merseytravel, to inform them of the lack of bus services from the Noctorum to the College in Claughton.

Q – Angie Thompson, from the Noctorum area, raised the issue of a football pitch for the area.

A – Ray Rowland said he had been in touch with Sports Council for England and Wales. A bid will be submitted for a pitch and other areas of funding are currently being explored.

Councillor Davies also commented on this issue and said that the Councillors are also moving forward, and have contacted Alan Stennard - Head of Regeneration, to talk about the likely funding arrangements and have been given a positive response to this.

Councillor Foulkes briefed the Forum on the allocation set aside to develop a play area on the Noctorum. We are trying to seek a locality that will stay protected, possibly with a main road aspect or attached to a school with access to the public.

Councillor Davies updated the Forum on Housing Market Renewal Initiative (HMRI). We should have an idea of what the allocation is within the next two weeks. The three priorities are Fiveways – Rock Ferry, Crossways – Tranmere, and North End - Birkenhead.

In relation to HMRI, a member of the public commented on a meeting of residents where he obtained information that only two-thirds of the estate had been engaged. Residents are waiting for date in April when the bid submission will be made known. One-third had not yet commented.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved that:

- i. Inspector Smith to contact the WPC for Beechwood re: attending meetings and the distribution of crime reports.
- ii. the Area Co-ordinator to pass questions raised on transport issues to Councillor Smith and report back to Mr Garrett.
- iii. the Area Co-ordinator to contact Merseytravel, on behalf of the Forum, regarding the lack of bus services from the Noctorum to the College in Claughton.

## **Minute 6 - Primary Care Trust - Consultation on New Primary Care Trust Arrangements in Wirral**

Kathy Doran, Chief Executive, Birkenhead & Wallasey Primary Care Trust (PCT)

addressed the Area Forum on the consultation on the new PCTs in Wirral.

Kathy informed the forum that for the last 4/5 years there have been two PCTs covering Wirral. In July 2005 the Strategic Health Authorities asked the PCTs to develop proposals for the Trusts with an aim to improve how they work and save money and use these savings to increase resources for frontline services. Several options were considered, including leaving PCTs as they are, linking with the Wirral Council area, Linking Wirral / Chester / Ellesmere Port and linking Wirral / County of Cheshire. Cheshire and Merseyside have put forward proposals to reduce the existing PCTs from 15 to 7 and are consulting on this. The PCT felt that the best option was that linking the PCT to the Wirral Council area and the consultation is based on this. The consultation period will run until Wednesday 22 March 2006, a freepost consultation questionnaire (this can also be downloaded from the Strategic Health Authority website [www.cmha.nhs.uk/cmconsult.htm](http://www.cmha.nhs.uk/cmconsult.htm)) is available at this meeting, and we would welcome your views on these proposals. Comments can also be e-mailed to [consult@cmha.nhs.uk](mailto:consult@cmha.nhs.uk) or via freephone at 0800 389 1366. All the comments received will be summarised and passed to the Health Minister. At the moment the majority of the PCTs do not link with the Local Councils. It is proposed that all the PCTs in Cheshire and Merseyside will have a one-to-one link (with the exception of St Helens and Halton as these will link as one PCT as they cover a small area).

The role of the PCTs - Health Improvements - to improve and protect the local population's health. This involves more than just visiting your local GPs and it is critical to link in with Local Councils on issues that may affect health - such as housing.

Commissioning - to buy in health care and balance priorities, the PCTs spent £450m on patients' behalf.

Out of Hospital Care - to run care services - such as District Nurses, Health Visitors etc.

There are also consultations taking place on proposals to link Cheshire and Merseyside with Greater Manchester creating a reduction, in North West England, of the number of Strategic Health Authorities from three to one and of the number of Ambulance Service Trusts from four to one.

The Chair thanked Kathy for her presentation and the following questions / issues were raised:

Will this provide better services for patients, as it looks as though there would be more regional control?

Kathy – this is a managerial organisational change, not on how we provide services. It should result in a better-managed service, by having a Wirral wide view. There should be some savings in management costs, which would go into patient care. Wirral PCTs are attending all 11 Area Forums to debate the proposed changes and to engage with the community. By comparison, some other authorities are only having one public meeting.

A member of the public commented that mental health services were treated very differently and Kathy said that she would be happy to discuss this further outside the meeting.

Dr Mantgani confirmed that the 2 PCTs have worked very much together on the new proposal of forming 1 coterminous PCT that would have many benefits, including local directives.



Do you see, as a result of the change, your budget staying the same?

Kathy – yes, we have had allocations as 2 separate PCs until 2008. The Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT have received a better level of funding as it covers more areas of deprivation. We will have locality groups and practice based commissioning and as we move and those budgets will be based on weighted capitation.

Councillor Foulkes said that, in his view, the local authority would support 1 coterminous PCT. He also asked if there are any plans to draw Mental Health Services into the PCT?

A – There are no plans for this. The PCT commission services from the Cheshire & Wirral Partnership Trust for Wirral patients, and there were no proposals to change their boundaries.

The Lead Officer confirmed that a strong representation was made, at the time the Partnership Trust was formed, that we did have governance arrangements with them, to ensure that we are able to look at the needs of Wirral. There is a lot of common ground with Cheshire.

Councillor Cocker commented that the consultation is far more comprehensive than in other areas of Merseyside. This confirms that the Area Forum is one area of influence and is an important way of talking to real people.

#### **Minute 7 - WIRE Presentation**

The Area Co-ordinator reported that Adrian Gill from WIRE had to cancel his presentation as WIRE has been nominated for an LA21 award and the ceremony is being held tonight. Michelle briefed the Forum on the WIRE - Wirral's Independent Recycling Enterprise. It is based in Wallasey and takes and restores unwanted furniture, and sells it on at low cost to people. Adrian will be invited to give a presentation at a future meeting. Further details on this are included on page 15 of the February Area Co-ordinator's report.

A member of the audience informed the Forum that WIRE has got an outlet in Grange Road West, Birkenhead and that you can see samples of work in there. There is also a similar service for refurbished white goods, called CREATE.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that WIRE be invited to a future meeting.

#### **Minute 8 - Any Other Business**

The Area Co-ordinator agreed to check the results of the LA21 awards and include details as an attachment to these minutes. Details of these are attached to the agenda. The Chair reported that the next Area Forum would be held on Monday 12 June at Sixth Form College, in Claughton.

Thanks were extended to speakers, everyone who attended and the Discovery Learning Centre for use of the building. The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

## **Matters arising from previous meeting:**

### **Bus Service Noctorum Estate**

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the bus service provision in the Noctorum Estate, which was raised as an issue at the Bidston & Claughton Area Forum in February.

Since the meeting of the forum in February of this year, there has been a further revision to Arriva's commercial bus network which has changed the provision of service throughout the Wirral area, and I believe has addressed some of the main concerns of residents in the area covered by the forum.

Arriva are now operating a revised service 492/495 Monday to Saturday daytime. The route of the new service provides circular services (495 clockwise, 492 anti clockwise) from Birkenhead Bus Station to Shrewsbury Road, Claughton Village, Tollemache Road, St James Church, Beechwood, Noctorum, Townfield Lane, Ingestre Road, Halfway House, Woodchuch Road, Central Library and back to Birkenhead Bus Station and reverse in the opposite direction.

The service operates two 30 minute frequencies starting from 0700 hrs and finishing approx. 1800 hrs, it provides a direct link from Noctorum to Claughton Village (Birkenhead Sixth Form College) and Central Birkenhead (Wirral Metropolitan College, Europa Boulevard)

I hope that this helps address the concerns expressed, but if you require more detailed information, or you think there are other specific issues regarding bus service provision, please contact our Bus Services Manager Peter Kelly on 0151 330 1344.

# **SECTION TWO**

## **Local Updates**

Wirral has been chosen as a pilot area for the next round of LAA's. The purpose is to build much stronger links between central government and local partners with outcomes, objectives and targets set for the next 3 years. Key priorities for Wirral have already been established within the Community Strategy and partners own plans and strategies such as the Council's Corporate Plan, and the task now is to draw these priorities together and establish if there are any gaps and include some new additions if necessary.

The aim is to bring together LAA's and Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs) to deliver local solutions to local issues. There is NO additional money with the LAA (apart from a reward grant for delivering 'stretch' on certain targets which replaces the previous LPSA regime) but this is an opportunity for Wirral to achieve more with given/current resources. Basically, the aim is to 'pool' or align current resources across partner organisations. Within the LAA, Government have identified four 'Blocks' as priority areas, and the Council – with their partners in the LSP – have identified key officers to lead on each one, they are:

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| • <b>Safer and Stronger Communities</b>         | <b>Alan Stennard</b>  |
| • <b>Healthier Communities and Older People</b> | <b>John Webb</b>      |
| • <b>Children and Young People</b>              | <b>Chris Batman</b>   |
| • <b>Economic Development and Enterprise</b>    | <b>Kevin Adderley</b> |

Where possible the local updates that follow in this report are included under the relevant heading relating to the four 'blocks' within the LAA.

## **Safer and Stronger Communities Theme**

### **New community police station opens in Wirral**

A new mobile police station opening in Wirral aims to make a positive impact on areas suffering high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Wirral's Community Safety Team has launched a new Community Police Station to help cut crime and anti-social behaviour. The aim of the unit is for the community to see and feel reassured about the reduction in crime and anti social behaviour in their neighbourhood when the community police station is present.

Funded by Wirral Council and staffed by Police Officers, Community Support Officers, Council Security Patrols - and soon to be the base of a Community Development Officer - the fully functional unit will be deployed into areas suffering high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The unit will be moved approximately 6 times during the year remaining in those communities long enough to make a significant impact on the quality of life of residents in the area. The station is currently based in Highfield Road, Rock Ferry, following numerous complaints from residents about anti social behaviour in the area.

Acting Area Commander for Wirral, Superintendent John Young said: "We fully support this initiative, it ties into our style of neighbourhood policing in that we are able to move and site the community police station in areas we have identified through intelligence as being 'hotspots' for Anti-Social Behaviour. We want to reassure communities living in these areas that we are taking positive action to address local issues.

"Dedicated officers will work from the station, getting into the heart of the community to address and problem solve local quality of life concerns and issues. We want to encourage local residents to speak with the police officers and use the opportunity to communicate any concerns they have and pass on any information about those involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour activities."

The Community Police Station will bring the work of Wirral's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to the communities that need it most. Equipped with CCTV cameras producing high quality images, a public enquiry office and linked to networked computers, the alarmed unit has all the facilities of a modern office.

Leaflets will inform local communities of the unit's opening hours for public enquiries but the Community Police Station can be open at any time for use by the patrols working in that area.

The work of the Community Development Worker will be to build up public awareness and confidence so residents know where and who to turn to if crime levels rise once the Community Police Station moves on to its next location.

Wirral Council Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Councillor George Davies said: "We see this Police Station as another opportunity to bring the work of community safety into the heart of Wirral's communities and to tackle the local issues that are blighting our resident's quality of life."

## Safer and Stronger Communities Theme



### Wirral Trader Scheme

Are you looking for a business that cares about its customers? Do you need;

- a roofer
- an electrician
- a builder
- an accountant
- double glazing ?

#### **Are you looking for a trader you can trust to come into your home?**

The Wirral Trader Scheme is a Wirral Council initiative managed by the Wirral Trading Standards Service, aiming to create a trading environment where consumers can buy goods and services with confidence from Wirral traders. Traders must have permanent business premises within Wirral Borough and satisfy strict assessment criteria and vetting by Trading Standards. They must be reputable, demonstrate a commitment to trade fairly, honestly and deal efficiently and effectively with any dissatisfaction. If however, you are unhappy with any aspect of the goods or services you buy from a member, you must first address this with them. If this cannot be resolved then Trading Standards will take up your dispute with them and where you have a justified complaint this will be rectified by the trader. A warning will be given to the trader and advice to ensure that any failure remains an isolated case. Further breakdowns will result in the trader being removed from the Scheme.

#### **How to find a Trader!**

Some of the accredited businesses are advertised here on this folder and there may be a list of the rest inside your information pack, otherwise;

Visit the Trading Standards website at [www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/wirral](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/wirral)

You can see the Code of Practice that governs members of the Scheme in the business section of the website. You can also telephone us to check the up to date membership of the Scheme.

Contact Trading Standards on 0151 691 8639 or 0151 691 8535. (Visit Wirral Council One-Stop Shops or Libraries, Age Concern (Wirral) or local Citizens Advice Bureaux for details of Traders.

Can you recommend a trader to us? If so, you could be helping in our mission to leave the rogues out of work!

## **Safer and Stronger Communities Theme**

### **Wirral's Mayor unveils report on accessibility of services for disabled people in the Borough**

A report and DVD into the challenges faced by disabled people in Wirral was launched on April 21 at the Lauries Centre in Birkenhead.

The event is being jointly organised by the DARE Foundation, a registered charity whose aims are to work with disabled people to promote social inclusion for disabled people, and Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services.

The report and DVD will be launched officially by Wirral's Mayor, Cllr Chris Meaden, and will feature presentations by six teams of disabled people and service providers who worked together for six months. The presentations focus on how disabled people can overcome challenges and make services more accessible.

Cllr Meaden has followed the work closely since it started in April of last year: "Since I became a councillor in Wirral, I have come into contact with many disabled constituents. I am acutely aware of the challenges they face when trying to use services the rest of us take for granted. I have every confidence that this partnership will lead to significant improvements in services for disabled people in the Borough".

The six teams comprised disabled people and representatives from health and social care providers. Their brief was to explore the challenges around six issues and activities:

- Making a film about access to public amenities entitled "A Great Day Out! (NOT)!"
- Exploring issues around people's perceptions of risk, and how this can limit disabled people's choices and independence.
- Exploring accessible toilets in the Wirral area.

Producing a package to raise awareness of disability among primary school children.

- Assessing local venues, looking at access and attitudes.
- Focussing on "the words we use", which relate to disability issues.

DARE's Chief Executive, Jill Fardell, said: "What these projects clearly demonstrate is that disabled people in Wirral are prepared to tackle head-on issues of concern.

"They've created a solid foundation for working from now on, and I'm confident that their projects will be used widely throughout Wirral". Jill continued: "DARE has developed and used this model of working across the UK for the past 6 years, but this is the first time a Social Services Department has initiated and collaborated fully in a programme – and what a difference that has made".

Once the Mayor unveiled the report, there was an opportunity for people in the audience to put questions to a panel including John Webb, Wirral's Head of Services for Older People and People with Physical and Sensory Disabilities, Chris Smith, the Occupational Team Manager, Roz Davison who facilitated the work of one of the teams and two disabled service-users.

Kathy Byrne is a service-user who has made extensive use of various services in Wirral and has played an active role in this event: "I have been able to teach others directly from my personal experiences. "As a disabled person, I have been denied opportunities and quality in my life but now feel that society is changing. It is exciting to know that my life has already changed through the DARE Foundation approach. I feel that people are beginning to take an interest in disabled people". And one positive change in Kathy's life is the DARE Foundation's Step up to Learning Course. The course is accredited by the Open College Network and aims to get disabled people back into education or employment. Kathy completed the course in March of this year and feels that she has benefited from the opportunity.

## Healthier Communities and Older People Theme



### Churches Together in Wirral

Representing christian opinion across the borough

Welcome to the Churches Together in Wirral web site - where you can search our database of religious activity in the Wirral. [www.churcheswirral.co.uk](http://www.churcheswirral.co.uk)

Churches Together in Wirral seeks to unite its members in response to Jesus' prayer that His followers may be one, and to fulfil Saint Paul's vision of the Church as the Body of Christ in the world.

Believing that service to the community is a prime opportunity to put into practice the values of the Kingdom of Heaven which Jesus preached, Churches Together in Wirral is a partnership of different branches of the Christian Church which aims to encourage and facilitate co-operation between the churches themselves and between church and community at every level.

In pursuing these aims, Churches Together in Wirral seeks to represent its member-churches in relations with the Local Authority and other statutory bodies, with voluntary and community organisations and with other faith communities.

The purpose of this website is to enable faith communities on Wirral to work together, and with other statutory bodies and with the voluntary sector.

Via this website you can find [PLACES OF WORSHIP](#), [FAITH ORGANISATIONS](#) and [FAITH ACTIVITIES](#) in Wirral.

*(Survey of Faith Community Activity in Wirral: - This survey was undertaken on behalf of Churches Together in Wirral by the Theology and Religious Services Department of the University of Chester. Funded by WVCSN and the Neighbourhood Community Chest the survey covers all faiths and provides a snapshot of religious activity in Wirral. )*

**Further information and comments can be directed to Norman Polden at [office@churcheswirral.co.uk](mailto:office@churcheswirral.co.uk) or by telephone on 0151 6780435**

## **Healthier Communities and Older People Theme**

### **£280,000 cash boost for older people's swimming in Wirral**

Wirral's older people are set to benefit from a funding boost of £280,000 as part of the Everyday Swim initiative.

It will fund activities over the next two years for older people to access the borough's six swimming pools.

Wirral is one of only seven areas picked by the Amateur Swimming Association to take on the pioneering new scheme.

The scheme, which has been funded by both the Council and Sport England, aims to look at the barriers to swimming and provide best practice examples to affect a culture change across the country.

Wirral will now lead the way in encouraging older people into the pool for leisure, fitness and fun.

The Council's Head of Cultural Services Jim Lester said: "We are delighted to have been chosen as the pilot for the Everyday Swim campaign. "Our Everyday Swim project will focus on increasing the percentage of older people swimming and swimming regularly in Wirral.

"We will seek to widen access for the increasing older population of Wirral through the introduction of targeted free sessions at each of our six swimming pools."

The seven successful authorities were whittled down from a list of more than 30 applicants and each pilot will focus on a different potential audience who could benefit from regular swimming – including obese adults and children, disabled people and, as in Wirral's case, older people.

Wirral's pilot will be further developed over the coming weeks. Everyday Swim ambassador and Olympic gold medalist Duncan Goodhew believes the chosen pilots have real potential for making a difference:

"The pilot areas have embraced the concept of a culture change in swimming and I am really excited about seeing the ideas on paper come to life over the coming months."

Stephen Baddeley, Interim Chief Executive of Sport England, said: "Swimming has such great health benefits and we are delighted to be supporting Everyday Swim as part of our drive to get the nation more active through sport."



## **Healthier Communities and Older People Theme**

### **Wirral puts itself on the food map!**

Come and tickle your tastebuds at the first Wirral Food and Drink Festival in August! This exciting new addition to the food lovers' calendar, which is run completely by volunteers for the benefit of the region, will take place at the picturesque Claremont Farm, in Wirral, on Sunday, August 27 and Monday, August 28.

Around 60 of the best local producers will be there to show just why Wirral should be on the map for food lovers across the region at the two-day event.

It will also feature chef's demonstrations, celebrity ready steady cook and a specialist cheese and drink area hosted by Cheshire's famous Cheese Detective. There will also be fund-raising events in aid of nearby Claire House Hospice.

Chefs taking part include Paul Askew from the London Carriage Works and Marc Wilkinson from Restaurant Fraiche, which won a Michelin Rising Star this year.

The festival, which is being run completely by volunteers, will involve the whole of the peninsula as restaurants, farm shops, specialist producers, teashops, guest houses and hotels will also be holding special events around the same time.

The festival has the backing of Wirral Borough Council, Emma Degg, Head of Tourism and Marketing for Wirral Council said:

"The Wirral Food and Drink Festival is a fantastic opportunity to showcase Wirral talent, and it is just one element of Wirral Council's events programme supported by ERDF funds. Our goal is to increase visitor numbers to Wirral and our food offer is an important part of that".

It is also supported by The Mersey Partnership, Wirral Farmers' Market, North West Fine Foods, the Wirral News Group, the Wirral Lions and the Liverpool Culture Company.

Loyd Grossman, Chairman Culture North West, has given his backing to the project.

"Wirral and the whole of Merseyside has a lot of excellent produce but it has hidden its light under a bushel until now. This is a great opportunity to spread the word on what the region has to offer.

"This festival will offer something for everyone from food lovers looking for the best local produce to families seeking a great day out," he said.

Keep up-to-date to new additions to the festival or if you would like to get involved check out the website, created by the Reasonably Good company, at :

[www.wirralfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.wirralfoodfestival.co.uk)

# Children and Young People Theme

## 'BEANBAG' bags the biggest award

Residents of Bidston and North Birkenhead have won a top environmental award.

The Bidston and North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group (BNBEAG, or 'BEANBAG' as the youngsters call it), won the overall 'Community Project of the Year Award' in the annual Merseyside 21 Awards.

The group brings together volunteers, local businesses, many council departments, and other agencies including police and fire service with big clean-ups, fun days and education campaigns. They have made a dramatic change to the area – to the extent that costs for waste disposal in the area dropped by nearly 50% last year.

Jean McIntosh, local resident and founder of group said: "This award belongs to the whole community and everyone who's been involved in what we've been doing. A lot of people have been brilliant in putting their time and energy into this. It's all about working together and educating people on how to get rid of rubbish safely."

Local children have been actively involved in clean ups and environmental action and are enthusiastically encouraging people in other areas others to take responsibility for their communities "for a cleaner, better life."

Chief Executive of Wirral Council, Steve Maddox said "I'm particularly delighted that the efforts of BNBEAG have been recognized. As a Council we are committed to working in partnership with others, and BNBEAG is an excellent example of a community that has recognized local problems and worked with ourselves and other partners to address them in a sustainable way."

The success of the project has resulted in much closer working between the various agencies in the area and there have been lots of small successes: an increase in reporting of flytipping offenders; more people recycling furniture and white goods; and the Council's Streetscene number has been widely publicized to encourage people to use the council's new one stop 'super service' for everything to do with roads and pavements. Winning designs in their poster competition around litter have now been used on official council signs in the area. The group has also initiated a community skip programme.



## Children and Young People Theme

### Tree-mendous recycling by local schools

Schoolchildren in Wirral recycled a massive 305,800kg of waste last year as well as 6715 old editions of Yellow Pages. Prizes were awarded by Mayor of Wirral, Cllr Chris Meaden at Wirral's Annual Schools Recycling Awards in Bromborough last week. Orrets Meadow School (pictured) scooped the 'Gold Oak' title and top prize of £300 in the Yellow Woods Challenge – the schools environmental competition run by Yellow Pages, working with the Woodland Trust and Wirral Council.



Youngsters from Orrets Meadow School collected 343 old Yellow Pages directories for recycling, achieving the best recycling rate of 6.6 per pupil in the Wirral area. Runners-up, Kilgarth School won £200 and the Silver Birch certificate and Well Lane Primary School came in third, receiving £100 and the Bronze Beech certificate.

For every pound awarded to schools, Yellow Pages gives a matching pound to the Woodland Trust's 'Tree For All' campaign, which aims to plant a tree for every child in the UK. In support of this, native tree saplings have been awarded to the top three prize winning schools and to Black Horse Hill Infant School, Hayfield School and Pensby Junior School for achieving 4th, 5th and 6th place in the local Yellow Woods Challenge.

Wirral Schools recycle everything from paper, cardboard, cans and foil to toner cartridges and fluorescent tubes through the Council-run Schools Recycling Scheme. Prizes awarded to the top collectors were: Schools with fewer than 100 Pupils - Kilgarth with 4080kg (78.53kg per pupil), Schools with 100 - 500 pupils - Hayfield Primary with 4790kg (38.59kg per pupil), Schools with more than 500 pupils - Ridgeway with 7680kg (9.18kg per pupil) The total collected by primary and secondary schools was 305.80 tonnes (or 305,800kg) including 71 toner cartridges and 1051 fluorescent tubes.

David Green, Director of Wirral Council's Technical Services Department said: "I'm delighted that so many schools have taken part whole heartedly in our Schools Recycling Round. I'd particularly like to thank all the schoolchildren, teachers and communities that took on Wirral's Yellow Woods Challenge. The old Yellow Pages directories collected by the schools have now been recycled into animal bedding by Centrol Recycling Group."

Richard Duggleby, head of external relations with Yell, the publisher of Yellow Pages, said: "This is a great achievement by schools in Wirral and shows how interested children are in recycling and looking after the environment. We couldn't run the Challenge without the local authority and recycling company and I thank them for their continued support and commitment."

**For further information about the Yellow Woods Challenge and the Tree For All campaign, visit: [www.yellow-woods.co.uk](http://www.yellow-woods.co.uk)**

## Children and Young People Theme



### Life Education Centres (Wirral)

The Wirral Life Education Centre provides children between the ages of 3 to 11 years with a valuable learning experience that has been designed to provide them with the necessary information and skills to make healthy choices. It provides a mobile class-room which is available to all children in Wirral. It contains a number of valuable teaching aids that have been designed to make a positive impact on the way children make decisions about their own health.

Children attending the unit learn how special their body is and how it should be looked after. They are taught the impact of unhealthy choices on their body so that they will be enabled to make informed choices. They need to know about their own bodies and how they work before they can understand the effects of unhealthy eating and the use of drugs on their bodies.

Children attending the unit find out about medicines, alcohol, and nicotine. The older children discuss which drugs are legal and illegal and what effect they can have on their bodies and life style. An important part of the experience allows them to think about relationships and how to build successful friendships.

Whilst in the unit they take part in role-play centred upon their relationships with others and ways in which bullying can be dealt with. They gain the confidence to approach adults for help and advice. In addition they are equipped with the skill to say "no" to their friends and therefore avoid peer pressure that could lead to unhealthy choices.

The whole learning experience is enhanced by the design of the unit. A life-size doll enables them to learn about the working of their bodies and the way in which alcohol, nicotine and food can affect it.

Harold, a giraffe puppet, is used to help the younger children think about how adults can help them to use medicines safely. Harold also has an amazing effect upon the children that enables them to think about their friends and how they should be treated.

Interactive video presentations allow the children to discuss the impact of drugs on their bodies and develop their understanding of relationships and how to say no!

During the school year which started in September 2003 the mobile classroom has visited over 40 schools and provided a valuable learning experience to nearly 10,000 Wirral children. In addition many parents have attended the unit and can offer enhanced assistance to their children. The value of the service we provide can be measured by the fact that schools have requested return visits for this current year. We are hoping to reach even more children this year.

Of course our service is not without cost. Each visit is highly subsidised by the Life Education Centre. In order to continue with this valuable work Life Education needs to raise £42000 annually.

## **Economic Development and Enterprise Theme**

### **Tourism partners announce plans for The Open Championship 2006**

The Open Championship returns to the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake, in July this year for the first time since 1967. The Championship is expected to deliver a major boost to the local and regional economy.

A report recently issued by the R & A revealed that The Open Championship held at St Andrews was worth £72 million to Scotland last year.

Wirral Council today, Thursday 9th February, announced a range of activities designed to maximise the benefits of The Open Championship for tourism businesses in Wirral, Merseyside and across the Northwest region. These activities are the result of a partnership between the Council, The Mersey Partnership and the Northwest Regional Development Agency and include work with the national and international media, new signage both on and off the course, a guide for visitors and inward investment activity.

The Guide to The Open Championship will provide tourism information for the 200,000 expected visitors to visit Wirral in July. Available from April, it will provide restaurant, attraction and hotel listings, and travel information.

Martin King, Director of Tourism for The Mersey Partnership explains:

“We are pleased to be working in partnership with Wirral Council and the NWDA on the projects announced today. In excess of 200,000 visitors will arrive in July and this guide will ensure that they have a fantastic experience during their stay. Even more importantly we want to encourage as many of those visitors as possible to return after the Championship.”

Global television coverage of The Open Championship is a key opportunity for the region. 174 hours of images of St Andrews, Fife and Scotland were shown on television screens in over 194 territories, equivalent to £40 million of media value.

Emma Degg, Head of Tourism and Marketing for Wirral Council, said:

“Over 300 journalists will be here in Wirral to cover The Open, some of whom will be visiting in advance of the Championship. They will all receive all the information they need including facts on the local area, our great golfing history and importantly, where they can go to get a drink and a great meal. We are also already working with the R & A and the broadcasters of The Open Championship to ensure television viewers across the world see the best possible images of Wirral, Merseyside and the wider Northwest.”

The Open Championship also represents an opportunity to showcase the area to potential inward investors. 11.5% of visitors come from overseas, 44% of overseas visitors from the United States. Activity will also be focussed upon bringing new investors to The Open Championship to experience at first hand what Wirral and the wider Northwest has to offer.

Peter Mearns, Director of Marketing for the Northwest Regional Development Agency explained the significance of the Championship to the whole of the Northwest:

“This fantastic event provides us with a great opportunity to place the whole region in the spotlight. The NWDA is proud to support this unique campaign that will ensure England’s Northwest benefits from the lasting legacy of The Open Championship, further showcasing the region as a leading destination for major sporting events.

“Along with our partners, the NWDA is now delivering a Major Events Strategy to capitalise on the substantial economic benefits of hosting great events such as this. Developing sport is an excellent way of improving the image, economy and tourism potential of the region. “



## Cross Cutting all Themes

### Wirral projects recognised in environmental 'oscars'

Community clean-ups, school eco councils, scarecrows and giraffes – just some of the Wirral projects recognised Merseyside's annual environmental 'Oscars.'

Wirral-based schools, community groups and businesses were winners or runners up in eight of the 16 categories of the Merseyside 21 Awards. Organised annually by Groundwork on Merseyside, the awards recognise organisations that are working to improve local health and environment in sustainable ways.

In the community category Bidston & North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group (BNBEAG) won both the Changing Lives award and the overall award of Community Project of the Year for changing a severely deprived area through involving youngsters in litter picks, clean ups, fun days, and environmental awareness days.

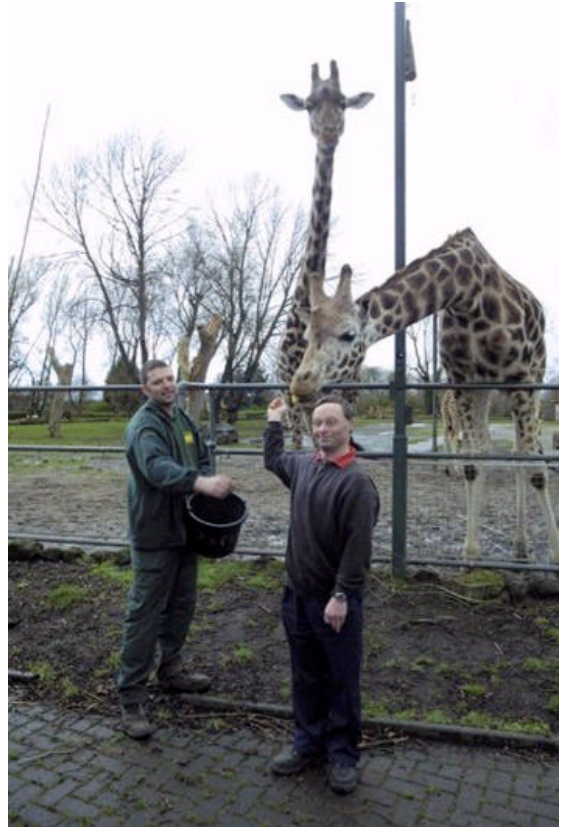
Chief Executive of Wirral Council, Steve Maddox said: "It is tremendously encouraging to see schools, communities and businesses in Wirral taking positive action in their local areas. Grove Street is a glowing example of a school that engages and inspires everyone to take responsibility for their environment, and BNBEAG have shown what is possible when a community gets together to bring about change.

I would like to congratulate the winners, and to thank those who are also working to protect and improve Wirral's environment."

Grove Street school won the Sustainable Schools Award while runners up included the Local Agenda 21 Forum for their Fairtrade in Wirral campaign, and Thornton Hough Village Trust for environmental improvements linked to the Scarecrow Festival.

In the Business Awards, Wirral Independent Recycling Enterprise (WIRE) won in the community stewardship category for recycling furniture. Several Wirral Council projects were recognised with runners up awards going to the Warm Homes and Cosy Homes projects, the Council's road safety section for its work with children. Runner up in the prestigious Environmental Innovation & Technology Award was Hoylake based company called OmniQ who make an innovative refillable 'Airpac' gas capsules.

One of the most unusual projects to be honored was the Royden Park Project – a partnership between Wirral Council's Social Services, Friends of Royden Park and Chester Zoo which provides gourmet meals for giraffes as part of a woodland management plan!



## **Cross Cutting all Themes**

### **Local Agenda 21 Awards - Wirral Winners February 2006**

Wirral had some success yesterday at the LA21 Awards, notably in the community category where the Bidston & North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group (BNBEAG) won the Changing Lives award and the overall award of Community Project of the Year.

Grove Street School won the sustainable schools award while runners up in the daytime ceremonies included the Local Agenda 21 Forum for their FairTrade in Wirral campaign, and Thornton Hough Village Trust for the Scarecrow Festival.

Wirral Independent Recycling Enterprise (WIRE) were winners in the community stewardship for business category, while runners up in the business categories were Wirral Warm Homes and Cosy Homes projects (both Regeneration), Technical Services road safety section, the Royden Park project and a Hoylake based company called OmniQ who make an innovative replacement for gas capsules.

#### **Shortlisted projects over all categories were:**

Surestart Birkenhead North - Brassey Gardens  
Dee Estuary Voluntary Wardens - Wild Birds on West Kirby Beach  
Wirral LA21 Forum - Wirral Opposes Waste event  
Woodlands Primary School - school grounds development  
Wallasey School/Acacia Horticultural - Compass Point Gardening Club  
Greasby Infant School - the Greasby Growers  
West Kirby Grammar School - Outreach Sustainability  
Upton Hall School - FairTrade Action Group  
Friends of Hilbre Island - Hilbre Island Website  
MBW/Maritime Housing - Environmental Wardens  
Regeneration - Wirral Landlord Accreditation Scheme  
Parks & Open Spaces - Hilbre Island Wind Turbine  
Recoplas- new business granulating post consumer plastics  
Technical Services - Hoylake Park & Ride scheme  
Parks & Open Spaces - Wirral Way Restoration  
Peel Hey Country Guest House- green tourism  
The Learning Lighthouse - The Wirral Green Machine

Unfortunately we didn't manage to retain the overall Merseyside 21 Award - that was won this year by St Helens.

If anyone would like any information about any of the projects, please contact me.

***Sue Weldon***

*Local Agenda 21 Co-ordinator/Metropolitan Borough of Wirral*

*[Sueweldon@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:Sueweldon@wirral.gov.uk)/tel: 0151 606 2364*

## **Cross Cutting all Themes**

### **Groundwork Merseyside Local Agenda 21 Awards February 2006 (Full List)**

#### **Community**

##### **The Knowsley Partnership Sustainable Health Award**

Winner : Mansion House Kitchen Garden - Surestart Central (St Helens)  
Runner up: Envigorise (St Helens)

##### **Liverpool Culture Company Changing Places Award**

Winner : Linear Park Community Project (St Helens)  
Runner up: Scarecrow Festival – Thornton Hough Village Trust

##### **St Helens Together Changing Lives Award**

Winner: BNBEAG (Wirral)  
Runner up: Planet (St Helens)

##### **Groundwork Schools Physical Environmental Improvement Award**

Winner: St Theresa's RC Primary School ( St Helens)  
Runner Up: Moss Lodge Community Environmental Centre (St Helens)

##### **Liverpool City Council Sustainable Schools Award**

Winner: Grove Street Primary (Wirral)  
Runner up: St. Teresa's Primary (Devon Street St Helens)

##### **Environmental Communication Award**

Winner: Outreach for Older People (Knowsley)  
Runner up: Fairtrade in Wirral- Local Agenda 21 Forum

##### **Community Project of the Year**

Winner: BNBEAG (Wirral)

#### **Business Awards**

##### **St Helens Health Partnership Sustainable Health Award**

Winner: Bum Deal Nappy Project (St Helens)  
Runner up: Wirral Warm Homes

##### **Changing Places Award**

Winner: Taylor Park Restoration (St Helens)  
Runner up: Graffiti Removal Service (St Helens)

##### **MERBEN H, S & E Management for Public Sector**

Winner: Sustainability Matters (Knowsley)  
Runner up: Krafty the Kerbside Fox (Wirral - Road Safety Section)



**NQA H,S & E Management Award for Business**

Winner: South Liverpool Commercials  
Runner up: LIS (North Western) (St Helens)

**Environment Agency Energy, Water, Waste Management for Public Sector**

Winner: Knowsley Energy Team  
Runner up: Wirral Cosy Homes

**Sefton Council Energy, Water, Waste Management for Business**

Winner: WF Doyle & Co Ltd ( Liverpool)  
Runner up: LIS (North Western) (St Helens)

**MBW Environmental Innovation & Technology Award**

Winner: Eco Warrior Energy Monitoring System ( Knowsley )  
Runner up: Airpac- OMNIQ (Wirral)

**Riverside Housing Community Stewardship for Public Sector**

Winner: Safer Spaces Better Places (Knowsley)  
Runner up: St Peter's Community Heritage Project (St Helens)

**Knowsley Council Community Stewardship for Business**

Winner: Wirral Independent Recycling Enterprise  
Joint Runners up: Yew Tree Farm (Knowsley) and  
Royden Park Project

**Shell UK Oil Environment Communication Award**

Joint Winners: Sefton Environmental Information Pack and  
Knowsley Pride Campaign  
Runner up: Knowsley Energy Play

**St Helens Council Environmental Business of the Year**

SME Winner: WF Doyle & Co Ltd ( Liverpool)  
Non SME Winner : Mayfield Construction Ltd (St Helens)

## Cross Cutting all Themes



## Community Project Grants

Details will shortly be announced about new grants and support available for community and voluntary groups, schools, youth groups, sports and social clubs as part of a new borough-wide campaign running from May to September.

'Wirral – open to all' aims to encourage all sectors of the community to take a pride in Wirral and get involved in improving the environment. Small grants of up to £250 will be available to projects which address the project's aims.

### Aims:

- encourage agencies, businesses and – most importantly – local people to take a pride in Wirral
- get people involved in improving the environment
- present the best possible image of Wirral to visitors to the Open Championship
- have a lasting impact on the borough

There'll be a wide range of activities as part of the campaign from council departments, agencies, businesses and community groups - from operational improvements, clean-ups, and awareness-raising campaigns, to arts and environmental projects and celebrations.

Partners include Merseyside Police, Merseytravel, Wirral Local Agenda 21 Network, Wirral Partnership Homes, Wirral Investment Network and local churches

There will also be a special Wirral Environment Week from 24<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> July.

### How to get involved:

- Organise an event or activity during the campaign, or especially during Wirral Environment Week, in keeping with the aims
- Use the Wirral – open to all branding for relevant activities
- Help to raise awareness about the campaign and its aims

For more information about the 'Wirral – open to all' campaign, including grant applications and resource packs (available from the end of April) contact Clare Naylor on 691 8255 or [clarenaylor@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:clarenaylor@wirral.gov.uk)

# SECTION THREE

## Area Forum Progress Report

### Bidston and Claughton

Amount	Received From	Bid	Details	Progress Report (on going)
£800.00	Norman Street and Area RTA		To purchase a computer and printer for the association.	Report received from Norman Street and Area RTA - March 2006: The computer and printer have been purchased and will be used to produce a newsletter to inform, advise and educate the local population. We hope that this will stimulate care, concern and involvement in the improving of the quality of life for all of the residents in the area.
£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.	Report received from St Peter's St Vincent De Paul Conference (SVP) - March 2006: So far we have a list of 15 children, and are hoping to select a further five children, who we believe will benefit from this outdoor pursuits camp.
£565.00	Thorneycroft - Plumer - Rundle - Carrington Streets Residents		To provide security lights, CCTV cameras and CCTV signs in area.	Report received from Thorneycroft - Plumer - Rundle - Carrington Streets Residents Association - March 2006: The CCTV cameras were put up in Carrington St, Rundle St and

Association

Thornycroft St. Security Lights will be installed on some backyard walls.

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£650.00 Bidston Rise  
Tenants  
Association

To install an intruder alarm system at the Community House.

Report received from Bidston Rise Tenants Association - December 2005: Thanks to the funding the alarm system has been installed.

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# SECTION FOUR

## Local Area Plan Update

### What is an Area Plan?

The purpose of the area plan is to identify local issues and priorities and to support and guide the Area forum in working towards addressing these throughout the year. The area plan is a developmental document that will evolve over time as issues are addressed and new priorities emerge.

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

The Area Plan is currently based upon issues and priorities identified through a range of consultation activities with local people and agencies in the area. Area plans form part of a much wider agenda for improving local services across the whole of Wirral and will influence the work of the Local Strategic Partnership and the ongoing development of Wirral's Local Area Agreement.

### What it will do? The Area plan aims to:

- Identify specific local issues and concerns;
- Provide details as to what activities are already happening to address these issues across all agencies;
- Identify what more needs to happen in the future if these issues are to be resolved;
- Clearly state who will take responsibility for the work needed and how improvements will be measured

**Next Steps:** Area plans have the potential to become valuable planning documents for all partners involved in the area forum, providing local intelligence and data from which priorities for improvement locally can be established.

Area plans will be refreshed on annual basis to take account of changing priorities and the changing policy environment within which our local services operate. It will be the responsibility of the area forums to refresh their area plan by March 2007 and to report on progress to their local community.

Area plans are being developed across all 11 of the area forums currently operating in Wirral and will feed into the annual refreshment of the local area agreement and the overarching community strategy for Wirral, to ensure that local views and priorities are influencing the future strategic direction of public services. Local plans, based on local priorities, with local services listening to local people, can only benefit

all of Wirral's many and diverse communities – this is the vision we are working towards as we continue to develop and refine the area planning and area forum processes.

**Who is on the subgroup** – the following members form the subgroup to work on the development of the Area Plan they are:

Councillor Denise Roberts, Area Co-ordinator Michelle Gray, Inspector Mark Smith, Community/Forum Reps Alison Moulder, Jean McIntosh, Pat Landsborough, Collette McDonagh and Ray Rowlands, Endeavour Team (Partnership Support Officers) Christina Williams, Sheila Henry and interested person, Tony Garret who assists us on the cross cutting theme relating to transport.

The group has met twice and worked on addressing those issues within the local area, produced a who's who, which includes a profile of each of us and what where all about. Included information about local community centres and what they have to offer and interesting facts that are within the Bidston and Claughton wards. Updated the statistical information to make it more relevant to the area and included a useful contact list which includes websites/email addresses and contact numbers etc.

# SECTION FIVE

## Youth Update

Youth provision in this area includes North End Young People's Project, an outreach project which runs from the north end of Birkenhead and Fender Youth Action Project, an outreach project on the Beechwood Estate. Both of these units have a base where young people can meet to participate in group work and project work.

North End Young People's Project responds to reports of youths causing annoyance in hot spots and has access to the Kontaktabus one night a week. Recent work has included projects on issues such as Sexual Health & Relationships, Safety and Alcohol. Partners in the last two months include the Police, Brook Advisory Service, Merseytravel, Park Rangers and Tam O'Shanter's Farm.

Youth Clubs in this area include Charing Cross Youth Club, which operates four evenings a week and Cavendish Youth Club operating two nights a week. Other Youth Club provision is delivered by the voluntary sector and includes Northenders Café Club and the Powerhouse on the Beechwood Estate.

Young people from this area also access advice and support from Response Agency.

Response Agency has delivered workshops on substance misuse in Park High School, Birkenhead 6<sup>th</sup> Form College and the Hospital School.

### Wirral Youth Theatre

Offers various participatory arts workshops and projects to young people Monday to Thursday evenings 6-9 pm. Young people gain access to a range of activities and opportunities including drama, dance, performance opportunities, music, new media, Technical theatre set building, sound and lighting skills etc. Also on offer are peer education opportunities and training where young people can gain a BTEC qualification in Peer Education.

Wirral Youth Theatre also works in schools in the area.

Young people from this area access opportunities at Wirral Youth Theatre.

As well as the above small grants are available to youth groups and are awarded by the local youth forum.

# SECTION SIX

## Streetscene Update

### Review of disc zone parking

Wirral Council has carried out a major consultation exercise with residents and businesses in Birkenhead – over plans to scrap disc zone parking regulations.

Increased traffic, evolving Government policies and changes to the commercial, retail and residential elements within Birkenhead have prompted the review.

Phil Black from Parking Services said: “The present scheme confuses motorists from outside the area who are unfamiliar with the regulations and it is extremely difficult to enforce. We want to encourage motorists to make more use of alternative modes of transport, and think twice before taking a journey by car. This review is aimed at freeing up parking spaces for those who have no option but to travel by car. It should also help local businesses, by encouraging a faster turnover of parking spaces which makes it easier for customers and visitors to find a space.”

The Council has written to more than 900 residents and 600 businesses, appealing for as many as possible to respond to a survey. This will enable officers to gain a full understanding of parking requirements and help them to identify a solution that best meets the needs of the local area.

#### **The following options are being considered as part of this review:**

- Increased on-street parking provision.
- Introducing resident parking schemes.
- Charging for on street parking within the current disc zone.
- Reviewing the current controlled parking boundaries.
- Reviewing days and times of operation of the controlled zone.

The results from this questionnaire will help prepare a report outlining proposals for the Environment and Transport Select Committee. Once this has been considered, the proposals will be formally advertised for comments, with notices displayed on street and in the local press.

### Traffic ban for rural routes

A Traffic ban restricting articulated vehicles from passing through Barnston and Thornton Hough in Wirral has now come into effect. Council highway engineers have been putting up regulatory traffic signs along Barnston Road, Thornton Common Road and Neston Road as the local authority has completed the necessary legal procedures to introduce an eagerly awaited Traffic Order. The move was prompted in response to public concern over the opening of a large distribution centre outside Neston on the A540. The centre had been expected to generate an increase in the number of HGVs using these routes.

#### **The Order affects:**

- Barnston Road (A551) from its junction with Brimstage Road to its junction with Thingwall Road East.
- Neston Road and Thornton Common Road (B5136) from its junction with Parkgate Lane to its junction with Clatterbridge Road.



Red circled signs reading 'No articulated vehicles' now feature at these junctions. Blue information signs are also being installed along side roads. The Council proposed the Order in the interests of road safety, traffic management and to preserve the existing character of Barnston village and Thornton Hough, both of which are Conservation Areas. Merseyside Police will be responsible for enforcing the ban. In the meantime Council officers have fitted specialist traffic counting equipment along both routes to check articulated vehicles are adhering to the new restrictions.

### **Road improvements along Saughall Massie Road**

Wirral Council has started work on a £300,000 road improvement scheme along Saughall Massie Road in West Kirby. Work began at the end of February and the road is currently closed from its junction with Black Horse Hill to its junction with Gilroy Road.

The project is expected to take twelve weeks to complete allowing for the road to be rebuilt, widened and have parking bays installed. The scheme will reduce congestion and improve road safety along one of the main thoroughfares to and from West Kirby. In the past parked cars have disrupted the flow of traffic in the area, particularly outside Black Horse Hill primary at the start and finish of the school day. The scheme will create new parking bays when the road is widened.

### **Overhaul of road signage**

Highway experts in Wirral have started work on the largest overhaul of road signage the borough has ever seen. More than 300 road signs are being upgraded or replaced as part of a £70,000 initiative. Signs with directions, warnings and speed limit information are all being reviewed as part of the exercise. The overhaul is aimed at improving road safety, reducing pavement clutter and ensuring that motorists will be able to find their way around Wirral easily – in readiness for The Open Championship in Hoylake this summer.

Director David Green said: "Schemes that improve road safety are a high priority for this Council. The Open will see thousands more motorists on Wirral's roads making their way to The Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club this July. Many will be unfamiliar with the local area – and we've carried out this review of signage to make sure drivers can find their way about as safely as possible. We want motorists to be clear about the speed limit and alerted to any potential hazards, such as bends in the road. We've also used this exercise as an opportunity to tidy up our pavements, and remove redundant signs."

The scheme covers all priority routes in Wirral. Key 'A' roads that have already been reviewed and improved include Birkenhead Road, Market Street, Meols Drive, Grange Road, Column Road, Telegraph Road, Barnston Road and Brimstage Road. Over the coming weeks traffic officers will be concentrating their efforts on main roads in Birkenhead and Wallasey. Faded and damaged signs are being replaced with those using the latest reflective materials. This reduces the need for illuminated signs and improves the Council's energy efficiency. Wherever possible, separate signs are being merged on to a single column. This minimises clutter along Wirral's pavements, and reduces the risk of signs creating an obstruction for people with disabilities.

### **New Food and Garden Waste recycling initiative**

The first large scale combined food and garden waste collection in Merseyside began this April for 20,000 homes in Wirral. Residents received a brand new brown wheelie bin for both food and garden waste, to replace the white garden bag. A handy kitchen caddy, small

enough to sit on a work-top or under the sink, also provides a useful container to transport kitchen scraps to the wheelie bin. The scheme, which will eventually be rolled out to other residents, currently involves homes in Heswall, Gayton, Pensby, Spital, Bebington, Higher Bebington, Prenton, Oxton, Caldy, West Kirby, Thingwall and Irby, and is aimed at boosting recycling rates across Wirral.

People taking part in the scheme have received a brown wheelie bin to take food scraps and all the garden waste that was previously placed in the white garden waste bag. The new bin is more durable, easy to move and holds much more.

Over 22% of the average contents of a bin are made up of kitchen scraps and the new service will reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill and help the environment.

Not only is the Council introducing the food and garden waste recycling but officers are also working on a dry recyclable collection too. This includes plastics, glass, cardboard, paper and cans. Changes to waste services will be introduced over time from August 2006. The Council will make sure residents receive all the help and information they need to get recycling.

### **New roundabout for Leasowe Road / Gardenside**

Work has begun on a major road improvement scheme in Wallasey. Technical Services is building a roundabout at the junction of Leasowe Road and Gardenside. The scheme is aimed at improving road safety and reducing congestion at one of the busiest junctions in the area.

Director David Green, said: "The Council has carried out a number of major schemes this year – along Thornton Common Road, at Arrowe Park and in Saughall Massie. We hope this latest project at one of Wallasey's busiest junctions further demonstrates our commitment to improving road safety, reducing congestion and lowering accident figures for the borough. Residents and motorists have shown great patience in waiting for this roundabout – we've had to follow lengthy legal procedures to buy additional land, needed as part of the scheme. Our highway officers are delighted that work is now starting on site and will do their utmost to minimise disruption for the local community while it is carried out." Work started at the end of April and is expected to take up to four months to complete. The project involves building a 9-metre roundabout and new pavement, improving street lighting, upgrading bus shelters and introducing pedestrian crossing facilities. This will make crossing the road much safer for children attending the nearby Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School. BT and Manweb have been working in the area for a number of months, carrying out essential diversion work – ahead of Council contractors starting on site. The scheme is being funded by central government as part of the Merseyside Local Transport Plan settlement for the area.

### **A41 footbridges are removed**

Wirral Council has started work on a £1m package of environmental improvements for the A41 corridor, including the removal of footbridges in Eastham and Bromborough.

Mill Road footbridge in Bromborough was removed by crane, during an overnight road closure from 9pm on Saturday, March 4. A second bridge at Carlett Park was removed during a closure the following weekend.

Built in the 1960s, the Council faced costs of up to £70,000 to repair the two structures. Highway officers consulted with residents and monitored use of the two bridges. Both had low pedestrian usage and nearby pedestrian crossing facilities were being used in

preference to the footbridges. The structures were also perceived by some people to be unsightly with the potential for attracting anti-social behaviour. Contractors were appointed to remove them on behalf of the Council and officers requested that materials recovered were sent for recycling. The bridges, their ramped walkways and stair cases, where possible, were removed the same night. Any necessary repair works to the pavements were also carried out.

### **Upgrade to some of Wirral's best loved promenades**

A Major refurbishment of some of Wirral's best-loved stretches of promenade gets underway this month (May). Three kilometres of coastline, stretching from West Kirby to Hoylake, is in line for an £85,000 facelift. Promenade railings and shelters along South Parade, North Parade and Meols Parade have been earmarked for upgrading, with work expected to start within the month.

The scheme is being funded as part of the Council's annual coastal maintenance programme. Work is scheduled for completion as part of the 'Wirral – Open to All' campaign, aimed at improving the appearance of the local environment in time for The Open Championship at Royal Liverpool this summer.

The railings along South Parade in West Kirby endure some of the most extreme forces of nature being both abraded by sand and corroded by saltwater. They are now due to be coated in a new specialist hardwearing marine paint.

A total of six shelters in the area will be given a complete overhaul – with repainting, re-roofing, and new panels fitted to shelters where needed.

Work is also being done to reduce the amount of windblown sand along the promenade, with replacements to mesh panels being put in place, preventing sand from getting on to the road.

# SECTION SEVEN

## Results of Citizens Panel Consultation Questionnaire on the Area Forums and Community Initiatives Fund

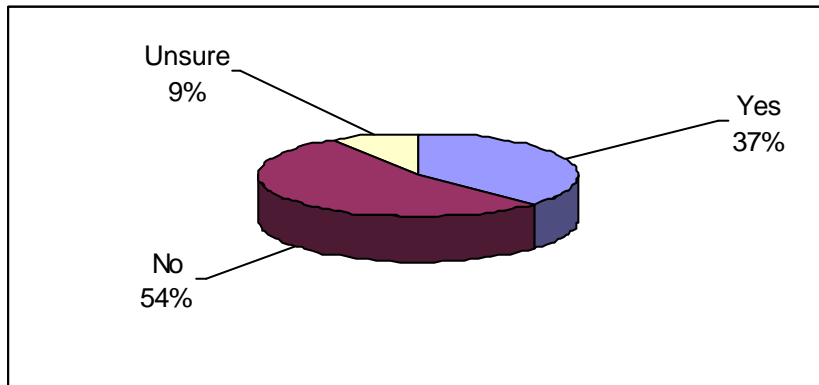
### Wirral Citizens Panel –

is a consultation vehicle that enables the Council and its partners to seek the views of a cross section of Wirral people. The Panel was established in October 1999, and currently has around 2400 members from across Wirral. It is funded by the Council, Health (Primary Care Trusts) and Police, is steered by Wirral's multidisciplinary Research Group and administered by Mott MacDonald Merseyside Information Service.

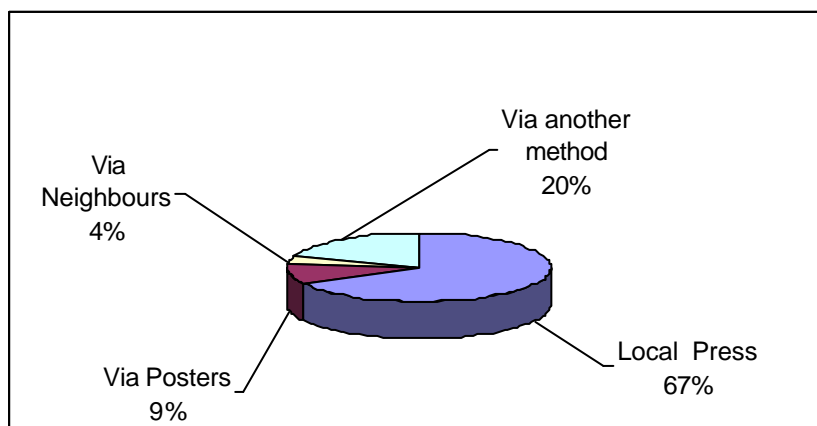
A questionnaire was sent to the panel members in October 2005 that included a number of questions relating to the Area Forums and the Community Initiatives Fund. Overall, 1155 questionnaires were returned from the Wirral Panel members, of the 2074 questionnaires sent out, giving a response rate of 55.7%. Some of the results from this are shown below:

### Area Forums – General

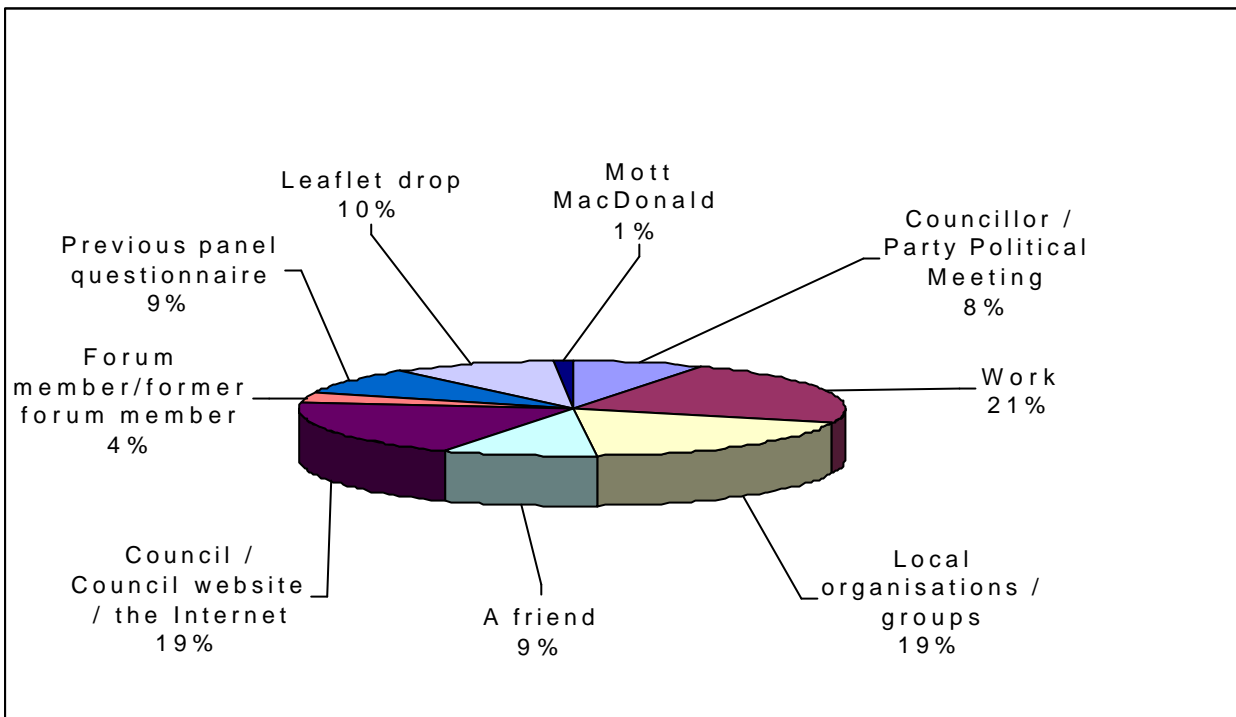
Had you heard about the Council's Area Forums before receiving this questionnaire?



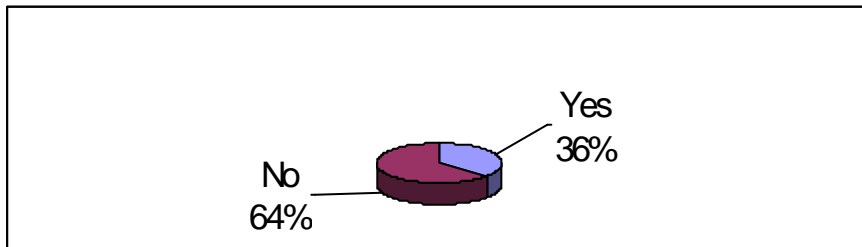
How did you hear about the Area forums?



### How else did you hear about the Area Forums?

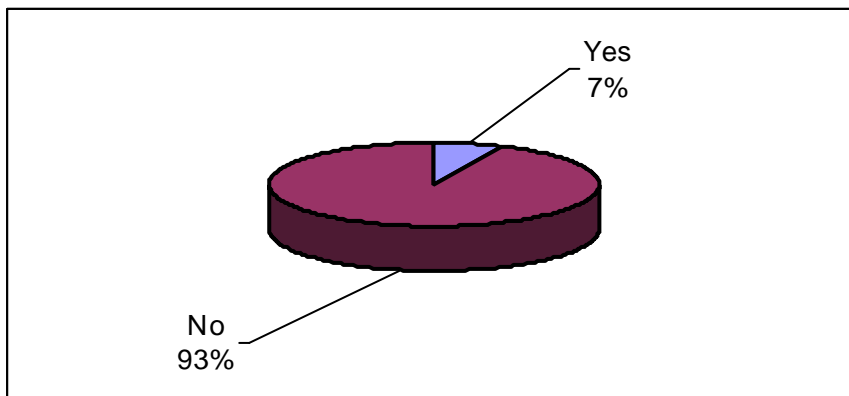


### Are you interested in getting involved in decision making in your local area through Area Forums?



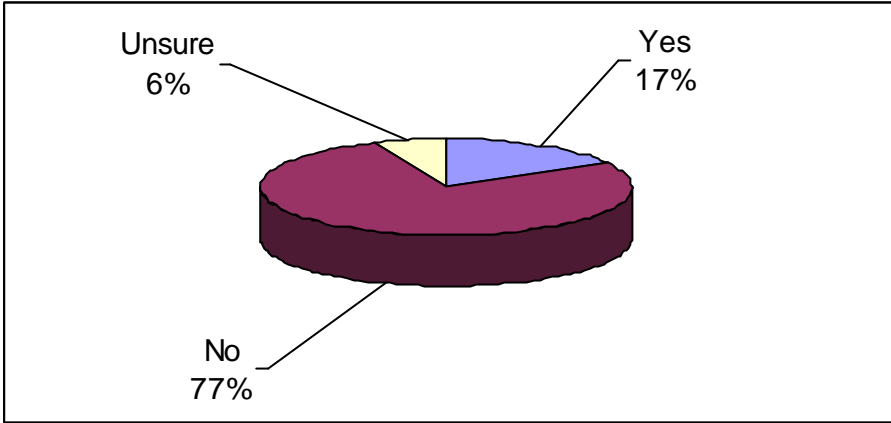
### Area Forum - Specific

#### Are you interested in the Bidston and Claughton Area Forum?

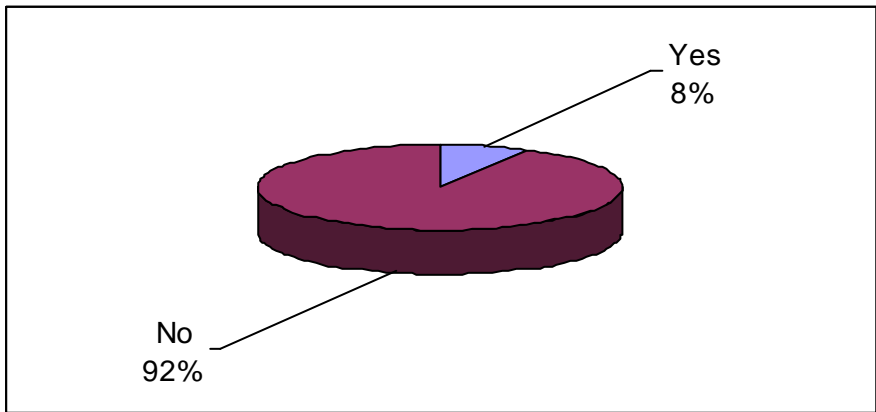
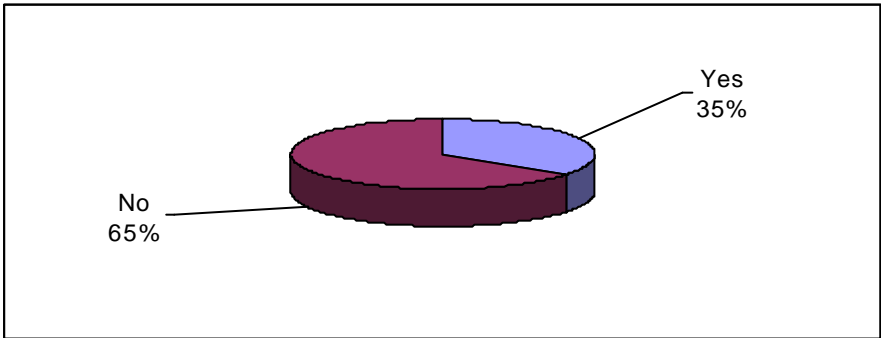


# Community Initiatives Fund - General

Had you heard of the Community Initiatives Fund before receiving this questionnaire?



Are you interested in getting information on the Community initiatives Fund?



# Community Initiatives Fund - Specific

Would you like to receive information about the Community Initiatives Fund for Bidston & Claughton?

Name of Road	Limits	Ward	UKPMS Ranking	Other Priorities	Estimate	Category	Description of Works
Beryl Road	All	Claughton	100		£63,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Lingdale Road North	All	Claughton	100	F	£39,000	Structural footway & Carriageway	P/L & L/R kerbs Remove flags & construct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Curlender Close Townsend Street Challis Street	All	Bidston & St James	100 43 --		£61,500	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Brancote Road	All	Claughton	83		£17,500	Surface Treatment to carriageway	
Kingsmead Road North	All	Claughton	83		£110,000	Structural footway & Carriageway	P/L kerbs Remove york stone flags & construct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Devonshire Road	Part	Claughton	67		£15,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway

# SECTION NINE

## Community Safety Update

### Making Wirral Safer

Our work as the Joint Community Safety Team (JCST) is showing good performance against our targets to make Wirral safer. As a partnership, we are required to achieve a 20% reduction against a number of indicators by March 2008. Wirral performance for the first half year of the target period (April - October 2005) has shown an 11.3% reduction compared to the same period in our baseline year 2003/04. We therefore have a further two and one half years in which to make a further 9% reduction in order to achieve the target. Based upon our projected performance the chances of us achieving our annual milestone target are very good.

Our performance compared to our most similar family of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) places us in fourth position out of 15 other areas and below the most similar family average.

### C.C.T.V. developments

The council have supported the development, through various funding streams, of the CCTV system into digital which enables police officers to obtain CCTV images more efficiently and enables staff to be more proactive in its use. We have also kept abreast of developments within the industry and have utilised the latest mobile CCTV systems to place in 'hot spot' areas.

### What are we doing to reduce burglary (dwelling)?

Our performance to reduce the numbers of domestic burglaries continues to be at a high level. During the period April - October 2005 (which includes this quarter's performance) there has been a 14.4% reduction in burglaries compared to the same period last year. This means 148 fewer victims of this offence.

- Alleygates continue to be installed in the more vulnerable areas for burglary across the Borough
- 167 properties target-hardened through Victim Support Service.
- Burglary campaign on road hoarding signs, buses, radio (Buzz FM & Community Radio – Leasowe).
- Burglary reduction marketing campaigns featuring Crimestoppers
- Property mark using Smartwater technology in homes and schools
- Smartwater leaflet distribution through Youth Offending Service and the Alleygating programme
- Financially supporting Victim Support (through Government funding streams) to improve security in vulnerable homes which has lowered repeat victimisation.
- The Joint Community Safety Team organised and hosted a conference entitled 'Friend or Foe' to highlight the issues surrounding doorstep crime, particularly targeting the elderly
- Operating closely with Merseyside Police 'Pier Project' which targets Persistent and Prolific Offenders.

Domestic Burglary is an area subject to an LPSA target with a target not to exceed 4,700 offences of burglary over the two year life of the agreement which ends in March 2006. Our projected March 2006 performance predicts a level of 3,523 burglaries which equates to a total of 1,177 burglaries below our target of 4,700.



## **What are we doing to reduce business crime?**

The team works closely with Trading Standards, Business Crime Direct, the Wirral Chamber of Commerce and independent traders. Some initiatives include;

- The number of Pub / Shop-Watch schemes mushrooming with the latest areas of Hoylake, West Kirby and New Brighton coming on line.
- Radio Watch schemes also being established Wirral-wide
- Development of CCTV Broadband monitoring within Shop-Watch Schemes
- New Web-based Ringmaster which alerts businesses to crime trends
- CCTV Broadband monitoring system placed in two Birkenhead nightclubs which will also address violent crime linked to Council Control Room

## **What are we doing to reduce vehicle crime?**

Vehicle Crime represents a further good news story in terms of performance against targets. During the period April - October 2005 the number of vehicles;

- Vehicles stolen have fallen by 40.8% compared to the same period last year and are 53.3% below our performance during the baseline year 2003/04. Against a quarterly target of 453 vehicles being stolen we have recorded only 278 incidents
- The numbers of vehicles broken into has fallen by 8.3% this year compared to the same period 2004/05 and has fallen by 22.3% compared to the same period within our baseline year. During the last quarter against a target of 510 vehicles being broken into we have recorded only 440 incidents.

## **Initiatives, following on from extensive research on car crime on the Wirral, include: -**

- 'Roadshows' throughout the Wirral in which Neighbourhood Police Inspectors have assisted to raise public awareness of Car Crime through their staff.
- Marketing communications campaign, this was launched in November in line with the seasonal trend of increased offences for car crime. The campaign will continue until February 2006 when the Home Office Car Crime Campaign will commence.
- Tri-band signs erected on lamp columns in areas of greatest risk in order to remind people to lock and secure their vehicles and are careful with their property.
- CCTV placed on various buildings to link through Council Broadband systems, which monitor vulnerable car parks.
- Mobile CCTV cameras deployed to various locations to deter car crime.
- 'Talk Boxes' (which give an audible car crime reduction message) placed in four sites where they would have the maximum benefit.
- Signage in local 'beauty spots' where there have been sporadic thefts from vehicles.
- Crime reduction leaflets and posters distributed via Wirral Chamber of Commerce to businesses addressing car crime. This also includes leaflets given by retailers to customers at the point of sale when making purchases of items such as Satellite Navigation Systems.
- Leaflets with specially designed crime reduction message placed under car windscreen wipers distributed by Police, Community Support Officers and volunteers.

## **What are we doing to tackle anti-social behaviour?**

Reported incidents of anti social behaviour have shown a 9% reduction during the last quarter. This quarter comprised Mischief and Bonfire nights both generators of high levels of anti social behaviour but this year,

- Due to the joint work between the JCST partners. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service saw a 35% reduction in calls on Bonfire Night compared to 2004/05.
- In the year to date we have also seen 12 Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) obtained against an annual target of 4 ASBO's.
- The CDRP is actively working through the Youth Service and voluntary agencies to engage young people resulting in the provision of diversion activity across the Borough
- New projects will address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) with the help of additional support from Government to target alcohol-related violence.
- More co-ordinated response to 'hotspot' areas. An important outcome of this work has been a steady fall in the number of incidents of disorder being reported. There were over 4,500 less incidents reported in 2004-05 compared to 2003-04.
- The above, together with joint support of new anti social behaviour legislation, has been evaluated as successful in reducing disorder in areas critically affected by such problems.
- Wirral's Youth Offending Service has been ranked 15<sup>th</sup> out of 155 authorities. This places the team in the top 10% of best performing youth services in the country.

### **What are we doing to reduce the impact of drug and alcohol abuse?**

Operation Hawk is a nationally acclaimed enforcement operation jointly funded by the Local Authority, DAAT and Merseyside Police which involves education and community support aiming to tackle the availability of drugs. Since the start of this operation:

- Over 150 warrants have been executed
- 180 persons arrested and charged for drug offences
- £120,000 cash assets seized
- Drugs to an estimated street value of £1 million seized.

### **Violent crime**

Violent crime remains an area in which we do not anticipate reaching our overall target. Half way through the first year of our three year target for the more serious incidents of violence we remain 0.9% above our baseline year. In the second category of violence offences, assaults in which less serious injuries occur and in which a Police Officer is assaulted there has seen an increase on the baseline year of 68.7%. Whilst this increase is significant it is exaggerated by the small numbers of this type of offence.

### **What are we doing to help victims / survivors of domestic violence?**

A Family Safety Unit was opened at the end of November at the Old Court Building, Manor Road, Wallasey. It will improve services, focusing on risk assessment, earlier intervention and practical support to victims / survivors to assist them through the criminal justice process and reduce the threat to their safety. The Unit will also co-ordinate responses based on the experience gained in dealing with Race Hate Crime. For more information about the Family Safety Unit email [familysafetyunit@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:familysafetyunit@wirral.gov.uk) or call 0151 606 5440.