

# **Bidston & Claughton**

## **Area Forum**

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

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

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## Introduction - Membership of the Area Forum

### Claughton Ward (covers Noctorum)



Councillor Steve Foulkes - Steve is the Leader of the Council but is also a Councillor in the Claughton ward, he is also the Chair at Cabinet.

Cabinet is the body, which makes executive decisions within the terms of reference of the portfolio holders, subject to the right of any five members (or a Party Leader) to "call-in" decisions for scrutiny by a select committee before they are implemented. On certain non-executive matters (such as setting the budget or council tax), the Cabinet makes recommendations to the Council. Steve also a member of the Finance and Best Value Committee and the Chair of the Executive Board. EMail : [stevefoulkes@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:stevefoulkes@wirral.gov.uk),

Fax: 0151 652 5179 Address: Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey Wirral, CH44 8ED

Councillor George Davies – George is a Labour Councillor representing the Claughton Ward. George is the Chair of the Discovery City Learning Centre in Noctorum also Chair of 27 years of the Bidston Avenue Primary School. George is very proud to be a Councillor representing the Claughton area, be assured that we represent all residents regardless of political persuasion, and has been a Councillor this role for 18 years. Married with 3 children. George is also a Cabinet Member with special interest in the Housing & Community Safety element, also sits on the Pensions Committee. Email: [georgedavies@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:georgedavies@wirral.gov.uk) Tel: 0151 653 4265 Fax: 0151 653 3478 Address: Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey Wirral, CH44 8ED



Councillor Denise Roberts - is one of the three Labour Councillors for the Claughton Ward. Lived in Birkenhead for over 30 years and is married with two children. Apart from being a Councillor Denise is a volunteer with Birkenhead Citizens Advice Bureau. Denise was elected to the Council in 1999 and was re-elected in June 2004. Currently is the Chair for the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Labour Spokesperson on the Social Care, Health and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and a Member of the Licensing 2003 Committee. Also Chair of the Bidston and Claughton Area Forum, Vice-Chair of the Noctorum Partnership, a Trustee of Tam O'Shanter Urban

Farm and a representative of Wirral Council on the Management Committee of the Charing Cross Play and Community Centre. A Governor of Bidston Avenue and Cole Street Schools and Birkenhead Sixth Form College. Together with her fellow Ward Councillors, George Davies and Steve Foulkes they hold regular surgeries all year round and can always be contacted by phone, post or e-mail. Please be assured that we represent all residents regardless of political persuasion. Email: [deniseroberts@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:deniseroberts@wirral.gov.uk) Website: <http://www.councillor.info/wirral/droberts/> Tel: 0151 652 3309 Fax: 0151 653 7608 Address: Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey Wirral

### Bidston & St James

Councillor John Cocker - is one of the Labour Councillors for the Bidston/St James Ward of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral. Attends the local Area Forums. Member of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, spokesperson for the Regeneration and Planning Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Committee. John is also the Chair on the Planning Committee. John can be contacted by telephone, email, and letter to help all residents of Bidston/St.James Ward regardless of political persuasion. E-Mail : [johncocker@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:johncocker@wirral.gov.uk) Tel: 0151 653 0138 Address: Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 8ED





Councillor Ann McLachlan - is another of the Labour Councillors for the Bidston/St James Ward of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral. Spokesperson for the Housing and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Member of the Pensions Committee. Also a member of the Beechwood and Ballantyne Community Homes Board, and the Joint Management Committees of Gautby Road and Livingstone Street Community Centres. Ann also sits on the Bidston Conservation Society Committee. Attends the local Area Forums and various tenants and residents Associations within the Ward. Available by telephone, email, and letter to help all residents of Bidston/St.James Ward regardless of political persuasion. I am a member of the Labour Party and take an active interest in a number of national and local campaigns. Email: [annmclachlan@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:annmclachlan@wirral.gov.uk) Tel: 0151 678 8135 Address: Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED Website: <http://www.councillor.info/wirral/amclachlan/>

Councillor Harry Smith - is one of the Labour Councillors for the Bidston/St James Ward of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral. Harry is the Chair on the Streetscene and Transport Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, An active member of the Pensions Committee and also part of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee. Attends the local Area Forums. Available by telephone, email, and letter to help all residents of Bidston/St James Ward regardless of political persuasion. Harry is involved with Beechwood Community Association. Chair of Beechwood & Ballantyne Joint Management Committee. Chair of The North Birkenhead Development Trust (which oversees the running of The St James Centre). Chair of North Birkenhead Sure Start Board. Harry is an active member of North End Young People's Project. Also a Governor of Portland School, Laird St. Harry, is also a member of the North Enders Café Club Management Committee. Active with the two regeneration bodies in the North End - STARAT and NBNF. Board member of Beechwood and Ballantyne Community Homes Association. Harry is active on the Friends of Bidston Moss and also active on Friends of Flaybrick Memorial Gardens, and the Birkenhead Community Regeneration Partnership. Email: [harrysmith@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:harrysmith@wirral.gov.uk) Tel: 0151 608 5886 Address: Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey Wirral, CH44 8ED



Kevin Miller Chief Officer for the Forum Kevin Miller started work with Wirral in 1997 as Director of Social Services, having worked in social care for over 35 years. He has led the Department as it evolved into 2 new departments on 1 April 2006 (Adult Social Services and Children and Young People). His role as Director of Adult Social Services now carries responsibility for all aspects of social care through the involvement, care, support and protection of all adults who are vulnerable, or at risk of becoming so.

Michelle Gray Area Co-ordinator Michelle and her family grew up in Birkenhead and now live in Oxtan, Michelle went to Park High School then in 1990 left school and secured a youth trainee placement with Wirral Council. Michelle has worked for the Local Authority since then. Michelle in her early days worked within Personnel and then moved into Training & Development. Then in 2002 Michelle became an Area Co-ordinator within the Community Planning Team. Michelle's Forums are Bidston & Claughton (also covers St James and Noctorum) and the Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch Forum. Michelle is also part of the Equalities and Diversity Team. Michelle can be contacted at 0151 691 8213 or email: [michellegray@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:michellegray@wirral.gov.uk)



Garry Cummings Area Streetscene Manager Wirral East Garry joined WBC in 1981 as an apprentice street mason/paviour and after ten years 'on the tools' became a highway inspector based at Bebington Town Hall. After a further ten years, he briefly worked as an assistant engineer before taking up his latest roll as Streetscene manager within Technical Services. There are four Streetscene managers, covering the borough, who are involved in the co-ordination of a number of services including street lighting, highway maintenance and traffic management. Streetscene, Wirral Council, Cheshire Line, canning Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 1ND, Tel: 0151 606 2004 Fax: 606 2188 email [streetscene@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@wirral.gov.uk)



Police Representative Inspector Mark Smith - is the Neighbourhood Inspector here and has 24 years Police service. His family grew up here and has a particular affinity with this corner of Birkenhead. Mark has strong links with local Councillors, residents associations and other agencies who support our Policing. Together, we are all keen to stamp out anti-social behaviour. Last year the Police Force successfully used new laws to combat youth disorder on the Noctorum Estate. This year the intention is to remain focussed on Antisocial Behaviour and look to the Public, and the local schools, to work with us. Drugs and Crime remains high on Mark's list and last year they had great success resulting in the crime rate falling whilst more offenders were being caught and prosecuted. You are right to feel more secure as you live in one of the safest Metropolitan Policing areas in the Country.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in the Wirral Daryl Oprey - Our activities in the Wirral are very wide reaching and include many productive partnerships. We are, of course, still responding very effectively as an emergency service through our response from six community fire stations, nine fire appliances and one aerial appliance. Birkenhead Community fire Station is one of two operational bases in Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service that holds and mobilises our specialist equipment. The senior management team on the Wirral, strive to apply the Fire Service strategy within the various objectives of Wirral Borough Council. [daryloprey@merseyfire.gov.uk](mailto:daryloprey@merseyfire.gov.uk)



Wirral Primary Care Trust Representatives are John South & Dr Abhi Mantghani for the Bidston & Claughton ward areas.

Bidston Community Rep Alison Moulder - Began voluntary work in 1991 at the Roundabout Centre, during that time Alison worked with the local school board committee raising funds. In 1994, joined the Women's Enterprising Breakthrough Centre and completed her Wirral CVS profile of Achievement certificate in 1996. Alison has also been involved with the local Housing Association, North Birkenhead Neighbourhood Forum, the Bidston North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group, Whilst studying at the Local Neighbourhood College in Laird Street and working in Birkenhead to improve her skills, knowledge and focusing on local issues and projects. Alison is also part of the Bidston & Claughton Area Forum and also sits on the Community Initiatives Funding Panel. [alisonmoulder7@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonmoulder7@hotmail.co.uk)



Bidston Community Rep Jean McIntosh - Jean as been working jointly with the Council since 2003. Jean is very active within her local area and is always positive about improving the area. Jean is the Chair for the Bidston & North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group and regular runs events and involves the local people and children. Jean is also a member of the Wirral Voluntary Community Sector Network as a Panel Representative for the Bidston/St James area. Also the Director for the North Birkenhead Development Trust and a

Community Representative for the Sure Start Programme, Vice Chair for the North Enders Café Club and the Vice Chair for the St James Area Regeneration Action Team, Jean is the secretary for the Bidston Rise Tenants Association and finally an active member of the 4B's as an Environmental Representative involved in youth work and improving the environment in general. Jean is also on the Community Initiatives Funding Panel for the Area Forum. [J.mcintosh@ntlworld.com](mailto:J.mcintosh@ntlworld.com)

Claughton Community Rep Pat Landsborough – Began voluntary work via the Home School Partnership at Bidston Avenue 15 years ago. Community Governor at Bidston Avenue and Parent Governor at Park High. Member of Wirral Governor's Forum and Link Rep. for both schools on that Forum. Secretary of Claughton Community Group since 1996. The CCG works closely with local Councillors, police, public, educational and religious bodies in Claughton to make it a better and safer place to live and trade. The Group ran a very successful Summer Camp last year for many young members of our Community and will be doing so again this year. A member of the Bidston and Claughton Area Forum and member of Community Initiatives Funding Panel. [patricklandsborough@tesco.net](mailto:patricklandsborough@tesco.net)

Youth Community Rep Collette McDonagh – Collette has been active in the Community for the last 10 years having got involved because of youth disturbances and vandalism. Set up Grange Road West Friday Youth Sports night, which because of its success the Council has now expanded out to 12 sites across the borough. Through the funding became involved with Pathways ,European Funding and from there became involved with the Area Forum and the Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network Collette represent the Community on the Wirral Waterfront Board and the Local Strategic Partnership. Been the chair of the Birkenhead Community Regeneration Partnership for the last three years. For the next two years they have a budget of £130,000 to fund activities or the area meeting the criteria of the Neighbourhood Renewal Funding. [collettemc2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:collettemc2001@yahoo.co.uk)

Business Representative Graham Cole – has been a business representative in the Claughton area for over thirty years. Graham is part of the Forum and is an active member. He feels the Forum gives him an insight into local issues arising with the local area. Graham represents the local business community with regards to their views and suggestions to improve the area.



## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

### Minutes - Area Forum (Bidston and Claughton) 3 Oct 2006

Present	
Chair	DE Roberts
Ward Councillors	JR Cocker , George Davies , S Foulkes , Ann McLachlan , H Smith
Community Representatives	Collette McDonagh , Alison Moulder (Bidston Community representative) , Ray Rowland (Noctorum Residents Association)
Lead Officer	Kevin Miller
Area Service Co-ordinator	Michelle Gray
Merseyside Police	Inspector Mark Smith
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Daryl Oprey
Council Officers	Tara Dumas (Recycling Officer) , Russell Glennon (Head of Corporate Policy) , Jan Johnson (Minute Taker) , Cathy Newman ( Community Safety Team)
Apologies	Graham Cole (Business representative) , Pat Landsborough (Claughton Community Group) , Dr Abhi Mantgani (Wirral Primary Care Trust) , Jean McIntosh (Community Representative)

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#### Minute 1 - Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Denise Roberts, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Bidston & Claughton Area Forum. There were approximately 12 members of the public present. A loop system was available for anyone with hearing impairment. Presentations this evening were on Family Safety Unit and Recycling and there would be updates from Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service. There would also be an Open Forum at the end of the meeting providing an opportunity to raise any other issues. If not able to provide response tonight, then the Area Co-ordinator would follow up any outstanding issues.

A round table introduction was held to ensure members of the public were aware who was present. Apologies had been received from Graham Cole, Jean McIntosh, Pat Landsborough and Dr Abhi Mantgani.

#### Minute 2 - Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting

Information on matters arising from the minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 12 June 2006 had been incorporated into the Area Co-ordinator's report. All the issues raised in June had been addressed, including Merseytravel Bus Services, Park and Ride Scheme, Wirral's Fair Trading Status, updates from Merseyside Police and the Primary Care Trust and these were referred to on pages 14 -18 of the report.

A detailed update on the establishment of a Wirral Primary Care Trust was described on pages 21-26 of the report.

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The Area Co-ordinator had circulated copies of the Integrated Transport Block Report, due to be presented to Cabinet on 15 November 2006, this report was for information only. Technical Services would be attending all 11 Area Forums in February to update on what was happening in the future.

The Chair asked if there were any matters arising from the previous minutes.

Q - What progress has been made on the Bidston, Birkenhead North and proposed Beechwood railway stations since the last area forum, as it has been reported that the objections at Welsh Assembly have now been lifted?

A - Councillor Foulkes confirmed that negotiations were progressing and he expressed confidence that there would be some positive announcements very soon. Planning permission has gone through for the park and ride at Birkenhead North, and the timescale for Beechwood was 2010. A park and ride is also planned for Prenton.

Colette McDonagh reported on incidents of disabled people being refused access on Arriva and First buses.

Councillor Foulkes informed the forum of a national campaign for those authorities outside London looking to enforce quality base contracts, which would cover such issues as social inclusion.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that The Area Co-ordinator to obtain the most up-to-date statement from Merseytravel re: the Park & Ride Scheme and include this as a regular feature in the area co-ordinators report, and to inform Merseytravel about disabled people being refused access on certain buses.

### Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinators Report

The Area Co-ordinator drew attention to the key features of her report, including:

- An introduction to members of the Forum, including photographs and pen pictures
- Local updates under the four blocks leads identified within the Local Area Agreements (LAA's):
  - Safer and Stronger Communities
  - Healthier Communities and Older People
  - Children and Young People
  - Economic Development and Enterprise
- Community Safety Funding information on grants to voluntary and community groups, please contact James Thompson on 606 5443 for further information on this. Details could also be left with the Area Co-ordinator who would forward them on.
- Press releases
- Area Forum funding progress report including projects supported from the 2006/2007 funding allocation.
- Local Area Plan update
- Streetscene update
- Area Forum Consultation/Feedback information, showing the results of the questionnaire that had been completed by 290 people.

If anyone would like to receive the Forum papers prior to the next meeting, the Area Co-ordinator would be happy to send them in the post, in time of the next forum in February.



## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

A query was raised from a member of the public about brown bins and Tara Dumas from Technical Services agreed to take the details and follow this up.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Tara Dumas to follow up query re: brown bins

### **Minute 4 - Community Safety / Family Safety Unit**

Cathy Newman, Community Safety Team, gave a presentation on the work of the Community Safety Unit especially around the Family Safety Unit.

The Family Safety Unit is a central point of access for individuals/families experiencing domestic abuse in the Wirral area, through a co-ordination & co-operation approach between agencies.

Key drivers of their work are to:

- Reduce the prevalence of Domestic Violence
- Increase the rate that Domestic Violence is reported
- Increase the rate of Domestic Violence offences that are brought to justice
- Ensure victims of Domestic Violence are adequately protected and supported.

The aims of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee (MARAC) are to share information within agreed protocols and to co-ordinate, support and action all responses to incidents of Domestic Violence/Abuse.

MARAC meetings are held monthly basis, but can be held earlier if a case requires urgent attention. Wirral's Family Safety Unit facilitates and co-ordinate the actions/support identified through the MARAC Meetings. Information leaflets on MARAC were available at the meeting.

The Community Safety Team is based at The Old Court House, Manor Road, Wallasey, Wirral. Cathy Newman contact details: tel: 0151 606 5440 / email: familysafetyunit@wirral.gov.uk

The Chair thanked Cathy and asked how many successful prosecutions had been made. Cathy reported that data would be available within the next 6-7 months, but 300 cases had been dealt with in the last year.

The following questions / issues were raised:

Q - What help was available to assist the perpetrator to change their behaviour?

A - Cathy reported that were specific programmes available.

Q - What was being done to raise awareness?

A - Cathy explained the process and procedures that result in referrals going through to the Family Support Unit. The importance of people making referrals was emphasised.

The Lead Officer explained the statutory accountabilities around the area of risk:

- Safeguarding Board Children, this is the responsibility of the Director of Children and Young People's and the Adult Protection Committee.
- Vulnerable Adults, this is the responsibility of the Director of Adult Social Services.

If there were allegations or concerns of any sort they need to be referred in to the relevant agencies to ensure risk of violence was assessed and co-ordinated.

The sensitive situations of reporting incidents in from your local community were

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

acknowledged. The Lead Officer also highlighted the sensitivity and professionalism required from workers in the social care field receiving the information and acting on / investigating these.

A query was raised about respite for carers, and it was reported that the Carers Strategy was currently being reviewed in consultation with carers. It was agreed that this needs to be publicised.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Cathy Newman to forward statistical information on the Family Safety Unit / MARAC to the Area Co-ordinator for inclusion in the next area co-ordinators report.

### Minute 5 - Recycling update

Tara Dumas, Waste and Environment Manager, gave a presentation on Paper and Packaging Recycling Collection to the forum.

She explained that changes in the current system were necessary for a variety of reasons, including:

- EU targets passed on via Government
- Shortage of resources
- Limited landfill space in UK
- Public demand

Changes would affect every household and the current bags/boxes for paper removal are being phased out; these will be replaced with brown bins (for every house with a garden and is optional); grey bins for paper and packaging; and green bins for general rubbish. The green and grey bins will be collected on alternate weeks as the amount of general refuse will be substantially reduced.

The new system would come into full effect from March and October next year. Information leaflets would be delivered with bins, together with a calendar and it was recommended this be put inside lid of bin.

The paper and packing would be taken to a facility at Bidston Moss for sorting and separating, and it is important to ensure that the correct materials are put in the appropriate bin to avoid contamination.

There will be smaller bins available for properties with limited storage space.

The following questions / issues were raised:

Q - Alison Moulder asked whether people living in flats would get individual bins. She also mentioned issue re: the shortage of wheelie bins in the area where she lives.

A – This would depend on whether they currently use a communal one. Narrower bins would be available for those with very limited space and possibly for people living alone. Tara agreed to take details re: shortage of bins and follow this up.

Q - What would happen if you put the wrong items into the bins?

A - Tara confirmed that fines would not be issued if people made an effort to recycle, and would only be used when people refused to recycle as contamination could cause serious problems.

Q - Would each household receive a letter about possible fines and will addresses be marked on the bins?

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A – It would not be possible to code every bin to a property so it has been decided to deliver bins to collection points. Leaflets would have clear shading definition to assist people with visual impairments, and lids would be available, on request, with shapes or Braille.

Q. – What is the procedure for refuse collection on Bank Holidays?

A. – Under the new contract collections will be made on Bank Holidays, with the exception of Christmas Day and Boxing Day and the collection dates will be amended to ensure all bins are emptied.

The problem of bins being left out on streets permanently was discussed, as could be contaminated by other people putting rubbish into them. However, it was anticipated that when the scheme rolls out people would take greater care, as they would be responsible for contamination. A Section 48 notice could be served on people who leave bins out all week.

Councillor Foulkes confirmed that the ERIC service has been reintroduced, at a cost of £16.47 to the Council per service.

The forum discussed whether the new contractors would put bins back on drives after collection to prevent pavements being blocked. However, it was acknowledged that contractors were working to a very tight delivery deadline. Tara informed the forum that the change in the contract would free up more time for monitoring the process and random spot checks would be carried out.

The new process would be costing £3.6m extra, putting pressure on the Council budget in terms of spend for next year.

Councillor Harry Smith confirmed the level of recycling on Wirral was very low at 10%, with the average for Europe being 60%, and the new system would raise this.

If anyone has any queries about this new scheme please contact Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 or email: [streetscene@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@wirral.gov.uk)

Tara was thanked for an excellent presentation and confirmed that further updates would be made to the area forums over the next year. The Forum requested that Tara attend the next Forum meeting to be held in February 2007.

Minute Decision : Resolved that:

(i) Tara Dumas be thanked for her presentation and be invited to the February 2007 meeting of this forum.

(ii) Tara Dumas to look into issue raised by Alison Moulder re: shortage of bins.

### **Minute 6 - Partner updates - Police, Health and Fire Representatives**

Merseyside Police

Inspector Mark Smith updated the Forum on recent activities:

Operation Cougar was set up to tackle anti-social behaviour on Wirral. There had been a launch of a 50 strong task force and there have been successes locally where the community has helped.

Auto crime had peaked in the summer and the Police had deployed decoy vehicles, leading to significant arrests of prolific offenders.

Area Truancy Week (13 November to 1st December) involving stopping youths and asking them why they are not in school.

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## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Operations would be running up to mischief night and bonfire night, such as Operation Good Guy involving letters being sent to retailers and leaflets to schools.

The Police are looking for volunteers and would like to get people involved in policing their local area. This would take the form of administrative support or quality assurance. Inspector Smith can be contacted, via the main Police switchboard, on 0151 709 6010.

Inspector Smith was asked to make contact with STARAT to discuss local issues, and he agreed to do this.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Daryl Oprey, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, informed the forum of statistics, issues and achievements of the Service, including:

- The service deals with approximately seven vehicle fires and six house fires per month. Secondary anti-social behaviour fires are also dealt with.

Stickers reminding people of the dangers of fire are available for placing on bins, in the lead up to mischief night and bonfire night, and it was anticipated that the new contractor would co-operate with distribution of these.

A successful pilot scheme was ran last year, involving getting the Probation Service to assist with the removal of bonfire material from around Wirral, and Daryl reported this would take place again this year.

An update was given on the recent industrial dispute.

Allocation of fire appliances, each station would have two appliances, except for Bromborough which would have one. If anyone required a free home fire check or smoke alarm they were requested to contact Daryl Oprey [daryloprey@merseyfire.gov.uk](mailto:daryloprey@merseyfire.gov.uk) or 0151 296 4626.

Minute Decision : Resolved that:

(i) Inspector Smith and Daryl Oprey be thanked for their updates (ii) Inspector Smith to contact STARAT to discuss local issues

### **Minute 7 - Open Forum - opportunity to raise your questions**

Q – A Member of the Public raised the issue of letters being sent to residents about purchasing houses, and concern over lack of information on progress re: Housing Market Renewal Initiative (HMRI) in the area.

A - Councillor George Davies confirmed that over the next week residents would be receiving a personal update letter from the Council as well as a personal visit.

Q. – What is the situation re: the disability list held within Social Services, that had previously been maintained by WIRED?

A. – The Lead Officer agreed to look into this and pass information to the Area Co-ordinator for inclusion in the area co-ordinators report.

Q. – What provision has been made re: the Recycling Leaflet for residents that don't speak or understand English and would contact be made with community leaders? A. Tara Dumas confirmed that contact with community leaders would be useful and that there was information in various languages at the back of the booklet, and that were trying to make the leaflet as pictorial as possible.

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## **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

A member of the audience commended Councillors for bringing the Older People's Parliament forward.

Minute Decision : Resolved that Kevin Miller to forward information re: the disability list held within Social Services to the Area Co-ordinator for inclusion in the area co-ordinators report for February 2007.

### **Minute 8 - Any other business - Older People's Parliament - Community representation on Area Forum**

Older People's Parliament

The Area Co-ordinator informed the forum that application forms for the Older Peoples Parliament were available at the meeting. Discussion papers are also available, to provide background information. The Lead Officer encouraged people to consider joining the Parliament as this is an excellent opportunity to have an input into service provision.

Jack Cuffe, Chair of Senior Citizen's Forum, was present at this meeting. Community Representation on Area Forum

The Area Co-ordinator confirmed the forum had its quota of Community Representatives. However all positions would be coming up for re-election in October 2007, with the exception of Ray Rowland, and application forms would be available at the February and June 2007 forums.

A Member of the Public proposed that applications submitted at last area forum be carried forward and this was agreed.

A Member of the Public asked if it would be possible to view the constitution. It was agreed that this would be included in the next Area Co-ordinator's Report.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending, confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 7th February 2007, and closed the meeting 9.00pm.

Minute Decision : Resolved that:

(i) the Area Co-ordinator to provide area forum community representative application forms at the February and June 2007 forum meetings and to include previous applications, for re-consideration for re-elections in October 2007

(ii) the Area Co-ordinator to include a copy constitution for area forums in the next area co-ordinators report

## **Matters arising from October Forum**

### **Park & Ride Scheme Update**

Debbie Simnor had a meeting with Housing/HMRI and asset management colleagues to discuss the proposed scheme. We all now have a better understanding of the scheme in terms of Wirral's transport strategy which strengthens the case for it. At the meeting we agreed that Chris would prepare a report for Chief Officers and Members to get their full support and set out the issues in regards to the use of the land for park and ride purposes. As it is currently housing land we will need 'buy-in'/approval from the various parties concerned to this change

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

of use. As for the proposed layout for the scheme, we (Technical Services) have passed comments to Merseytravel/their consultant for them to address. I understand that Chris was also to pass on their comments. To date, I have not yet had their revisions. So to sum up, the scheme is progressing both in terms of land and design. Once these have been agreed, Merseytravel will be in a position to submit a planning application. Debbie cannot, at the moment give a date for the latter; it will depend upon the progress of the other issues which are out of my hands. Hopefully this provides sufficient progress since the last forum to demonstrate to stakeholders that the scheme is being progressed seriously.

**Debbie Simnor, Group Leader, Forward Planning Team, Technical Services Department. 0151 606 2004 extension 2363**

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**Merseytravel/Transport Issue raised by Forum Member re: if there are 6 people or less per hour on a bus on a regular basis people have heard that this service then stops operating. But! If there is a minimum of 18 to 20 on a bus they keep the service the person asking was at the forum and was unsure if this was an average number or it was per journey.**

Thank you for your note on this issue (our Respond ref - 06/5440) On the issue of numbers of passengers on buses, then it sounds as though your questioner was maybe referring to a new framework that Merseytravel has adopted in respect of criteria for supported bus services, i.e. the 20% of bus services that Merseytravel pays for, being services that are not operated commercially. This introduces a new scoring system against three criteria, to enable us to judge the value of supported bus services as follows:

**(a) Criterion 1: Levels of Patronage on the Service - Average number of passengers per journey:**

- 17+ 10 points
- 12 – 16.99 8 points
- 7 – 11.99 6 points
- 5 – 6.99 4 points
- <5 2 points

**(b) Criterion 2: Cost per Passenger - Net subsidy per passenger:**

- <£1 5 points
- £1 – £1.99 4 points
- £2 – £2.99 3 points
- £3 – £7.99 2 points
- >£8 1 points

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

### **(c) Criterion 3: Route Purpose**

- Service improves average levels of accessibility by average of 30 minutes or better 2 points
- Service improves average levels of accessibility by average of 15 minutes or better 1 point
- Service makes no difference to overall levels of accessibility minus 2 points

We then add up the scores and the likely action is as follows:

<b>Total score</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Likely action</b>
>14	High Priority	Maintain support
8-14	Medium Priority	Review service
<8	Low Priority	Consider withdrawal

This means that low-scoring services (i.e. those that are very expensive, carry few people and provide limited benefits to the public) will be candidates for withdrawal or review after a more rigorous look at the details. This is only a brief summary of the overall framework, however, and if the full report would be helpful, I can forward this to you separately. I hope that this is helpful. If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Huw Jenkins, Chief Policy Officer, Merseytravel, 24 Hatton Garden, Liverpool L3 2AN. Tel: 0151 330 1110**

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### **Merseytravel/Transport Issue concerns around disabled people being refused access on some public transport.**

In response to this, I would advise that we are aware of this problem, and have raised it with the relevant bus operators, as it is a breach of the Disability Discrimination Act. People who are refused access or assistance can take legal action against offending bus companies. As you will appreciate, Merseytravel does not operate the buses itself, but we are working with the bus companies to promote staff training and so forth. When we procure supported bus services as well, we also require buses are DDA compliant. The new bus stops and facilities that we are building across Merseyside also allow wheelchair access to buses by means of raised kerbs etc, as creating a fully accessible public transport network is one of our principal objectives. I have copied this to my colleague David Skelton, who is Merseytravel's Access Officer, who may wish to provide additional advice, but as this is not an issue over which Merseytravel has direct control, it is difficult to comment in greater detail I'm afraid.

**Huw Jenkins, Chief Policy Officer, Merseytravel, 24 Hatton Garden, Liverpool L3 2AN. Tel: 0151 330 1110**

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## **Section 1**

## **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

### **Constitution for Area Forums:**

This link is to the Constitution of the Council

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/pp/constitution.htm>

Wirral Borough Council has agreed a new constitution which sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. Some of the processes are required by law, while others are a matter for the Council to choose. The constitution is divided into 16 articles which set out the basic rules governing the Council's business. More detailed procedures and codes of practice are provided in separate rules and protocols at the end of the document. These rules and protocols may be changed more frequently.

The following documents are available in Acrobat PDF Format:

### **Contents**

- Part 1 – Summary & Explanation
- Part 2 – Articles of the Constitution
- Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions
- Part 4 – Rules of Procedure
- Part 5 – Codes & Protocols
- Part 6 – Members' Allowances Scheme
- Part 7 – Management Structure

### **Further Information**

Political Structure

### **The next steps:**

In line with implementing an improvement plan for the area forums a draft Area Forum Constitution has been written which covers, terms of reference, delegations, membership and voting arrangements, conflict of interest and area forum meetings.

Alongside this, draft operating protocols have also been written that cover the role of area forums, their membership, responsibilities, the role of the Community Engagement Team in supporting the area forums, community and advisory members role, venue and layout, presentations, consultation and reports to area forums, area forum funding, and a code of conduct for community and advisory representatives on area forums.

These documents will be presented to the Community and Customer Engagement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

### Disability Register:

The expectation for Local Authorities to hold a Register of People with Physical Disabilities resulted in an annual return to the Department of Health. The requirement to complete this return was removed in 1993.

The register was developed to enable local Councils to plan services for people with physical disabilities, using the aggregated information gained from it. However, as registration has always been voluntary and difficult to maintain, this use has always needed to be treated with caution. There are no benefits for individuals in being on the register.

Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services currently holds a paper record of people who have requested registration and is able to continue to do so through the Council's Call Centre facility.

In terms of service planning, the Department is able to use the information it collects about people who receive services or blue badges under the Disabled Parking Scheme and has a modernisation team made up of social care and health professionals and people who use services which undertakes this task.

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### General/Other:

- **Family Safety Unit/MARAC Community Safety Statistical information to be available on the night of the Forum**
  - **Area Co-ordinator Michelle Gray to make available application forms to apply to become a Community Representative on Area Forums**
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### Initiatives:

- **Vehicles That Bite Back** Pantha is a vehicle crime reduction initiative funded and deployed by the Wirral Joint Community Safety Team and Merseyside Police in conjunction with Wirral Council. This is a crime intervention combining CCTV and Smartwater (traceable dye) technologies. Alongside this successful initiative is a powerful message is being sent out across the Wirral as a warning to potential thieves:
  - **Thieves Beware!** Pantha is now operating in this area. Unmarked Pantha vehicles containing CCTV equipment and Smartwater traceable dye are waiting to track your every move, leading the Police straight to your door.
-

**Safer & Stronger Communities****Community Volunteers, Special Constables and Police  
Community Support and Traffic Officers, Required****Roles As Unique As You Are - HELP MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY SAFER****VOLUNTEERS:**

Making our community safer is something that everybody can help to do. It's not just about policing – there is a huge need for a new injection of voluntary help and we're looking for people of all ages, races, genders and educational backgrounds to meet it.



Opportunities for Volunteers are diverse and can include: -

- Assisting Front Office Counter enquiries
- Speedwatch - Monitoring of traffic speed in response to community concerns
- Leafleting crime prevention information
- Assisting with Wirral Watch schemes
- Presenting crime prevention advice to vulnerable groups within the community
- Assisting police staff in administrative or communication work

We will provide you with the necessary training, support and where appropriate reimburse expenses - to enable you to undertake your voluntary service effectively.

Personal benefits of volunteering will also include:

- Helping your local policing team to make your local community safe
- Meeting new people and learning new skills
- Experiencing policing at first hand
- Providing an opportunity for personal development and achievement
- Evidence for your curriculum vitae
- Offering you a potential career path to the Police Service

## Section 2

## Local Updates

### **SPECIAL CONSTABULARY:**

Members of the Merseyside Police Special Constabulary are volunteers, who, in their spare time provide valuable assistance to their regular colleagues, support staff and members of the extended police family.



They are men and women from all walks of life, varied ethnic backgrounds and all sections of the community – shop assistants, electricians, sales persons, students, teachers, police support staff, business managers or at home bringing up a family. They are ordinary people who want to make a difference in improving the quality of life for their communities.

Merseyside Police Special Constabulary is looking for new recruits. If you are interested in joining, or would just like to talk to someone to get more information, call Shirley Greenwell on 0151-777 8244 or via e-mail at [Shirley.Greenwell@merseyside.police.uk](mailto:Shirley.Greenwell@merseyside.police.uk).

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND TRAFFIC OFFICERS:**

Merseyside Polices' focus is to put the community at the heart of everything we do, providing a service that our public has confidence in, and becoming a centre of excellence for community safety on Merseyside.

#### **The role of the Police Community and Traffic Support Officer:**



The roles of Police Community Support Officers and Traffic Community Support Officers has recently been reviewed by the Workforce Modernisation team. As a result, the roles of the Police Community Support Officer and Traffic Community Support Officer will now be combined. The 'dual role' will play a crucial role in building trust and confidence in policing and community safety.

Being an intrinsic part of neighbourhood policing, Police Community and Traffic Support Officers are managed and led by neighbourhood police teams at a local level. Their role is to tackle anti-social behaviour and contribute to improved reassurance in the community by:

- Engaging with the community to improve public reassurance and quality of life issues
- Increasing visibility in public places through foot and cycle patrol
- Supporting our response to calls for service

## Section 2

## Local Updates

### Police Community Support and Traffic Officers – Designated powers:

The Chief Constable has designated the below powers to Police Community Support and Traffic Officers to deliver effective policing through:

- Confiscating alcohol from young persons (under 18)
- Confiscating tobacco from young persons (under 16)
- Removing abandoned vehicles
- Taking the names and addresses of persons acting in an anti-social manner.
- Power to detain a person for failing to give a name and address when requested
- Traffic Warden powers (minus yellow line offences which are managed by Local Authority wardens)

Interested in making a difference in your community? - We're waiting to hear from you. How to apply: Call the Extended Police Family Co-ordinator for Wirral on 0151 606 5448 or e-mail [kate.roberts@merseyside.police.uk](mailto:kate.roberts@merseyside.police.uk) with your details, or apply in writing to:

**Volunteer Recruitment Co-ordinator, Merseyside Police, Wallasey,  
Police Station, Personnel Unit, Manor Road, Liscard, Wirral, CH44 1DA**

## Merseyside Fire Service

### WELL DONE EVERYONE 😊

Wirral and our partners received 3 Community Fire Safety awards for recognition of all the hard work that is undertaken to ensure Wirral is a safer and healthier place to live, work and enjoy. Firstly the Wirral section of the Fire Service Network received recognition for all the volunteer support for community well being and life saving work they give on the Wirral. Kathy Gill on behalf of Poppin also received an award for their support to community fire safety.

For the second year running a Wirral Station received the Merseyside Community Fire Station of the Year. The award went to Bromborough for their ground breaking Market garden and integration with the commercial community in the area. These achievements could not have made without the help from all of our colleagues who work close with us. Your continuing innovation, support and tireless effort is making a difference.

Daryl Oprey, Wirral District Manager, <http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk>

## Council issues urgent warning about bogus doorstep collections

## Section 2

## Local Updates

Wirral Council's Trading Standards Team are warning Wirral residents not to give to a bogus Third World Clothing Appeal.

The scamsters are giving residents a leaflet asking them to leave their unwanted clothes which they then sell for their own profit.

The leaflet claims to come from a legitimate steel business called ASD Ltd who are not involved in the scam.

The leaflet contains limited company registration numbers for two companies, Olonex Ltd and Help Line UK Ltd, both of which are no longer operating and cannot legally trade.

John Malone, Wirral Council's Trading Standards Manager said: "I strongly advise the public not to leave any clothing in response to this request.

There are plenty of genuine, local charities who would be more than happy to receive your unwanted goods. These charities often deliver collection bags."

### Residents warned against bogus tree fellers

Wirral Trading Standards have issued a warning to the public about itinerant tree fellers operating in the borough following recent stormy weather.

John Malone, Trading Standards Manager warned: "Recent storms will have caused damage to householders' trees. They should be wary about traders who knock on their doors offering to trim and remove any damaged trees."

"We have received complaints from older residents who have been verbally quoted a price of £30 but were charged £180 when the work was completed. The trader dropped a leaflet through the door stating SPECIAL RATES FOR OAPS, unfortunately the special rate was an excessive charge." Wirral's Trading Standards recommend that residents get quotations from local traders before agreeing to have any tree work carried out. Itinerants who can only be contacted by mobile telephone are unlikely to return to sort out any problems

### Healthier Communities & Older People

#### Wirral Primary Care Trust Update

##### PCT update on:

*Practice relocations (developments or future plans for GP practice or health care provision within each area forum locality).*

**Cavendish Medical Centre & Claughton Medical Centre** - Proposal for Cavendish Medical Centre to relocate to new purpose built accommodation in Park Road North (same site at Claughton Medical Centre). Public consultation complete and approval been given

## Section 2

## Local Updates

by Wirral PCT Board and Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The majority of responses were in favour of the proposal. This will provide patients with a modern purpose built facility with improved disability access and car parking. Discussions currently underway to agree a move date for Cavendish Medical Centre.

**“Wirral’s Public Health Report”** presents the state of Wirral's health and well-being in an electronic format. It demonstrates the breadth and depth of our intelligence regarding the health of Wirral's population and the complexity involved in reducing health inequalities and improving life expectancy for our residents.

At the forum, there will be an opportunity for forum members to gain a snap shot overview of the health of their area through an interactive presentation. The full report can be accessed at - <http://nww.wirralpct.nhs.uk/>

### **Did you know that from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 England is to become smoke free?**

**What does this mean for you?** From 1st of July 2007, virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England will become smoke free. This includes pubs, restaurants, bingo halls and shopping centres. All no-smoking premises must display no-smoking signs. A smoke free England will ensure a healthier environment, so everyone can socialise, relax, travel, shop and work free from second-hand smoke.

**Who's going to enforce the smoke free regulations?** Local Environmental Health Officers, who will be able to issue fixed penalty fines to anyone who is committing an offence, will enforce the law. However, we know from the experience of other countries that smoke free legislation is largely self-enforcing. There will be a phone-line created to support local authorities in their compliance work and further details will be made public in due course.

### **What are the penalties for breaking the law?**

- Smoking in a smoke free building: *fixed penalty notice £50*
- Failure to display no-smoking signs in smoke free premises: *fixed penalty notice £200*
- Failing to prevent smoking in smoke free premises: *a fine up to £2500*

**What is happening on Wirral?** The Local Authority and Wirral PCT are working in partnership to plan for the implementation of the new legislation. The aims are to:

- Ensure Wirral businesses are sufficiently prepared to meet the new smoking legislation
- Ensure that the Wirral public and business sector develop a culture of co-operation with the legislation through effective communication and enforcement

This process has already begun and Smoke Free Wirral has engaged with Pub watch to provide information on the forthcoming legislation and is about to meet with personnel managers from local businesses.

Leading up to implementation there will be widespread media coverage including TV adverts from March 2007. If you require any further information on the legislation, you can visit [www.smokefreeengland.co.uk](http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk) or you can contact Mike Donnelly from Smoke Free Wirral if your business needs assistance in preparing for smoke free legislation. Wirral

## Section 2

## Local Updates

PCT want to support you in taking the first steps towards giving up smoking, for further information contact Wirral support Intermediate Advisors in Bidston and Claughton Practices.

Medical Centre / Practice	Address	Intermediate Advisor
Cavendish Medical Centre	214 Park Road North, Birkenhead Wirral, CH41 8BU	Nicki Cavanagh/Carol Williams 652 1955
Claughton Medical Centre	161 Park Road North, Birkenhead Wirral, CH41 ODD	Gaynor Jones/Dr Renwick/Paula Dewhurst/Chris Howell/ 652 1688

Did you know that you can go to your pharmacy for advice on stopping smoking and Nicotine Replacement Therapy (patches) on prescription at:

Beechwood	Morsy Lewis	41 Fenderway	David Lewis Helen James	677 2353
Birkenhead	Alliance	30 Hoylake Rd	Sue Dolan Tracey Gordon	653 7871

Pharmacy contact details, localities, opening times (and more) can be obtained from <http://www.nhs.uk/England/Pharmacies/Default.aspx>

### Community Development activities currently being delivered in your area.

<b>Breakfast Club</b>	Connaught Community House North Birkenhead	Wed 9.00 am to 11.00 am	Open to residents of North Birkenhead Contact Marilyn
<b>Weight Wise Exercise</b>	Bidston Tennis Centre	From 22 Nov 10.00 am to 11.00am	A new exercise programme designed for people who are very overweight. This is led by their qualified instructors and offer a variety of gentle and fun exercises. Contact Chris 647 1703
<b>Weight Wise Exercise</b>	Bidston Tennis Centre	From 23 Nov 10.00am to 11.00am	A new exercise programme designed for people who are very overweight. Led by their qualified instructors and offer a variety of gentle and fun exercises. Contact Chris 647 1703
<b>Get Into Reading</b>	St James Library	Thurs 10.00am to 11.30am	A chance to meet new people in a friendly and relaxing atmosphere, sharing books and short stories (crèche places available) Contact Chris 674 1703

**Government inspectors recognise improving services for vulnerable people in Wirral**

Improvements in services for vulnerable people in Wirral have been officially recognised by the Commission for Social Care Inspection, CSCI.

Following the annual review of performance by CSCI, Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services has received a rating of two stars, an improvement on the one star rating for the combined adult and children's Social Services Department last year.

This means that, once again, Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services has improved its services and outcomes for the vulnerable adults of Wirral who need care and support.

Inspectors from CSCI were particularly impressed by the Department's work in consulting people who use its services, the strong leadership evident within the organisation and partnerships with other agencies including market providers.

Wirral's Director of Adult Social Services, Kevin Miller, said: "This rating is well-deserved recognition for staff who work directly with those vulnerable people in achieving the outcomes they need. I'd like to place on record my thanks to them all for their hard work and commitment.

"Of course, while we celebrate this achievement, we won't be resting on our laurels. Further improvements are in the pipeline in terms of both practice and efficiency.

These improvements will hopefully result in even better services for the people who use the Department's services and will provide evidence for the major inspection of Older People's Services that is due in the New Year."

**Council named as one of top training providers by Government watchdog**

Wirral Council's Lifelong and Family Learning Service has today been named as one of the top training providers in the country.

The announcement was made by the Adult Learning Inspectorate, the Government body responsible for the quality of education and training for adults and young people.

The report highlighted the service's effective partnership working and praised the ability to reach hard to reach groups. Wirral were one of only three local authority adult learning services to be named in the report. Head of Wirral's Lifelong and Family Learning Service Sarah Howarth said: "We are really thrilled to be named in the report. All the learners and staff work really hard and they deserve to be recognised.

"We aim continue to continue to work closely with local people and communities to provide a good adult learning service." At the launch of his annual report for 2005-2006 Chief



## Section 2

## Local Updates

Inspector David Sherlock named the service as being one of only 151 organisations to receive 'good' or 'outstanding' inspection grades for every aspect of its training.

David Sherlock said: "I am delighted to be able to name Wirral Council as one of this year's outstanding providers. They have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to achieving the very highest standards in the quality of adult and family training they offer.

"Learners can be confident that they will receive first-class support to reach their full potential. To be one of the top providers in the country is a tremendous achievement and a great credit to the team at Wirral."

Wirral Lifelong and Family learning Service offers part-time courses for adults across Wirral. Courses are offered in the main centres in Leasowe and Rock Ferry and in schools, Children's Centres and community venues. The service has around 4,000 enrolments a year and courses range from basic computers, family learning, literacy and numeracy for adults, arts and crafts, languages and a wide range of other subjects. The Chief Inspector continued: "This year we can celebrate a phenomenal improvement in the performance of the learning and skills sector. Learning provision for adults is better, more varied, more closely linked to achieving fulfillment in life and work and more inclusive of our people than ever before. That is the stuff of delight. It should give intense satisfaction to all who have contributed to its realisation, but most of all to the providers themselves."

**For further information contact Nikki Mullineux, Press and PR Officer, Wirral Council, 0151 691 8360.**

### Older Peoples Parliament Update

As you will be aware the council has been supporting the establishment of an Older People's Parliament for Wirral. The initiative is being led by the Wirral Senior Citizen's Forum led by Jack Cuffe and Ken McDermott. The process which the Forum has adopted it to invite applications for membership of the Parliament from interested people from across the Borough. It is the intention to bring all the applicants together in January 2007 to establish the Parliament and determine how it will work.

#### **Still a few vacancies for Wirral's Older People's Parliament**

Are you an older person with something to say? There are still a few vacancies for Wirral's new Older People's Parliament. The Parliament, which has been set up in partnership with Wirral's Senior Citizens' Forum, will give older people an opportunity to have their say on Council decisions that affect their lives.

Membership of the Parliament will be organised around the areas covered by Local Area Forums, with each Forum having four representatives. Attendance at the Forums will be on a rota basis with each Forum having two places available for older people.

**People over 50 who are interested in joining the Older People's Parliament, should phone Tracey Smith on 0151 691 8026 or email [traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk) for an application form**

### Involvement in Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services

As government policy increasingly reinforces the need for significant involvement from people who use our services and carers, there is a need for a clear, straightforward and simple strategy across the whole Department that establishes good practice in relation to Involvement.

The Department has shown its dedication to involvement by creating a full time permanent post to co-ordinate the Involvement agenda across the whole Department. The Involvement Officer happens to be a user/survivor of Mental Health Services, which further demonstrates the Department's commitment to meaningful and proactive involvement and inclusion.

The first task of the Involvement Officer is to engage with people who use our services, carers, staff and the community and write an Involvement Strategy that will give us direction for the next three years. Once the Strategy has been drafted, we will consult with people for their comments and feedback, through the Area Forums. Through our strategy the Department wants to work in partnership with other stakeholders and contribute to the overall progress and advancement of involving people who use our services and carers in Wirral.

As a Department we want to

- Present a firm, coherent and principled value-base in relation to involving people who use our services and carers
- Present good quality ideas, good practice guidelines and practical examples of involvement
- Celebrate what has been achieved as regards our current position of involvement
- Lay out a vision for future involvement
- Establish our standing as a leading edge organisation with a strong commitment to involvement.

We will be exploring and experimenting with ways to move on and achieve these goals. An excellent practical example of this is our groundbreaking work re-writing all our policy and procedures. We have set up Policy Boards to write our 8 pillar policies, one of which being Involving People.

There are people who use our services and carers on each of the policy boards as well as representation from the voluntary and community sector. This innovative piece of work has been so successful that similar Boards will be set to write the associated procedures that will come from policies.

Involvement has many benefits in addition to improved and responsive services. For some people, being involved is an important part of a recovery process, as they find their confidence builds. Involvement gives people opportunities to become reacquainted with their skills, while offering new avenues for learning. In turn, people feel valued, accepted and respected.

Along with the camaraderie that can only come from people who are living through similar experiences, people find that through involvement they make steps towards recovery and well-being. This form of self recovery is not often available through traditional services and support.

Enough said, watch this space for further developments.....

For further information please contact

Nici Campbell, Involvement Officer, 0151 666 5149  
[nicicampbell@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:nicicampbell@wirral.gov.uk)

**Engagement Strategy** - *The aim of this report is to 'set the scene' for presentations by the Trust at future forums, as part of our ongoing engagement strategy, at which more detail will be communicated about the Trust's plans for the next five years.*

**Wirral Hospital: into a new era** - The development of our Engagement Strategy marks the second phase in meeting our commitment to engage more closely with the communities we serve.

The first phase of this ongoing process came in February 2006 when we undertook a massive consultation programme in relation to our application for Foundation Trust Status "A Change for the Better". This consultation laid out our service plans for the next five years, which were then published as a formal part of our application to become a Foundation Trust. We are now half way through our application to become a Foundation Trust and feel that this is the right time to again engage with the communities we serve.

In the coming months, we will be talking – and listening – to people like you about our plans for the future. Hospital services are changing right across the country and it is important that we keep you up to date on developments. At future presentations we will be in a position to tell you more about our plans.

**Agenda** - Our aim for this brief report is to set the scene and remind you about:

- **who we are**, because sometimes there is confusion about who provides which health service
- **why we are changing** – we have to move with the times and respond to changing needs and demands, which I want to talk about
- and finally, **how we are changing**.

**Who we are** - Wirral Hospital NHS Trust manages two hospitals, providing services for approximately 320,000 people. Arrowe Park Hospital in Upton has around 900 beds and provides a complete range of acute health services. Clatterbridge Hospital in Bebington has around 200 beds for elective surgery (planned operations), rehabilitation services and care of older people. The Trust also manages the X-ray facilities, outpatient services and day hospital at Victoria Central Hospital and the Radiography Department at St Catherine's Hospital. The Trust budget is c£220m and we employ around 6,000 staff across all our sites.

**NHS Foundation Trust** - All hospitals have to become FTs by 2008. NHS FTs are a new kind of NHS organisation. They are accountable to their Membership and to Parliament, rather than to the Department of Health. An independent regulator, Monitor, makes sure they meet requirements and reports on this to Parliament. FTs have Members and Governors – unlike current NHS trusts. Members elect Governors to represent them and to set direction for the organisation. The establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors is a key part of our ongoing engagement strategy. We are aiming for at least 13,000 public members – currently we have 6,000.

## Section 2

## Local Updates

### **An NHS FT:**

- provides free NHS services on the basis of individual need and not ability to pay
- has to meet NHS standards in everything that it does and will be inspected by the Healthcare Commission and other national bodies
- employs NHS staff on their current terms and conditions of employment
- is accountable to local people through a Council of Governors elected by its members
- has Members who provide a strong link between the services it provides and the local communities it serves
- has to provide real opportunities for staff, service users and carers to influence decision making
- is part of the NHS and cannot be privatised - the level of money it can earn by doing private health work is capped by law
- has to maintain good working relationships with other health and social care organisations

**Changes in NHS nationally** - The NHS has seen a massive increase in funding in recent years, which has brought significant improvements to the way in which patients receive their care and treatment. The dramatic reduction in the maximum waiting times for planned operations (18 months to 6 months) is just one example. As well as improving services for patients the increase in funding has also enabled significant increases in salaries for doctors and nurses both in hospitals and in primary care.

The Government has introduced a number of strategies to enable the NHS to maintain its progress and achieve further improvements both in terms of services to patients but also in terms of the efficiency with which these services are provided. These include:

- changing the way in which NHS trusts are funded. No longer do they receive an annual allocation at the start of the year, but instead are paid according to the number and type of patients they treat (Payment by Results)
- giving patients a choice of which hospital to attend, encouraging trusts to raise standards in order to attract patients through their doors
- offering services, which traditionally were provided in hospitals, closer to people's homes in community settings and developing community services to avoid some patients having to go into hospital
- ensuring NHS trusts become more efficient by requiring them to meet a 2.5% efficiency target by matching the best national or international levels of performance

**Five year plan** - Over the last 10 years Wirral Hospital NHS Trust has become one of the most successful NHS trusts in the country. It has a tremendously strong track record of robust financial management that has enabled the expansion of the range, quality and availability of services to patients. As well as reducing waiting times and balancing our books we have also been able to develop services locally that previously had only been provided in Liverpool. We need to make sure we keep improving and developing services while making realistic financial assumptions and meeting national efficiency requirements. To do this we have developed a five year plan which includes:

- Our plans to treat many more patients and so reduce waiting times to 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment by December 2008

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- Our plans to spend over £10M a year on better equipment and facilities such as more single rooms and ward upgrades, parents accommodation and a new heart treatment laboratory
- Our plans to develop more specialist services locally to avoid patients having to travel to Liverpool

Achieving our plans will cost a lot of money and will require us to improve the way we provide services. Treating additional patients will bring more money into the Trust (our income is forecast to go up by around £40M over the five years) but this will not cover all of the extra costs we will face. Comparing ourselves to other hospitals suggests we can do things more efficiently. We have developed plans to improve the way we provide services by reducing the need for patients to come into hospital the night before their operation and making sure they can go home the day they have their operation. We are also planning to improve our elderly care and rehabilitation services, alongside developments in services in primary care, so that patients can be discharged earlier than they are now. We are also looking at the possibility of providing some services in partnership with other NHS organisations or other public sector providers.

Our proposals aim to treat many more patients but to reduce the Trust's running costs by just over £20 million over the next five years by providing services more efficiently for example by:

- Reducing our numbers of surgical beds by admitting patients on the day of their operation and converting beds into day-case beds so that more patients to go home the same day
- Reducing the number of beds we need for patients who do need to stay overnight, by working with primary care services to develop community services and by improving our discharge procedures

Moving forward together - The Trust has engaged with the local community regarding its application to become a Foundation Trust but clearly this has to be an ongoing process. As we are now half way through our Foundation Trust application it seems appropriate to undertake further engagement, which will then feed into and hopefully our ongoing strategy and the establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors. Over the coming months and at future meetings we will be talking in more detail about our plans.

## Children & Young People

### Wirral Youth Service

Provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. The Service's age range is 13-25 years; prioritising young people aged 13-19 years. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

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

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Youth clubs, Street work projects, “Kontaktabuses”, “Wirral Youth Theatre” and Youth Arts, “Response” – Advice, support, advocacy and information service and Substance Misuse Service, International exchanges, Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, Outdoor activities and Projects in schools

The Service is flexible and able to respond to the needs of young people and offers opportunities that are both universal and targeted. Youth work on Wirral is delivered through joint working between the Local Authority, voluntary organisations and other agencies. Youth workers work with young people in many different localities in Wirral. Having a variety of youth clubs and street work projects allows youth workers to work with young people in their neighbourhoods, meet their specific needs and respond to issues that are important to them.

Much of the work of the Youth Service takes place in one of sixteen open access youth clubs located across the Borough from Wallasey to Eastham and Birkenhead to West Kirby. Street work teams of youth workers make contact with young people who do not access the service elsewhere, build relationships with them and in negotiation with the young people, develop programmes which address their specific needs. This work is delivered on the streets, through project work and on mobile Kontaktabuses.

**Response** is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty. The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

**International Work** Each year the Youth Service runs a comprehensive programme of International Youth Exchanges. Young people from Wirral take part in a number of international opportunities including, Hong Kong and Italy, Germany and the Azores.

**Duke of Edinburgh’s Award** The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 450 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels. The Award is available to all young people aged between 14 and 25 with the emphasis being the development of young people’s leisure time. By taking part in the Award, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

**Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts** operates across the Borough to enable young people to access a wide range of performing arts related activities. Art forms such as drama, dance,

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music, technical theatre and new media are used to help young people to develop personally and socially as well as developing theatre and media related skills.

**The North End Young People's Project** is working with the Claughton Residents Association to promote a Friday evening sports session at the all weather pitch at Birkenhead Park Rugby Club.

**The Fender Youth Action Project** undertakes work with young people on the Beechwood and Ballantyne Estates. The Wednesday night sports session at the recreation centre is well supported.

**Charring Cross Methodist Y.C.** (Open. Monday and Wednesdays 6.30 – 9.30pm. Thursdays 7–10pm. Saturday 4-7pm). Took part in the Methodist association of youth clubs "Break Out" event which was a successful residential weekend experience. Six young people achieved the 100hrs millennium award as the unit continues to support volunteering and community service. Project work has been carried out on issues of health and well being, rights and responsibilities, relationships, community awareness, music and creative arts, fitness and sport, gym painting and an anti bullying.

**Cavendish Youth Club** Open Monday and Wednesday 7-10pm. As well as the usual programme Members have been involved in the packing and delivery of food parcels to the elderly in the area. A partnership with the Youth theatre has now developed a bid for Funding to youth forum.

### Beacon Open Day

With the Beacon status comes the responsibility for organising an 'Open Day' and other learning opportunities for colleagues and partners both within Wirral and in other local authorities. The day aims to be a two-way sharing of good practice. In preparation for the day every Lead Member for Children's Services in England received an individual invitation to attend in person or send an officer in their place.

All eight Positive Youth Engagement Beacon Councils have to put on an Open Day, so attracting delegates can be a challenge; the majority tend to be from the immediate area. Wirral's Open Day welcomed a very pleasing total of 128 delegates registered on the day. These delegates represented the Authority's departments, partner organisations, elected members and organisations from across the country. In addition to delegates from Wirral, other areas represented were: Cumbria CC, Northwest Regional Youth Work Unit, South Tyneside, Oldham, York, East Riding of Yorkshire, Salford, Warwickshire, Sefton, Warrington. The day comprised a series of workshops and displays, with entertainment provided by pupils of Ridgeway High School and young people from Forum Housing.

The workshops were:

- Charter of Participation (attended by all delegates)

The following six themes, from which delegates chose two:

- My Ideal Social Worker/My Ideal Foster Carer
- Delivering the Citizenship Curriculum
- Preventing Homelessness among the Young

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- Don't Give Up! – Maintaining contact with Young People
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue – Early Interventions
- Health Promoting Schools

Feedback from the delegates, both during the day and afterwards - has been almost entirely positive. A sample few from the many delegates from outside Wirral are:

- 'Varied programme of workshops, entertainment and inputs. Good involvement by young people. Evidence of energy and commitment from all of those involved in planning and delivering the day. Excellent welcome and staff and young people were available throughout the day to help. Well done – an excellent day!'
- 'As a new lead Member for Children's Services, I learnt a lot and picked up some good ideas.'
- 'I already have some new ideas to take back to my services, to get them to think differently!'
- 'It's been a great day and I enjoyed it immensely. It was good to see people working together to ensure that participation happens.'
- 'One of the best conferences I have ever attended.'
- 'A very informative day in all aspects. I hope to have the opportunity of attending again in the future. Can we have more events like this?'
- East Riding of Yorkshire: 'Excellent day! Thank you!'

Follow up to the day is a commitment to peer mentoring and learning sessions, either with groups or one-to-one. All out-of-area delegates have already been contacted asking them if they would like any follow-up support. These sessions have been planned to take place early in the New Year when there will be greater capacity within the service to meet the potential increase in workload. The range and scope of these learning activities will depend on the degree of uptake from delegates and others.

### Youth Voice Conference & Youth Parliament 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006

The following themes identified from Youth Voice Conference Workshops, Hot Seating and the Round Table Discussion at Youth Parliament. The issues to be followed up can be addressed on a thematic basis as follows:-

**Environment** Choice of bins for recycling, Leaflets to be less confusing, More education on recycling, Recycling bins for schools, Schools to be included as part of official collection system, Energy Conservation to be promoted, Too much lighting in some places and not enough in Arrowe Park or Victoria Park

**Transport** Cost of transport for 16 yr olds, Attitude of staff to young people, More frequent buses and trains, State of railway stations, Prices for students too expensive, Security/safety at stations and on buses

**Community Safety** Focused policing more structured approach to communities, Bring adults and young people together, Police and young people use of ASBOS, section 30s and moving young people on, Impact of Section 30s when separating groups of young



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people, Need more Community Safety Officers on Street Safety in schools, Security at railway stations, How to break down barriers between police and young people?

**Places To Go and Things To Do** Youth Shelters requested youth provision in affluent areas, Extend school facilities across Wirral for weekend and evening use, Weekend provision, Appropriate places to go for like-minded people, Need to consider needs of 15-18yr olds when planning for provision. Safe places where young people can drink. (NB need to highlight here that L.A. cannot break law). Link to health agenda. Cost of leisure facilities for young people, Venues for band performances. Lighting at football cages .Recording studios for local bands, Possible discount passes and swipe cards for use in leisure facilities. Play spaces with lighting and consultation at all levels. Opportunities to be advertised.

**Learning & Achievement** PSHE classes to be more than just information. Considerations to be given as to who does this teaching. Timing of education in schools which tackles drug and alcohol misuse. Work on inter-generational understanding and racial understanding to be provided at a young age. Schools are a resource which could be utilized at the weekends. In School Counselling for support during stressful periods.

**Making a Positive Contribution** Youth Parliament to include homeless and gypsy young people. Advertise youth forums. Promote the existence of and opportunity to be involved in the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. Student Councils - concerns raised. How to respond to views of young people.

**Leisure** Young people being moved out of parks. Cost of Leisure facilities too high for young people. Lighting in Parks – Paths to be lit up. Litter in the park and general maintenance. Free Leisure entrance for all under 16s. Parks being used inappropriately by gangs drinking there. Provision of music venues for bands. Lower costing of facilities at specific times. Discount passes and swipe cards for young people. Special rates for different ages on different days.

**Housing Support** for vulnerable young people who are homeless at 16 Support for homeless young people who have drug-alcohol problems. Homelessness prevention. Place of safety for U16 who are homeless. Link between mental health and homelessness.

### Report of Youth Parliament & Youth Voice Conference 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006

The Youth Voice Conference and the Youth Parliament took place at Wallasey Town hall on 9 October 2006. This was the fourth Youth Voice Conference and the first Youth Parliament. The purpose of both events was to gather the views of Wirral's young people on issues that were important to them.

**Youth Voice Conference** The number of schools involved in this event has increased with 26 out of 27 secondary schools having an input and 24 out of 27 actually attending the day. The 3 secondary schools that did not attend were Kilgarth, Foxfield and Wirral Hospital School – in all cases staffing issues prevented the schools sending participants. 117 young people in total attended the Youth Voice Conference.

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**Youth Parliament** The Youth Parliament was planned around two sessions. The first session was a round table discussion over tea. Young people and Councillors were assigned a table and asked to agree on the three key issues most important to the young people. If possible the Members and young people were asked to identify possible solutions. The second session took place in the Council Chamber. This session was used to allow Councillors Phil Davies, Tom Harney and Sheila Clarke to respond to the points raised and to say how they would be progressed within the Council 68 young people attended the Youth Parliament, 6 Youth Service Units were represented and 19 out of 27 secondary schools attended

**Issues Raised** Numerous issues were raised by the young people. The issues raised during all the discussions linked into Health, Leisure, Community Safety, Careers, Enjoy & Achieve and Making a Positive Contribution.

**Feedback** Comments from the young people were very positive, in addition we have had positive feedback from elected members and other staff present at both events.

**Next Steps** All points raised have been gathered into one document and listed under themes. Not all issues raised are the responsibility of the local authority however it is essential that those organisations concerned are given the opportunity to respond. The thematic list will go to the external organisations and they will be asked to advise the Authority of how they intend to respond. Those issues that are the responsibility of Wirral Council will be referred to Cabinet with proposals regarding how they will be progressed. One of the proposals will be to involve young people in identifying solutions.

All young people who participated will receive a joint letter from the Lead Members. This letter explains the next steps and the young people are invited to comment on the contents of the thematic list. In addition the issues will be discussed at the Youth Forums in January. The young people have also been advised that Members will hold a formal feedback session with the young people at a meeting to be arranged at Wallasey Town Hall week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

There is an intention to hold another young persons participation event in Local Democracy week in October 2007. Members are keen that young people are involved in planning for this. The planning process for this will start at the next round of Youth Forums and young people will be asked to form a planning group. To ensure as wide a reach as possible, partner organisations will be asked to identify young people who might like to be part of the planning group.

### **Council links with Rovers to get young people playing for success**

Tranmere Rovers and Wirral Council have unveiled their new study support centre The centre at Prenton Park was officially opened on Thursday.

The purpose built on-site classroom is part of the 'playing for success scheme' which has seen similar programmes set up in other areas of the country. Pupils from Wirral's

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primary, secondary and special schools attend out-of-hours lessons four evenings a week at the centre.

The study centre is a newly refurbished ICT suite where the students who use the facilities can develop literacy, numeracy and computer skills using state of the art equipment.

The programme aims to raise pupils levels of motivation and self-esteem using the environment of football as a stimulus as well as club resources and player involvement. In addition, the ICT suite is used by the club's youth scholars as part of their ongoing education programme.

Chairman Lorraine Rogers said: "We are delighted that the Rt-Hon Frank Field MP was able to officially open our Study Support Centre which is an integral part of the club, giving local children aged 9-14 years the opportunity to take part in after school learning in a fun, informal environment."

## Economic Development and Enterprise

### Millions Get the Message after Wirral's Open Championship Commands Positive Media Attention

Wirral's hosting of the most successful Open Golf Championship ever staged in England gave the region a positive media profile worth millions of pounds, according to new research published today. The survey of how British based broadcasters and publishers reported the event staged at Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake in July, reveals that overwhelmingly positive messages about the region and the event reached huge audiences in the UK alone. The Mersey Partnership (TMP), Wirral Council and the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) commissioned today's report, which was prepared by International analysts TNS Media Intelligence.

Key findings include:

- The value of UK newspaper space devoted to coverage exceeded £4.2m
- As well as hole-by-hole coverage of the Championship, UK Broadcasters devoted more than £1.25m worth of airtime to events at Hoylake
- 92% of UK TV and Radio coverage monitored was positive
- The region's Tourism offer was the key issue communicated in broadcast coverage
- TV commentators broadcast a total of 27 minutes of positive comments about the event and its location
- England's Golf Coast secured valuable exposure
- TMP, Wirral and the NWDA wanted to assess how staging the event influenced perceptions and opinions of the region. To achieve this, TNS Media Intelligence were

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briefed to monitor coverage dealing with all aspects of the event other than the Championship itself.

Martin King, Director of Tourism at The Mersey Partnership, said: "After winning The 2006 Open, Tiger Woods described it as one of the best Championships ever staged, and there is no denying that it was. What this research does is help us all understand the enormous added value brought to Wirral, Merseyside and the wider Northwest by staging a truly world-class event in such a successful way."

He added: "Really positive messages and images portraying the attractiveness of this part of Merseyside filled the airwaves and pages of our newspapers for more than a week. These findings tell us the real value of that exposure – but this is only the start of the good news. We have not yet assessed the international impact. The same images and messages were beamed all over the world. The total value of the positive exposure in terms of international media profile is almost immeasurable. And the even better news for us as a destination is that we can look forward to the similar levels of interest in 2008 when Sefton and Royal Birkdale hosts The Open once again."

All coverage monitored was classified under a range of topics which included Art and Culture; Economic Development; Employment; Engaging the Community; Business Growth; Inward Investment; Tourism, Transport and Regeneration.

Martin King added: "Breaking the coverage down like this underlines just how valuable the spin offs from an event like this are. For example, the fantastic planning and delivery of the public transport arrangements by Merseytravel made a huge contribution to the positive messages. That's as important to a day visitor travelling by train from Southport as it is to a potential investor from outside Merseyside who sees our region's integrated transport infrastructure."

Emma Degg, Head of Tourism and Marketing for Wirral Council said: "This report confirms that The Open Championship in July firmly placed Wirral on the national and international map. The partnership effort that delivered these outstanding results is a credit to all concerned and we are now working hard to ensure that Wirral continues to reap the benefits of the greatest championship ever staged."

Peter Mearns, Director of Marketing and Communications at the NWDA said: "The positive coverage generated by the Open will not only benefit Wirral and Merseyside, it will also help to strengthen the image of England's Northwest and cement the great reputation that the region has for hosting major events. Developing sport is an excellent way of improving the image, economy and tourism potential of the Northwest."

The report concludes: "The region enjoyed high impact exposure during breaks in play when the coverage focussed on areas surrounding the course and commentators provided positive comments about what was being shown. " TNS Media Intelligence studied 113 individual items of broadcast coverage and almost 800 separate newspaper articles. A summary of the TNS report can be viewed in the Press Room at [www.merseyside.org.uk](http://www.merseyside.org.uk)

**Wirral to get share of £36.5million Government funding**

The Merseyside Local Transport Plan, LTP, Partnership has been awarded more than £36.5 million by the Department for Transport – and recognised as one of the best in the country. This includes millions to be invested in Wirral.

The Department described the Plan as “excellent” – the highest possible assessment. Delivery of the first 2001-2006 Merseyside LTP was also described as “excellent”. Merseyside is the only metropolitan area in the country to achieve this double success. As a result funding for the next financial year, in the settlement announced today, has been increased by more than £3 million to £36.504 million.

Neil Scales, Chairman of the LTP Partnership and Chief Executive and Director General of Merseytravel, said: “This is tremendous news for Merseytravel and our five district partners. “Merseyside has also been recognised with Centre of Excellence status for transport planning and accessibility. This increased settlement is a massive vote of confidence by the Government in our ability to deliver an integrated public transport system that is accessible to all – and one of the finest systems in the country.”

The Merseyside LTP Partnership consists of Merseytravel and five local authorities of Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral. It provides the transport framework essential to the regeneration of Merseyside. The level of economic growth taking place across Merseyside means the transport network must connect people to jobs, training and education, and allow goods to reach their destination efficiently.

**The key achievements in Wirral under the first LTP include:**

- Nearly 30km of cycle routes including the improvements to the Wirral Way between Thurstaston and West Kirby, which has helped to attract an estimated 7,500 extra users per year.
- Over 50 road schemes including junction improvements at Thornton Common Road/Clatterbridge Road, Arrowe Park and Leasowe Road/Gardenside.
- Resurfacing of approximately 100 km of carriageway and over 35km of footway and strengthening of 11 bridge structures to improve the Borough’s existing highway assets.
- Installation of nearly twenty 20mph zones to improve the quality of life for residents.
- Installation of electronic message signs to inform drivers of disruption across the docks between Birkenhead and Wallasey to reduce congestion.

**Further schemes planned in Wirral in the second LTP include:**

- Development of the electrification of the rail line between Bidston and Wrexham.
- New and improved routes for cyclists in Wirral district centres, and along the Wirral Way towards Heswall.
- Support for community-led transport schemes to solve local problems, including demand responsive flexible minibus services serving areas where public transport is not available.
- Continued bus priority schemes to improve bus journeys, and park & ride schemes at rail stations to encourage people to ‘let the train take the strain’.

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David Green, Wirral's Director of Technical Services said, "Wirral has seen some significant improvements in local transport over the last few years. Working with TravelWise and through delivery of the second LTP we hope to continue this trend. "This next stage of funding will help us to continue works to reduce congestion, increase road safety and provide improvements to make public transport, cycling and walking more acceptable, especially for short journeys. We need to encourage people to use their cars less to make sure Wirral's roads do not get grid-locked."

### **Half a million pounds boost to employment, education and training in Wirral**

A new, confidential advice and guidance service has been set up for people in Wirral who have experienced problems in accessing employment, education and training.

Wirral's new 'Reach Out' project will be launched this Friday, September 29. It will target help, support and advice to people in six neighbourhoods across Wirral to enable them to gain employment or access education or training.

The 'Reach Out' project, which is being managed by Tranmere Alliance, will employ two Guidance Workers based within each of the following neighbourhood areas, Tranmere and Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Bidston and St James', Seacombe and Egremont, Leasowe and Moreton East and the Woodchurch Neighbourhood area.

The Guidance Workers will aim to make direct contact with clients by firstly delivering leaflets to their houses and then following up with a personal visit. They will then help clients to resolve any problems they are experiencing, either by sign-posting them to another service-provider or offering help with practicalities, such as filling in forms.

One 17-year old girl from Tranmere & Rock Ferry received a door knock from the Reach Out team. She had just finished Sixth Form College and was unsure of what to do next. The Guidance Workers introduced the project and discussed her needs and her barriers to moving forward into further education or employment.

During the home visit, the girl's mother was concerned that if her daughter started work it would affect the benefits, the guidance workers discussed the options and how employment would affect them both. Contact was made with Job Centre Plus to investigate job vacancies. Guidance workers supported her with completing both application forms and interviewing skills. This resulted in an offer of part time employment.

The Chief Executive of the Tranmere Alliance, Justine Burns said: "I have no doubt that the Guidance Workers will make an enormous difference to the lives of people in the Neighbourhood Renewal areas. It can be very difficult for some people to find out what they're entitled to and which services are available."

The 'Reach Out' project has been commissioned by Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership – which includes Wirral Council - using Government Neighbourhood Renewal Funding of approximately £500,000 over two years, from 2006 to 2008.

## Wirralbiz celebrates 350 business start ups

Business start up team wirralbiz are celebrating helping their 350<sup>th</sup> new Wirral business to begin trading in only 15 months. This extremely successful and unique programme was launched in August 2005 with a target of starting 160 new businesses by November 2006 and in starting 350 businesses by December 2006 has exceeded all expectations. Said wirralbiz director Mike Raworth: "Many skilled and competent people fail within their first year of self-employment due to a lack of knowledge in areas outside of their experience and expertise. wirralbiz aims to provide clients with the knowledge and expertise they need to make their new business an ongoing success."

The high quality wirralbiz programme consists of four inter-related elements:

**Awareness Sessions** These are held twice a month and are available either morning or evening. **Training Sessions** The six informal training sessions are held at two per week over a three week period and are available either day or evening. These workshops cover vital subjects such as sales and marketing, business planning and financial planning and control. **Counselling & Mentoring** One-to-one counselling is available before and after business start-up. Mentoring and other support services, such as a graphic design service, are available during the first 18 months of trading. **Grant Opportunities** A discretionary grant ranging from £500 to £2000 is available depending on each new business's requirements and each individual's circumstances.

During the past 15 months over 1200 budding entrepreneurs have attended a wirralbiz awareness seminar at the company's centre in Egerton House, Birkenhead. This seminar is a three hour informal session that highlights the essential information required to become self-employed and start a new business. Assistance is also provided in other areas, such as putting together a realistic business plan. This is as a blueprint for the first year's activities of the new business, and provides evidence to potential fund providers of trading potential and sustainability.

The facilities at wirralbiz centre include two training and seminar suites, meeting rooms and six internet linked computers. Discounted design and printing services, and free accountancy advice are all available. The wirralbiz programme is free to Wirral residents and to those living outside the area but wishing to start a new business in Wirral. Most types of business are eligible for the programme, although there are a few exceptions and prospective applicants are advised to check eligibility when making their initial enquiry. The programme is managed by and part funded by Wirral Waterfront Regeneration Initiative with additional funding from European Objective One Programme and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

**wirralbiz plus** is an additional service recently introduced to offer advice and assistance to established businesses based in the Neighbourhood Renewal areas Bidston, Birkenhead, Leasowe/Moreton, Seacombe/Egremont, Tranmere/Rock Ferry and Woodchurch. Existing businesses in these areas can access free support aimed at increasing competitiveness and profitability. This support is non-prescriptive and will be delivered using various methods including one-to-one sessions with an accountant, marketing specialist, business adviser or solicitor or participation in short seminars. wirralbiz plus is managed by Wirral Waterfront Regeneration Initiative and funded through Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

For any further information or to book yourself onto the next Business Start Awareness Session telephone 0845 456 1796, drop into wirralbiz centre, Egerton House, 2 Tower Road, Birkenhead, open 10am-6pm Mon-Thu & 10am-4.30pm Fri or email [info@wirralbiz.biz](mailto:info@wirralbiz.biz)

## **Cross Cutting (across all themes)**

### **Wirral receives major American honour as new Heritage Trail is announced**

WIRRAL is to announce plans for a new and exciting heritage attraction - the Maritime Heritage Trail - as it prepares to receive American Civil War designation from the Civil War Preservation Trust, USA. The official designation recognises Wirral's historical importance in the American Civil War, when the Argyle Rooms, Birkenhead, were an important meeting place for the anti-slavery lobby, and as the birthplace of the CSS Alabama and CSS Shenandoah, two ships which played a significant part in the war.

The launch of Wirral's Maritime Heritage Trail and celebration of the designation will see famous American Civil War historian Edwin Bearss speak and present Wirral with its award on November, 29 2006. Emma Degg, Head of Marketing and Tourism said, "The Wirral Maritime Heritage Trail, which incorporates our peninsula's American Civil War designation, will form a key regional, national and potentially international tourism offer, as part of the Implementation Plan of Wirral's Tourism Strategy.

She continued, "Existing and potential visitor research, currently being undertaken, as well as the fantastic news of the proposed £4.5 billion Wirral Waters development by Peel Holdings Limited, highlights Wirral's coast as our key attraction for both visitors and investment. The Trail will be one of a range of activities helping us to positively highlight our unique asset."

The Trail will commemorate many significant areas of Wirral from Priory Ferry, the oldest known ferry service in Britain run by Benedictine Monks, founded in Birkenhead around 1150 AD. The priory, still open to the public, is the oldest standing building on Merseyside to Eastham Woods which are mentioned in documents as early as 1347! The trail is to open early next year.

Howard Mortimer, of Wirral's Special Initiatives Team, said, "Wirral Council recognises the important role which tourism plays in the future, in terms of the continuing regeneration of the Borough, and in particular of its magnificent waterfront. The current Woodside proposals reflect the recognition of the crucial role of the visitor economy in re-shaping key sites in a sustainable way whilst at the same time reflecting and nurturing their historic nature and value." It is hoped this great honour will build on Wirral's tourism profile which saw a massive American audience tune in, this summer, to The Open Championship



## WIRRAL 2008 ... and beyond

# Events

**THE BIRKENHEAD EASTER PARADE, GALLERY WIRRAL, JUBILATE, LEFT BANK - LA RIVE GAUCHE, LOVE THE PLANET, REMEMBER NOVEMBER, SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL, WIRRAL EN FETE, WIRRAL FILM FUN WEEK, THE WIRRAL ONE WORLD FESTIVAL, A WRITE FESTIVAL, YOUTH FESTIVAL**

**THE BIRKENHEAD EASTER PARADE** - Hamilton Square reflects an age of elegance, and as such would lend itself to an annual Easter Parade. The Square could be decked in suitably bunting and lighting. People would dress up in Victorian And Edwardian finery and promenade around the Square. There could be prizes for the best costumes. Street performers giving dramatic recitations, singing Victorian ballads, reciting humorous and heroic monologues, etc. would add to the occasion. Period style food could be provided.

**GALLERY WIRRAL** - The proposal is to stage the World's Biggest Art Exhibition. Every possible shop window, cafe, restaurant, pub, business premise, public building, gallery will be asked to exhibit works of art by local, regional and national artists

**JUBILATE** - Throughout history, the church has inspired a wealth of sacred music, literature and art. There are also many theatrical productions, including mystery plays. Jubilate would present a selection of the sacred artistic output in every church, church hall, temple, mosque, synagogue, etc.. throughout the Borough.

**LEFT BANK - LA RIVE GAUCHE** - The East of the Wirral is on the left bank of the Mersey, and, as with the Left Bank of the Seine, there could be a Mersey 'Left Bank' Festival. The area would be transformed to resemble a Parisien Left Bank with: Artists on the pavements, French music on the streets and inside 'French' Cafes, restaurants and bars, French food and drink, French markets *Gingettes* [temporary wooden dance floors] ... etc..

**LOVE THE PLANET** - People are becoming increasingly concerned about the environment, ecology and a healthy life style. Birkenhead Park would lend itself perfectly to an event devoted to 'saving the planet' and improving our lives. As well as using the Arts to put across the message, there could be displays on all aspects of ecology, advice on healthy living and farmers' market.

**REMEMBER NOVEMBER** - Since the end of World War I - a war to end all wars - humankind has endured World War II, in which 40 million people were killed, and countless conflicts. The proposal is to portray the consequences of war through the Arts, with plays,

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music, poetry and art. It is planned to stage the event throughout the month of November, and take in the whole of the Metropolitan Borough, with new plays, poems, music and art being commissioned.

**SHAKEPEARE FESTIVAL** - Where There is a Will, Shakespeare is performed all over the world, and after 500 years his plays are just as popular. As well as performances of his plays, there would be readings of his sonnets, workshops, competitions (which would include the best Romeo & Juliet/ 3 Witches/ Hamlet / Kate/ etc.), etc. The event could be staged in Birkenhead Park... *Shakespeare in the Park* ... in Hamilton Square ... *Shakespeare in the Square* ... on/by the river ... *Shakespeare on/by the River* ... in the street ... *Shakespeare in the Street* ... as well as in theatres, and village & church halls.

**WIRRAL EN FETE** - Starting on May 1st and going through to the August Bank Holiday, Wirral En Fete would include the existing Kite, Scarecrow and Flowerpot Festivals, The Wirral Show, The Tranmere Show and the Port Sunlight Show. New festivities will be devised, starting with a May Day event, which would be a day of fun and entertainment with every organisation in the Wirral taking part. It could include: A Carnival Cavalcade Parade with Lanterns, Village Games: 3-legged Race, Wheelbarrow Race, Egg & Spoon Race, etc., Merrymaking with Maypole dances etc., May Prince & Princess, Mayhem in May with a May HAT/ Hair Day, Displays by the likes of the Red Barrows/ Red Letters etc., Son et Lumiere, Fireworks ... Etc.

**WIRRAL FILM FUN WEEK** - The *Wirral Film Week* would open with a Hollywood style Civic Premiere, with red carpets, limousines and searchlights. Wirral celebrities would be invited to the Premiere: Paul O'Grady Ian Botham, Pauline Daniels, Craig Daniel, Gerry Marsden, Jan Ravens, Anne Robinson, Patricia Routledge, John Barnes, Glenda Jackson, Frank Field, Ben Chapman, et al. Throughout the week, there would be screenings in every possible venue. There could a theme for each festival: War, Romance, Thrillers, Last Year's Films, Blockbusters etc.. There would be exhibitions of cinema memorabilia, talks about films and film making, and concerts of film music. The cinema-goers could take part in a competition to vote for best film/ actor etc.. There could be an End of the Film Week Wirral 'Oscars' Awards based on the votes.

**THE WIRRAL ONE WORLD FESTIVAL** - Today, society thinks globally; people holiday all over the world, communication is global and people migrate. So we are increasingly being made aware of other cultures. The Event would present a selection of the Arts from around the world.

**A WRITE FESTIVAL - Paperback Writers**, This event would coincide with National Book Day, and it would be based around the Paperback. How does a book get from the pen to the bookshelf? To promote the reading and appreciation of books, the event would have book fairs, exhibitions of book illustrations [with prizes?], book signings and talks by authors, literary agents and publishers. Every church hall, community centre, school would be used by every organisation to sell or exchange paperbacks. Shops would be encouraged to put on window displays. There would be the Wirral's first Book Drop, when copies of a chosen

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paperback and children's books, with a contact address and a readers' list printed inside, are left in public places. People pick up the book, read it, fill in their name on the readers' list, email when and where they picked up the book with comments about the book, and leave it in another public place. **Love Your Library** A series of events across the Arts would be staged in the Wirral Libraries: storytelling to primary school pupils, talks by writers and publishers, writing workshops for adults, selected readings from new book releases, etc. The two event would run along side each other.

**YOUTH FESTIVAL** - Young people have a great deal to shout about and a Youth Festival would give them the opportunity, through the Arts, to shout.

**For more information contact John Gorman at: [wirral.2008@ntlworld.com](mailto:wirral.2008@ntlworld.com)**

### **The new Bishop of Birkenhead is to be the Revd Keith Sinclair, currently Vicar of Holy Trinity in Coventry city centre.**



A married father-of-three, he worked as a solicitor before taking holy orders. The London-born priest will begin preparations within the next few weeks for his role as a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Chester. He is due to be formally consecrated as Bishop of Birkenhead at York Minster on 8 March, 2007.

His appointment was formally announced on Thursday 14 Dec 2006 by the Prime Minister's office with a simultaneous public launch at the Town Hall, Wallasey, Wirral.

Mr Sinclair, who was at the Town Hall on Thursday (14 Dec) to meet local church and civic leaders, said: "I'm looking forward to coming here very much. Let me say a word of greeting to everyone, through the media – 'greetings in Christ's name'. Please pray for me and my family as we arrive. "My wife and I at different times were in Merseyside during the 1980s and have really good

memories. Please pray to God to use us, with you, to bring good things to the region in all its diversity. I pray that the good partnerships between different agencies continue to flourish; and that the churches, Anglican and other, continue to grow through the Spirit in works of faith and labours of love."

In his new role, Mr Sinclair will assist the Bishop of Chester in leading the Diocese of Chester, and particularly the western half, stretching from Warrington to Wallasey and including Runcorn, Chester and rural areas as far south as Malpas. The Bishop of Chester, the Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster, said: "Keith Sinclair will bring to Wirral and to the Diocese of Chester a rich experience of ministry in Birmingham and Coventry. He will bring a particular expertise in urban ministry but will be well placed to contribute to the whole life of the Diocese. I welcome his appointment and look forward to his consecration in York Minster on 8 March."

The Mayor of Wirral, Cllr Peter Johnson, political leaders and Wirral Council's Chief Executive, Stephen Maddox, welcomed the new bishop at the Town Hall, Wallasey.

Mr Maddox said: "As a council we are delighted at the appointment of Keith Sinclair as Bishop and want to wish him a very warm welcome to the borough. It is clear that, like his predecessor, the new Bishop will want to ensure that he plays a full and active role in the development of our borough and we welcome that unreservedly."

Keith Sinclair, aged 54, was trained for church ministry in the early 1980s and worked as a curate at Christ Church, Summerfield, Birmingham, from 1984 to 1988. He was also a chaplain at the Children's Hospital, Birmingham. He was Vicar of Aston, Birmingham, between 1988 and 2001, where he worked on urban renewal, evangelism and justice issues in a multi-cultural parish. Since 2001 he has been vicar of a city

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centre church in Coventry, where he has worked to develop youth ministry and promote good community relations. Born in Westminster, central London, he grew up in south London, the son of a banker father and a drama teacher mother. He is married to Rosemary, aged 45, a family law lecturer. They have three children Peter, 14, Anna, 13, and David, 10. In addition to his priestly duties, Mr Sinclair has been active in urban regeneration as chair of the Interim Partnership Board, New Deal for Communities, Aston Pride. In that role he worked closely with local government, civil agencies and leaders of Birmingham's multi-ethnic and multi-faith community. He is a sports fan, particularly keen on rugby union and for relaxation he enjoys walking and watching films.

Mr Sinclair succeeds the Rt Revd David Urquhart as the Bishop of Birkenhead. Bishop David took an active role in the community life of Wirral. He was chair of the Wirral Local Strategic Partnership and was recently given the Freedom of the Borough of Wirral. He is now Bishop of Birmingham.

### Wirral awards to be presented by Mayor

**A special reception is to be held in the Mayor's Parlour**, Wallasey Town Hall, on Thursday 18th January in honour of this year's recipients of the Wirral Award. The presentation will take place at 7pm followed by a dinner in the Round Room at 7.45pm.

**The Mayor, Councillor Peter Johnson will present Wirral Awards to the following:-**

**Mr. Ken Whittle** - For services in the field of youth training & environmental work

**Mr. Max Roy** - For services to boxing

**Mr. Edward Fry** - For services to the Bebington Sea Cadets

**Mr. David Diffin** - For services to the 10th Birkenhead Scout Group

**Mr. Herbert Taylor** - For services with the Wirral Housing Association

**Mrs. Audrey Bamber** - For services to people with learning difficulties

**Mrs. Jean McIntosh** - For services in founding Wirral BNBEAG (Bidston and North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group)

**Mr. Martin Hesketh** - For services to the Viking Youth Club

**Mr. Ken Harrison** - For services as Chairman of Liscard Community Facilities

**Mrs. Barbara Ellis** - For services to the environment in the Saughall Massie and Upton area

### Not sure when your bin or recycling is collected?

The new bin collection day search engine is up and running on this website. We've improved the search facility on the website for checking your collection days for bins and recycling. If you're not sure when your day is or the changes for the New Year just pop in your road name and all the correct details will come up.

**Just follow the home page 'waste and recycling' link:**

- [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) (Home Page)
- Scroll Down and click on "Waste & Recycling Link" on the right hand side of the page
- There you will find information on the following:
  - **Wirral Refuse & recycling Collection**

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- **Related Links:**
  - Get Composting
  - Grey Bin FAQ
  - Interesting Fast
  - Glossary of waste & Recycling Terms
  - What is Global Warming
  - History of disposing of our rubbish
  - So what is landfill
  - Collection Calendar

### Free funding info site expands

Improvements to a FREE online funding information service have been announced by Wirral Council, in partnership with Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network (WVCSN). There are hundreds of grants available to support local voluntary and community groups, from Government, Lottery and trust funding sources.

Groups in Wirral can find relevant funders quickly and easily by clicking on the Wirral 4 Community or Wirral 4 Social Enterprise logos on the left hand column of the main page of the council's website [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) or the Network's website [www.wvcsn.org](http://www.wvcsn.org). Alternatively, you can go direct to: [www.open4community.info/wirral](http://www.open4community.info/wirral).

The site has been hugely popular since its launch 6 months ago and feedback from customers has led to two new features to support the funding portals and the users who benefit from them. From this January the site also includes pages on 'Funding Success' which highlight organisations that have been successful in obtaining funding.

Users will now be able to sign up to a funding and grant alert newsletter providing information on funding and new grants from the site's news section. Existing users who have already indicated that they do not mind being contacted on the registration page will automatically receive newsletters and new users will be given the option to sign up.

The newsletter aims to encourage users to return to the site regularly.

**Website:** <http://www.open4community.info/wirral>



### Section 3 Area Forum Funding Progress Report

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#### Bidston and Claughton Area Forum Funding Progress Report *(previously awarded monies)*

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Amount Awarded	Received From	Details	Progress Report
£2,158.75	Bidston and North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group	To promote local residents awareness of caring for the environment, dangers of fly tipping and to clear and build a garden at the local community house.	Report received from Bidston and North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group – September 2006: Since we have completed the project the fly tipping in and around the area has decreased. The talks that we have given have been positively received and have made the estate and surrounding area more sustainable.
£500.00	Wirral Local Agenda 21	To run a community exchange day.	Report received from Wirral Local Agenda 21 Forum - November 2006: The event took place on 25 March 2006 at St James Centre, Laird Street. Approximately 80 people attended the event and was successful.

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### Section 3 Area Forum Funding Progress Report

ID	Bid No	Received From	Awarded	Bid Details
1227	17	Age Concern Wirral	£855.00	To contribute towards annual older persons' conference.
1250	20	Allcans Recycling	£500.00	To purchase 3000 recycling bags for the collection of metal cans.
1106	4	Beechwood Joint Management Committee	£1,000.00	To replace damaged flooring in toilets and art room.
1191	14	Birkenhead Park Crown Green Bowls Forum	£500.00	To organise a summer school for young people to introduce them to the sport of crown green bowls.
1264	21	Birkenhead Park FC (Rugby Union)	£2,000.00	To continue the Birkenhead Park FC Regeneration Project, specifically the promotion of the Birkenhead area as a sports hub for the local population.
1314	25	Claughton Community Group	£3,000.00	To contribute towards the installation of CCTV within Claughton Village.
1119	10	Friends of Flaybrick	£1,400.00	The manufacture and installation of railings
1107	5	Noctorum Community Association	£570.00	To contribute towards the purchase of a laptop, printer and stationery for the association.
1412	1	North Birkenhead Development Trust	£1,000.00	groundwork and artwork project, to enable young people to be engaged in the design and creation of the arts/ceramics feature
1265	22	Power House Youth Centre	£980.00	To provide diversionary activities during the summer holidays for young people on the Beechwood and Ballantyne Estates.
1266	23	Power House Youth Centre	£1,000.00	To purchase a video recorder to complement the security cameras at the centre.
1092	2	Ridgeway FC Under 8's	£500.00	To purchase training equipment and to fund cost of sending one member on a coaching course run by the FA.
1094	3	Ridgeway Morris Dancers	£500.00	To extend current group to include the Bidston and Birkenhead area.
1215	16	Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	£218.00	To train / recruit 15 volunteers to work with children and their families who are affected by crime in their local area, and to cover volunteer's travel expenses.
1186	13	Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability (WIRED)	£718.50	To contribute towards provision of a new heavyweight scooter for Birkenhead Shopmobility to meet the needs of an expanding membership.
1108	6	Wirral Women & Children's Aid	£800.00	To help run the youth club for the next 12 months.

<b>Funding Allocated £15,565.57</b>	<b>£11,041.50</b>	<b>£3,000.00</b>	<b>£1500.00</b>	<b>£15,541.50</b>
<b>Balance of Funding</b>	<b>£24.07</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£24.07</b>



## **Section 4**

## **Local Area Plan Update**

### **Update**

The purpose of the area plan is to give you an understanding of the local area in which you live. It also gives information about Wirral, what is in your area, statistical information and it also identifies local issues that have been raised and includes those nationally agreed Local Area Agreement priorities.

A lot of hard work has gone into the plan by the area co-ordinator, area plan sub-group and members of the community.

Thank you very much to everybody for all their hard work and support in development the area plan.

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.

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 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.

**Streetscene and Waste Update**

**Disc Zone Parking, Birkenhead** The Streetscene and Transport Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on October, 4 2006 approved the replacement of the current Disc Zone Parking in central Birkenhead with on-street parking. Tenders for the necessary work have now been let and are due to commence late February. The new pay meters will be installed on a rolling programme to be complete by April 2007.

**The Local Transport Plan (LTP)** for Merseyside includes a number of commitments and objectives from the member authorities in relation to traffic management and parking. The LTP 2006-2011 vision is “a fully integrated safe transport network for Merseyside which supports economic and social regeneration and ensures good access for all and which is operated to the highest standards to protect the environment and ensure quality of life”.

The new on-street parking regulations will bring Birkenhead in line with other major town centres, help control the growth of congestion within the town centre, encourage use of the public transport network and provide for an improved enforcement of street parking.

**Hoylelake Improvements** Following agreements with traders and residents, work recommenced early on Hoylelake 1b improvements.

**Leasowe Road/Gardenside Roundabout** The new roundabout, which has improved road safety on a busy junction, has now been completed on time and within budget.

**New Chester Road, New Ferry** Work is currently in progress on major footway improvements in the New Ferry shopping area. This work is being funded through the Wirral Waterfront Partnership which will undertake further environmental improvements along the A41 corridor; currently trees are being planted along several areas.

**Laird Street/Park Road North Junction Improvement** The new signal improvement has now been completed, which will significantly improve road safety at this very busy junction.

**Traffic Safety Schemes** Since the last Streetscene review further safety schemes have been completed in the Borough.

**New Refuge** Woodchurch Road/ Heathfield Road Borough Road/Kings Lane and Well Lane/Albany Road

**Traffic Calming** Twickenham Drive, Eastham Rake, Trafalgar Road area and Willmer Road area

**New Puffin Crossing** Park Road South and Bromborough Cross and Wallasey Village

**Crossing Improvements** A41/Old Hall Road

**Future Works Planned**

**Signal Improvement** Conway Street/Exmouth Street and Hoylelake Road/Reeds Lane

**New Puffin Crossing** Duke Street

## Section 5

## Streetscene Update

**New Refuge** Port Sunlight Station and Bebington Station

**Traffic Calming** Greenfield Avenue/Dawpool Avenue

**Traffic Improvement** Dock Road

### Major Surfacing Schemes

The Highway Maintenance Division has been very busy since the last review with the following surfacing schemes undertaken:

Greenfields Avenue, Eastham, Eastham Rake (part), Wallasey Bridge Road outside recycle plant, Borough Road (part), Park Road North/Laird Street junction, Aspendale Road, Tranmere

Major patching has also been undertaken on Station Road, Clatterbridge.

As part of Wirral Council's pro-active approach to maintenance, carriageway surface treatment works have been undertaken in:

Coniston Avenue, Irby, The Chase, Cottage Close, Keith Drive, Westhouse Close  
Lawns Avenue/Mere Crescent, Chorley Way, Woodkind Hey, Downes Green, Sealy Close, Reade Close, Bolde Way, Oxford/Eton/Rudley Drive, Buffs Lane, Heswall, Park Road, Long Lane, West Kirby, Brancote Road, Grange Farm Crescent

Also footway surface treatment works have been carried out on Birkenhead Road, Meols (part) and Barnston Road, Barnston (part).

### A number of footway improvements have also been completed:

Stanhope Drive, Bromborough (part), Teehey Close, Bebington, Boundary Road, West Kirby, Boulton Avenue, West Kirby, Hoscot Park, West Kirby, Lingdale Road North, Claughton, Adelaide Road, Birkenhead

### Future planned footway works:

Heswall Mt, Thingwall, Rullerton Road, Wallasey (part), Downham Road, Tranmere (part), Orchard Road, Moreton, Parkway/Parkway Close, Irby, Moseley Avenue, Wallasey

### Further carriageway resurfacing works are planned in the last quarter of the financial year:

Trinity Road, Wallasey, Wright Street, Wallasey, Kinglake Road, Wallasey (part), Eddisbury Road, Wallasey, Lingdale Road North, Claughton, Adelaide Road, Birkenhead, Byron Close, Prenton

### Future Programmes, Future major works planned for this last quarter.

A41/Eastham Rake  
Thermal Road, Bromborough  
Darmonds Green  
A41/Bromborough Village Road

Environmental Improvements  
Landscaping  
Footway Improvements  
Junction Improvement

## **Section 5                      Streetscene Update**

The Area Forums have submitted roads to be considered for inclusion in future structural maintenance programmes. These are currently being assessed along with the streets identified by Wirral Council's Course Visual inspection.

### **Highway Maintenance Contracts**

An extensive procurement exercise is currently taking place for the future provision of all Highway Maintenance works. This includes all footway and carriageway works, traffic signals, gully cleansing and street lighting. It is hoped this exercise will be complete for tenders to be issued before the end of this year.

Areas of Highway/Environmental Enforcement introduced during the last 12 months

- **Dropping Litter**

Council now issuing £75 fixed penalty fines for any person found dropping or depositing litter in any place which is in the open air and to which the public access.

- **Fly Posting**

Council now issuing £75 fixed penalty fines on any company/individual found fly-posting on Council street furniture or on any public/private building or structure.

- **Pavement/Verge parking**

Council to introduce restrictions to prohibit pavement and verge parking on a number of routes in the Borough. Drivers who park their vehicles on a pavement or verge on one of the restricted routes will be liable to a fine of £30.

- **Cars For Sale on the Highway by Traders**

New legislation recently introduced to stop car Traders using the highway as an extension to their business. A number of fixed penalty fines have been issued on Traders throughout the Borough

- **Street Trading (Consent Streets)**

The Council has introduced powers to restrict the unlawful use of the highway by street traders. A number of streets in the Borough are already designated as prohibited streets and street trading is prohibited in these locations.

The Council has now designated all the remaining streets in the Borough as consent streets and street trading is only allowed in these streets if it is approved by the Council.

### **The street trading activities covered by the new powers are:**

1. Individuals selling vehicles on the highway, the Council is now instigating legal action against the owner of any vehicle displaying a vehicle for sale on the highway (other than outside their property).
2. Mobile fast food sellers setting up on a highway in the Borough.
3. Street peddlers.
4. Shop keepers displaying their goods for sale on the pavement.
5. Roadside sales of meat, household goods flowers/plants Christmas trees etc.

Council to serve notice on the owners of vehicles gaining access to their premises by driving over the pavement without a vehicle crossing.

### **Environmental and Streetscene Services Contract**

The new Streetscene contract has been awarded to Biffa, and commenced on August, 22 2006.

## Section 5

## Streetscene Update

Biffa have already taken on a number of challenges in order to facilitate long-term improvements to service delivery. The scale of these changes has not been without some difficulties. The workforce are undergoing a schedule of training and new vehicles are being introduced to carry out cleansing and waste collection. A suit of IT systems are being installed gradually, that will help Biffa and the Council improve service reliability.

Biffa successfully addressed the leaf fall season, with the call centre receiving a record low number of cleansing complaints during this time.

New cleansing schedules have been devised for the Borough and will be put in place in January 2007.

Biffa are committed to helping Wirral achieve its recycling target in 2007/8, which will be 23% (Current recycling rate approx 13%). Therefore, they have seconded additional staff and management from their central team to help Wirral plan the roll-out of the new paper and packaging recycling services hoped to be completed by June 2007.

Biffa have some outstanding workforce issues to resolve as a result of the transfer of staff from the previous contract with Onyx. Due to the very short mobilisation period afforded to them once they were awarded the contract, they were unable to address all issues before the 22nd August. Regrettably, this has affected the quality of service experienced by some residents, especially over the Christmas period. Negotiations are now in their final stages.

### Waste and Recycling

**Garden Recycling** All areas that were previously on a white sack collection have now received a brown bin. Streetscene are still receiving calls from residents who claim they have not received one. Some households have used this tactic to acquire a second bin, therefore no further bins will be delivered until April 2007. Requests in the meantime will be investigated prior to delivery in April. Individual households are not entitled to a second bin, irrespective of garden size.

**Garden Waste** bins will be delivered to an additional 11,500 households who have previously not been able to join the scheme. The bins will be delivered in late January to February 2007. Residents are requested not to use the bin until two weeks before their first collection, scheduled after Easter. All accompanying information and calendars will be provided.

**Food and Garden recycling** The food and garden waste trial is currently being evaluated by the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority. The scheme has collected 3500 tonnes of green waste from 18,000 residents, which has been sent for processing in the In-Vessel Composter at Bidston. The vast majority of the waste is garden waste (95-99%) as opposed to kitchen waste (1-5%). The State Veterinary Service is monitoring the treatment process carefully, with a view to clearing the product safe to use as compost in the very near future.

**Paper and Packaging Recycling** The new paper and packaging scheme has been rolled out to 25,000 households in Oxton, Prenton, Woodchurch, Upton and Moreton wards. Plastic bottles, glass, paper, cardboard, tins and cans are being collected, combined, from the kerb-side and taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Bidston where they are separated and sent to local processors for turning into new products.

## **Section 5 Streetscene Update**

On average, the public are presenting around 10 kg of their waste for recycling every fortnight. In the first week of the grey bin collection, over 95% of residents took part in the new scheme. Due to the schemes popularity, the next phase of the roll-out is being brought forward.

Between February and March households in West Wirral, Eastham, Bromborough and Bebington will also join the scheme as another 70,000 households are delivered grey bins.

The final Phase is planned for late March, and will cover the rest of the district including Birkenhead, Bidston, Wallasey, New Brighton and surrounding areas.

A list of streets included in the phase 2 roll out will be posted on the Council's website by mid-February. Comprehensive information and advertising for the scheme will be provided for all residents including calendars. The Council applied for funding from the Waste Resource Action Program (WRAP) for the communications activities and this has been awarded provisionally.

**Home Composting** WRAP (Waste Resource Action Programme) are funding a home compost incentive scheme for Wirral residents throughout 2007. Residents can purchase home composters for as little as £8 including free delivery. The scheme also provides residents with an information starter kit, access to a compost help line and regular newsletters with helpful hints. Details of the scheme is posted on the Council's website. In addition Wrap will carry out several borough wide leaflet drops promoting the scheme to every household in the borough.

### **Road Safety education campaigns**

**'Who's Taking You Home Tonight?'** This was the question being asked as part of last year's Xmas drink/drug drive campaign, which was launched by Merseyside Police and Road Safety Officers on Tuesday, December 5 2006. The launch of a hard hitting advertising campaign across the region during the festive period, coincided with a high profile Police crackdown which was carried out across the county. Road Safety Officers also worked with other Streetscene staff to provide electronic messages across the Borough warning drivers of the dangers of drink driving, not wearing a seatbelt and using a mobile while driving.

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## **METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL**

**REPORT TO ALL LOCAL AREA FORUMS EXCEPT EASTHAM/ BROMBOROUGH AND HESWALL/ PENSBY/ THINGWALL – FEBRUARY 2007**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES**

**INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK (CAPITAL PROGRAMME) 2007/08 – UPDATE**

### **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report conveys the decision taken at Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006 on the allocation of the LTP Capital Programme Integrated Transport Block. It seeks to engage your Forum in putting forward a list of locations for possible inclusion in the

## Section 5

## Streetscene Update

2007/08 programme based on the fact that funding will remain at the centre so far as your Forum is concerned.

### 2 BACKGROUND

Members of your Forum will recall the meetings and debate in 2006 regarding the way in which the Integrated Transport Block has traditionally been allocated and whether or not this should be changed to move from a strategic prioritisation approach to a dedicated allocation ring-fenced to local areas.

The results of the consultations with Area Forums were brought to Cabinet's attention on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006 as outlined in my previous report presented at your Forum last October.

The report summarised the decision of each Area Forum on the possible re-allocation of this transport block from the centre to each Area Forum and Cabinet approval was sought for the Block Allocation to remain at the centre. It did caveat, however, that the Area Forums be more closely engaged in drawing up subsequent programmes of work under this heading.

### 3 CABINET DECISION

The Minute Decision of Cabinet was as follows:

Resolved - that

(1) the report be noted and that officers be thanked for their engagement with the Area Forums over this matter;

(2) for 2007/8 the Eastham/Bromborough and Heswall/Pensby/Thingwall area forums be allocated a share of Integrated Transport Block;

(3) the remainder of the Integrated Transport Block Allocation remain intact and central and for future schemes under this heading to be determined through the Streetscene and Transport Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to approval by Cabinet; and

(4) the Director of Technical Services provide assistance into Area Forums to aid decision making in drawing up future works programmes under the Integrated Transport Block Allocation.

### 4 ALLOCATION OF FUNDING AND PROPOSED APPROACH

The block allocation of funding for 2007/8 is yet to be approved by the Council's Cabinet, however based on last year's programme the types of scheme and indicative levels of funding will likely be as follows:

<b>Speed reduction programme</b>	<b>£70,000</b>
<b>Road widening/residents parking</b>	<b>£20,000</b>
<b>Pedestrian dropped crossings</b>	<b>£40,000</b>
<b>Central refuges</b>	<b>£40,000</b>
<b>Pedestrian sign posting</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£180,000 for 2007/08</b>

As a result of Cabinet's decision, it is proposed that 2/11<sup>th</sup> of the available funding (approximately £33,000 based on these figures) will be taken for the two Forums taking

## **Section 5**

## **Streetscene Update**

their individual share for 2007/08. For your Forum the remainder of funding (approximately £147,000) will be held at the centre as in previous years and it is proposed that a priority listing of schemes will be put before the Streetscene and Transportation Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 for approval.

A key aspect of the Cabinet's decision related to engaging with Area Forums to draw up future work programmes, hence it is hoped that members of the Forum will advise of any traffic issues or locations requiring investigation for potential inclusion in the Integrated Transport Block programme.

It is requested that suggestions should be made in writing or by e-mail preferably by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March and it is proposed to bring the suggested programme for the nine Forums to your next meeting.

### **5 RECOMMENDATION**

Members of the Forum are requested to:

- a) Note the content of this report;
- b) Provide suggested traffic issues or locations for potential inclusion in the programme as requested.



