

YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**



Bidston & Claughton

Area Forum

Papers for the forum meeting

Tuesday 12th February 2008

**St James Centre
344 Laird Street
Birekenhead, Wirral CH41 7AL**

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Michelle Gray Area Forum Co-ordinator

Tel: 0151 691 8213 Fax: 0151 691 8159 Minicom: 0151

691 8480 Email: michellegray@wirral.gov.uk

www.wirral.gov.uk

Community Engagement Team, Corporate Services, Town

Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED

Bidston and Claughton Area Forum Agenda

Tuesday 12th February 2008

**St James Centre, 344 Laird Street
Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 7AL**

7.00pm – 9.00pm

- 1 Welcome, introductions & apologies**
- 2 Minutes & matters arising from previous
October forum**
- 3 Area co-ordinators report**
- 4 Sustainable Community Strategy**
- 5 General public question time**
- 6 Partner Information**

Section One	Minutes from last Meeting	4
	Matters arising	10
Section Two	Local Updates:	11
	Safer and Stronger Communities	
	➤ Acting up!	
	➤ Step on board for ASB advice	
	Healthier Communities and Older People	
	➤ WIRED carers counselling service	
	Children & Young People	
	➤ Youth service	
	➤ Primary schools raise achievement	
	Economic Development & Enterprise	
	➤ MoD contract boost for Cammell Laird	
	➤ Councils fight against businesses' illegal waste	
	Cross cutting all themes	
	➤ Chief Executive honoured by Queen	
Section Three	Partner Organisations	19
	➤ Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS foundation trust	
	➤ Primary Care Trust health for all, have your say	
	➤ Community safety	
	➤ Merseyside fire & rescue service	
	➤ Older peoples parliament	
	➤ Merseyside police	
Section Four	Area Forum Plan	29
Section Five	Streetscene	31
Section Six	Equalities and Diversity	34
Section Seven	Transport and Traffic Report	38
Section Eight	Funding	43
	➤ Free funding information 4 you	
	➤ Lottery grants for local groups – awards for all	
	➤ Funding progress reports	

Section One

Minutes from last meeting and any
matters arising

Minutes - Area Forum (Bidston and Claughton) - 2 October 2007

Present	
Chair	Cllr Denise Roberts
Ward Councillors	George Davies , Steve Foulkes , Ann McLachlan , Harry Smith
Older People's Parliament Representative	Edith Niblock
Area Service Co-ordinator	Louise Harland-Davies
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Nina Birt
Street Scene Manager	Mark Traynor
Merseyside Police	Inspector Paul Harrison
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Inspector Patrick McElhinney
Council Officers	Jan Johnson (Minute Taker)
Apologies	Cllr J Cocker , Pat Landsborough (Claughton Community Group) , Collette McDonagh (Slatey Road Area Residents Association) , Jean McIntosh (Community Representative) , Kevin Miller (Director of Adult Social Services) , Alison Moulder (Bidston Community representative)

Index to Minutes

- Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies
- Minute 2 - Minutes & matters arising from previous June forum
- Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators report update
- Minute 4 - Partner updates - Merseyside Police - Merseyside Fire & Rescue service - Wirral Primary Care Trust - Older peoples parliament
- Minute 5 - Public open forum
- Minute 6 - Any other business / suggestions for future presentations

Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair, Councillor Denise Roberts, opened the meeting and welcomed forum members and 6 members of the public to the Bidston & Claughton Area Forum meeting in the Discovery Centre. A loop system was available for anyone with a hearing impairment. There would be public question time at the end of the meeting for people to raise any other issues.

Minute 2 - Minutes & matters arising from previous June forum

The minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 5 June 2007 had been incorporated into the Area Co-ordinator's report and agreed as a true record.

There were no matters arising from the previous Forum.

Minute Decision : Resolved that: Minutes of the Forum held on 5 June 2007 be agreed.

Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators report update

Louise Harland-Davies presented this agenda item, in the absence of Bidston & Claughton Area Forum Co-ordinator, Michelle Gray. Contact details for the area co-ordinator could be found at the beginning of the report, Louise drew attention to the following:

- Page 14, included a newsletter from Wirral Older People's Parliament and Wirral Youth Service opportunities.
- Page 20 looking for public consultation regarding the Licensing Act. Deadline for comments was 17 November and a contact number given if anybody would like to raise any concerns or have any comments they would like to make.
- Page 21-26 partner updates.
- Page 27-34 local transport update
- Page 35-41 Community Initiative Funding. There was £3k still in the fund, so if anyone knew of any local groups that would like to apply for funding they should contact Michelle for an application form. Deadline is 2 November. The money would roll over to following year if not used.

- Page 42-43 report on Area Plan which Michelle raised at the last meeting.
- Page 45-50 update report from Streetscene covered parking zones, road safety schemes, etc.
- Page 51-53 detailed the Equality & Diversity Strategy that Wirral Council is introducing.

Councillor Foulkes confirmed that any feedback from forums highlighting roads that needed attention would be fed back into the system.

The agenda and Area Co-ordinator's report could be downloaded from the Internet at www.wirral.gov.uk; alternatively, a paper version would be sent on request to any member of the public who wished to attend a future meeting.

Minute Decision : To thank the Area Co-ordinator for the report.

Minute 4 - Partner updates - Merseyside Police - Merseyside Fire & Rescue service - Wirral Primary Care Trust - Older peoples parliament

Merseyside Police

Inspector Paul Harrison, based at Laird Street updated the Forum on recent activities:

- the main areas of emphasis was on vehicle crime and anti social behaviour, progress has been made since the last Forum report. In the last 14 weeks dedicated street teams have become well established. The teams, which consist of 1 dedicated police constable and CSOs, have the remit to provide assistance in each ward. In North Birkenhead the use of bicycles for high visibility has been effective. Teams are supported by a further 9 constables and 3 sergeants.

Inspector Harrison provided an overview of how the area is policed at the moment.

- Neighbourhood Surgeries. Dedicated teams were currently undergoing training for home watch schemes and were looking for residents to take ownership of where they live.
- Initiatives were in place. In Beechwood/Ballantyne, the 14 recommendations of the Jill Dando Institute were being used to make the lives of people on estate better. These included graffiti removal, home watch, street lighting, ASBOs being progressed. There was also a mobile police station in the locality.
- Nocturnum Alliance where Police were working in partnership with Wirral Anti Social Behaviour Team and Housing Associations to target individuals with problems on the estate. If successful this would be rolled out to other wards.
- Bidston/St James area was currently involved in Respect Week. There was high visibility policing with a lot of activity including a truancy sweep today and Streetscene cleaning up.
- Initiatives in place for Halloween, Mischief Night and Bonfire Night. Diversionary tactics would be used with local businesses giving prizes to reduce some of the issues that we all face. Dedicated teams would be going into schools to educate.
- Stats in last 14 weeks since last Forum. 268 arrests made in this neighbourhood. 66 vehicles had been ceased with no insurance. ASBOs were being progressed. Crime team executed 19 search warrants and made various arrests for robbery, burglary and supply of substances. Criminal damage had reduced by 31%, with violence down by 25%.

Questions were raised as follows:

Q - Councillor Harry Smith – Beechwood used to have a police surgery at the Community Association, but not held there now. Can you consider going there? A contact name and number were given

A - Inspector Harrison would look into it.

Q – Query about an arrest made on Monday and whether this could be made into a Crack House Order.

A – Inspector Harrison explained this Order involved different legislation about class

A drugs.

Q – Acknowledgement of an improvement in the area, particularly with CSOs and policing on horseback. There was an issue recently where a license was removed for serving alcohol to underage drinkers, however this had been given back within 24hours. Could you explain why?

A - On occasion a license would be suspended for a particular time, with the person getting a fixed penalty notice. Agreed to check out what happened in this case.

Q – Councillor George Davies – referred to comment earlier about 268 arrests and asked how many were repeat offenders?

A - About 30% would be multiple arrests, when get to Court they are released.
Member of public – Magistrates should come to these meetings to see what they are putting up with.

This led to a discussion about the power of magistrates and possible changes.
Councillor Foulkes verified that when sentences are given out all previous arrests and charges are taken into account.

Fire & Rescue Service

Pat McElhinney, who holds responsibility for all 6 sites in Wirral, updated the Forum on recent activities.

- Fire risk assessments had been held, resulting in over 2100 smoke detectors being fitted by operational crews, working with the community. Language/culture issues were being assisted by working in conjunction with lot of partnerships.
- In regard to this area specifically, there had been reduction in dwellings fires, with numbers well below the national target.
- Anti Social Behaviour vehicle fires were well below the national target for this area and showed a continued trend of reduction.
- If any local residents were concerned about any explosion risks within their area, they should contact their local station and they would go out to check.
- If people are building bonfires let local station know and they would go out and inspect.
- Working with the Police on the Drive to Arrive Initiative which was helping to reduce the amount of people injured in Road Traffic Accidents and bringing awareness of driving at speed.
- Another scheme was the Winter Warm Campaign, which had resulted in replacement of 300 faulty blankets.
- Adopt a Block Initiative where crews go out to high rises.
- Involved with Respect Week. Raising awareness of anti social behaviour in the community.

Questions were raised as follows.

Q – Do the public have access to the gym at Upton fire station?

A - Would get contact details, but they are there to give an opportunity to vulnerable groups who would not be able to afford a gym.

Q – What if somebody injured themselves in one of your gyms?

A - People have to be formally inducted, and there is a qualified trainer on site.
Councillor Foulkes confirmed that Birkenhead Fire Station has relationship with Wirral Heartbeat.

Q - Is it a national thing?

A – It is regional to Merseyside, working with partners and other agencies and crews also use the gyms.

Q – Councillor Roberts asked what proportion of electric blankets were found to be unsafe when tested?

A – Would find out and report back. The main problem was that insulation was broken when put in airing cupboards. Blankets should be plugged in before opening them up and ideally should be tested every year.

Q – Councillor McLachlan asked how specific areas were targeted for smoke alarm installation.

A - Look at hot spot areas where getting call out to either small fires or vehicle fires. Then hit with leaflets asking if they want a smoke alarm.

Councillor Davies briefed that in 1999 he had been involved with installing smoke alarms in every house in the north end of Birkenhead. They were now fitted with sealed batteries, with a 5 year guarantee.

Q - Are carbon monoxide tests coming in?

A – Fire Service could not advise on that but would forward any queries.

Primary Care Trust Update

Nina Birt, Wirral PCT, attended to provide an update. Nina drew the Forum's attention to 2 main areas which the PCT were asking for participation.

Firstly, a small grants programme to support some community initiatives. £5k was available for the forthcoming year and Area Co-ordinator would have details. The key target areas were to encourage people to get active, to promote smoke free environments and to assist in moving young people away from alcohol use.

The other major issue was the development of the commissioning strategy and the PCT need to know, from people who use the service, what things work and what things you would like to see improved. Feedback could be forwarded via the PALs office, freephone, freepost, dedicated email address or phone text ideas through to Nina Birt at the PCT.

Questions were raised as follows.

Q – Councillor Foulkes referred to the more preventative/public health agenda now in place. He asked Nina to clarify the key priorities for applying for the grant.

A – The first strand is about improving health communities, e.g. 5 portions of fruit/vegetables a day, size of portions and trying to get people to participate in activities. Looking at smoke free activities and protecting children from second-hand smoking. The Alcohol Strategy would be launched in the next couple of weeks and activities to support young people to keep away from the temptation and become engaged in more productive activities would be welcomed. Open to any suggestions that the community feel can be advantageous.

Q – Edith asked whether her local Allotment Group which was trying to get young people or those in ethnic minorities involved, would be eligible to apply.

A – Yes certainly.

Q – The Chair, Councillor Roberts, asked how this would be publicised in the Forum.

A – Area Co-ordinator confirmed it would be probably be a section within the Area Co-ordinator's report, alongside the Communities Initiative Fund.

Older People's Parliament

Edith Niblock, Older People's Parliament representative briefed the Forum on a report produced by Age Concern. The Parliament has an Executive Committee and various sub-committees and meetings are held every quarter at Wallasey Town Hall. They were looking to form further sub groups to cover safety in the community and other relevant issues and planned to produce guides to nursing homes etc. They would like to invite people to join and for anyone interested contact details could be found on page 14 of the Area Co-ordinator's report.

Councillor Foulkes confirmed that the Older People's Parliament is an amalgamation of all organisations associated with older people.

Councillor Roberts suggested that the use of a website would be another outlet for the public to access information on the Parliament.

Minute Decision : Resolved that Partner representatives be thanked for their updates

Minute 5 - Public open forum

The following questions were raised by members of the public.

Q – A member of the audience commented that he had removed rubbish that was covering a 'Dangerous Bend' road sign and asked who was responsible?

A – Mark Traynor, Streetscene Manager said it should be reported to Streetscene.

The Forum discussed this issue and it was agreed that everyone has a collective responsibility to report such problems. The key lesson was that if you see something report it and the responsible officer would get back to you.

Q – A member of the public reported on a recent incident which had led to him requesting adaptations to his bathroom. He wanted to register a compliment to Peter O'Shaughnessy, an officer he had contacted at Wallasey Town Hall who had helped to resolve his problem.

A – The Forum agreed to produce a letter of thanks.

A member of the public provided a follow up from the previous Forum. This referred to a local shop which had now had its license removed.

Q – Edith Niblock reported that alleygates, had been requested at bottom of Mather Street and they still hadn't come.

A – Councillor Davies would deal with this tomorrow.

Councillor Smith referred to page 28 of the Area Co-ordinator's report, the electrification of Wrexham to Bidston Line. Deeside and Woodchurch are to have new stations however there was no mention of Beechwood. Councillor Smith would make contact with Julie Barnes.

Minute 6 - Any other business / suggestions for future presentations

The Chair, Councillor Roberts, reported that unfortunately the Chief Officer, Kevin Miller, was not able to be present this evening. He was retiring from Wirral Council at the end of the month. The Forum wished him all the best for the future.

The Chair then thanked everyone for coming and confirmed that the next meeting would be held at St James Centre on Tuesday 12 February 2008 Many thanks for use of venue tonight.

Matters arising from previous forum October

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Testing & replacing blankets on Wirral. This is a Merseyside programme which covers Wirral and Liverpool. I have listed those that took place in Wirral. Area Co-ordinator Michelle Gray does have a full copy of the Wirral Warm Campaign Outcomes Analysis if anyone is interested.

- **Birkenhead – St Werbergs Square**
 - 250 leaflets distributed
 - 7 blankets tested
 - 3 replaced

- **Liscard Shopping Centre**
 - 250 leaflets distributed
 - 4 blankets tested
 - 3 replaced

- **New Ferry Shopping Precinct**
 - 30 leaflets distributed
 - 24 blankets tested
 - 8 replaced

- **Pensby Barleyfield House**
 - 150 leaflets distributed
 - 21 blankets tested
 - 18 replaced

- **West Kirby Town Centre**
 - 200 leaflets distributed
 - 26 blankets tested
 - 12 replaced

Section Two

Local Updates

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services.

They involve local ward councillors, police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, fire safety representatives along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council. Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.

This section covers relevant news under the Council's local area agreement themes *of safer and stronger communities, healthier communities and older people, children and young people and economic development and enterprise.*

Safer & Stronger Communities



Acting up!

Young people from Wirral have displayed their talents in a drama production to tackle anti social behaviour in a project in partnership with Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

The production was the culmination of many months' work to tackle issues of anti social behaviour in the Wallasey area.

In March 2007, Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team drew together a number of agencies and people to respond to complaints of anti social behaviour in Wallasey, some of which coincided with the lunch-times of a number of local secondary schools.

The group included representatives from Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Wirral Youth Service, local secondary schools and also included the Chair of the local residents' group and a local ward councillor. During the meetings, young people representing the schools suggested producing a drama to take into the local primary schools about anti social behaviour.

A number of workshops have recently taken place involving young people from Weatherhead High School, Mosslands School and St Mary's Catholic College led by their drama teachers, where the issues around anti social behaviour were explored.

The workshops were visited by officers from Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team whose knowledge was put to the test during sessions with the young people where they were grilled about their areas of expertise. The production has been taken into a number of primary schools across Wallasey this week, including Egremont Primary, Somerville Primary, Greenleas Primary and St George's Primary.

Step on board for ASB advice

Wirral Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team are inviting residents to step on board Wirral's new Respect Bus where they will be able to seek advice and discuss a wide range of anti-social behaviour problems from noisy neighbours and abandoned cars to vandalism, graffiti and youth nuisance.

The bus is available to provide advice, support and information. Members of the public are welcome to visit the bus to discuss any issues they may have about tackling all forms of anti-social behaviour.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team consists of specialist officers from many disciplines who work closely with residents to help build up a community culture of respect. A number of the team's specialists will be on board, including criminal damage reduction and youth engagement officers. There will also be Enforcement Officers available for residents to discuss, in confidence, any specific problems they have. Residents can also report anti-social behaviour to 'It's Your Call' on 606 2020 or visit any One Stop Shop.



Wired

Wirral Information Resource

for Equality and Disability

CARERS COUNSELLING SERVICE

Are you caring for someone at home who has a disability? Do you sometimes feel stressed or isolated?

Sometimes caring for a loved one, friend or neighbour can take up so much of your time and energy that it is easy to neglect your own needs. Do you sometimes feel that no one listens to you?

That is where the counselling service may help. Talking to someone who is outside the situation can relieve tensions. Our counselling service will offer you the opportunity to talk to a counsellor in confidence, in a one to one setting.

Our counsellors are experienced at listening and will provide attention and respect. It can sometimes be helpful to talk over any problems or issues and even though the problems may not change, it may help you to talk over how you are feeling and to know you are not alone. Counselling can help people to reach their own solutions, become better informed, receive support and encouragement and gain insight into themselves. Why not get in touch with Wired Carers Counselling Service and we would be happy to give you more information.

**WIRED Carers Team Cavendish Enterprise Centre Brassey Street
Birkenhead Wirral CH41 8BY Tel: Carers Helpline 0151 670 0777**

Children & Young People

Wirral Youth Service provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

The Service works with young people aged 13-19 years, and specifically targeted young people aged 20 until their 25th birthday who have additional needs and need support with transition into adult life/services.

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

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 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.

During the summer holidays the Youth Service was able to offer an adventure activity programme to youth clubs and associated organisations. Over 160 young people took part in sailing, canoeing, rafting, climbing and adventure course activities which were delivered by both licensed operators and our own staff. Despite the inclement weather there was a 90% take up on the activities offered.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children in a bid to help them successfully complete their Bronze Awards. In August, most of this group attended a 3 day residential course at The Oaklands Centre where they engaged in a wide variety of outdoor activities. One young woman in particular was identified as having the potential to take a future lead role and will probably be invited back and given a work experience opportunity. Wirral's D of E Open Award Centre is due to move premises again. Following a decision to vacate the Somerville Site at Gorse Lane we have entered into negotiations regarding the use of the Wirral Alternative Schools Programme new premises at Solar Campus. In our drive to make the Award available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units run the Award. This includes Meadowside Special School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with complex learning difficulties.

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

Fender Youth Club is open: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (outreach), Thursday, Friday (outreach)

Operation Wishing Well - Over the half term week Fender worked in partnership with the police and Bean Bag (an environmental Charity) to deliver a project for Young people. The project transformed old wooden pallets (donated from the police) into Wishing Well planters which were planted up and given to people living in the community.

Hoole Rd Memorial Gardens – In partnership with Bean Bag, The Bank Youth Project and the Police 2 gardens have been designed and installed by Young people to remember the young people who have recently died on the estate.

Towns Women's Guild Regional Meeting - Four young people from the 'Motivate Programme' attended the annual meeting of the Town's Women's Guild. The focus of the day was 'Looking to the Future' and a number of speakers attended the day including The Mayor, Steve Maddox, Friends of the Earth, Wirral Grammar for Girls and Boys. Fender YP did a 15 minute presentation and power point display of their experiences of the 'Motivate Programme' so far and their fears and expectations for their forthcoming expeditions.

Virtual Babies - Five virtual babies have been bought with YOF money. We also have a bump and shaken, drug affected and alcohol foetal baby. These will be used alongside a programme called Life Choices with a small group of young women

Senior Member Volunteering – 7 YP are doing they award and are volunteering in our Junior club, and these hours also count towards the Motivate project. We are looking to put some of these young people on Senior Member Training.

Bidston and Claughton.

The Cavendish Youth Centre is open on Monday and Wednesday 7.00 pm – 10.00pm. The autumn has seen the Club settling into its newly refurbished premises. The Club previously on the first floor has relocated to the ground floor and been refitted and improved. Facilities, which are now available to young people, include a computer and fitness suites.

Charing Cross Methodist Youth Club is open on four occasions through out the week Mondays and Wednesdays 6.30 – 9.30 and Thursday 7.00 – 10.00 and Saturdays 4.30 – 7.30. Mondays and Thursday are dedicated to work with special needs young people who come from a wide range of localities and the other two sessions serve the needs of the local community. The programme for both groups include extensive variety of craft workshops, discos and games and the Club makes full use of a garden area to enjoy games and activities in the outdoors. A recent water safety project delivered in conjunction with the Coastguard taught young people of the dangers of water and basic first aid. The young people joined with the local community in a number of Christmas events.

The North End Young People's Project has developed work in Birkenhead Park and liaises closely with the Birkenhead Park Community Projects Officer, supporting the development of the Birkenhead Park Sports Association. The young people have been involved in a range of activities – ice skating, bowling, traditional Halloween activities, filling shoe boxes for Eastern Europe and health promotion work.

The Fender Youth Action Project undertakes work with young people on the Beechwood and Ballantyne Estates. As well as a football session, a dance class is held at the Recreation Centre on a Wednesday night. The young people have set up a committee to represent their views at Youth Forum meetings. In 2008, there will be a focus on local culture, starting with a visit to the theatre to see 'Blood brothers.'

Wirral's Primary Schools raise achievement again

Primary Schools in Wirral have proved yet again they are continuing to improve with the release of the Key Stage Two Achievement and Attainment Tables today (6/12/07) by the DCFS (Department for Children, Family and Schools). Wirral's point score for pupils achieving the expected level or above has risen for the third year in a row to 249. That compares with the national average of 245 points putting Wirral above the national average again.

Councillor Phil Davies, Wirral's Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, said: "This really is excellent news for Wirral schools, pupils and their parents. Wirral has some of the best teaching in the country and staff show passion and commitment to their jobs. This is reflected in a consistent rise in achievement by pupils leaving primary schools over the past few years.

"It should also be noted that our schools provide much more than these tables illustrate – they provide a quality environment for children to learn and flourish in all aspects of their life - not just academically. "And the fact that Wirral has a higher than average number of pupils with Special Educational Needs statements just shows what a good job is being done with pupils of all abilities."

Economic Development & Enterprise

MoD contract boost for Cammell Laird

Wirral Council today welcomed the news that Merseyside's shipbuilding industry has been boosted by a new defence contract. Birkenhead-based North-western Shiprepairers and Shipbuilders (NSL) – soon to be renamed Cammell Laird – has won ship maintenance contracts for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, which supplies the Royal Navy at sea, with food, fuel, ammunition and spares. NSL was given "exclusive preferred contractor status" in a deal which could be worth more than £160m.

Wirral Council Leader, Cllr Steve Foulkes said: "This is fantastic news. It is just reward for the hard work of the managers and staff at Northwestern Shiprepairers and a further indication of the continued renaissance of ship repair in Wirral. It vindicates the council's continued support for this sort of industry and the hard work put in to maintain the site for such employment uses."

The company was awarded the status by the Ministry of Defence on four out of a possible five support contracts for the 17-strong fleet of specialist vessels, including tankers, stores ships and landing vessels. NSL managing director John Syvret will enter into final negotiations for the contracts early in the New Year and says they will help secure the firm's future for some years to come.

Council's fight against businesses' illegal waste

In order to protect our environment and to discourage and reduce the illegal tipping of rubbish, Wirral Council have been granted powers by the government to issue penalty notices to Wirral based businesses who do not have correct trade waste disposal procedures in place.

Without official trade waste disposal arrangements, businesses may have difficulty disposing of their waste and then resort to dumping the waste illegally. This is a serious offence, and Wirral Council works around the clock to catch and prosecute fly-tippers.

Businesses now have a legal duty to provide the Council with documentary evidence that they dispose of their waste legally. A 'Trade Waste Agreement' must be made available by businesses upon the request of Council Officers. Businesses who fail to produce evidence of an agreement will be issued with a £300 fixed penalty notice. Non-payment of the penalty can result in legal action.

Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Gill Gardiner said; "There are a small number of Wirral businesses who do not care about our environment and to save themselves some money, they simply dump their rubbish, spoiling our park land and green spaces. Our message to them is clear - sooner or later they will be caught and prosecuted for fly-tipping, or they will be fined for not having a correct Trade Waste Agreement. Either way, it is time for these businesses to start thinking of the environment and make some proper waste disposal arrangements."

Businesses who would like more information can click here (www.wirral.gov.uk), or contact Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 or email streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Wirral's Chief Executive honoured by Queen

Wirral Council's Chief Executive Steve Maddox has been awarded an OBE for Services to Local Government in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

Steve, who joined Wirral Council as a trainee solicitor in 1974 and became Chief Executive of the Authority in 1998, said: "I am obviously delighted and honoured, but I'm also proud that local government and Wirral in particular, has been recognised in this way."

Also honoured were Lou McGrath, from Oxton who received an OBE for his services to mine clearance as co-founder of the charity Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Mrs Elizabeth Renshaw, Business Manager for Woodchurch High Specialist Engineering College who received an MBE for Services to Education.

Both Kenneth Harrison and Mrs Barbara Norris received their MBEs for Services to the Community in Wirral.

Section Three

Partner Organisations

Area forums also provide an opportunity to meet partners and organisations who are working to deliver a better, safer and cleaner Wirral.

Merseyside Police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Wirral Community Safety Team and Mersey Fire and Rescue Service to name just a few, are active members of the forum. This section is to share partner information with forum members and the community.

The Trust is pleased to be able to participate in the Local Area Forums and welcomes the opportunity to brief Wirral residents and our partner organisations on topical issues. Representing the Trust will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the Public Governor for the host constituency.

Infection Control

- Our Elective Surgical Unit at Clatterbridge remains MRSA bloodstream infection free – this Unit can undertake most planned surgical procedures including joint replacements.
- Our Women's Services Unit at Arrowe Park is also MRSA bloodstream infection free
- Elsewhere in the Trust the number of MRSA bloodstream infections recorded between April to December 2007 reduced by 40% compared to the same period in 2006

Waiting for Treatment

- Currently, no patient waits longer than 5 weeks for an outpatient appointment when referred by a GP for a specialist opinion
- Patients referred for most orthopaedic and gynaecology outpatient appointments will wait only 2 weeks
- Patients referred for ENT outpatient appointments will wait only 3 weeks
- Currently, most patients will wait no longer than 11 weeks for their operation once they have been 'listed' by a consultant. The exception is Orthopaedics where the waiting time is 14 weeks.
- Currently, patients with suspected or confirmed cancers are referred, diagnosed and treated well within national targets

Improving Our Standards

- In the 2006/07 Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check we scored 'good' for our use of resources and 'good' for the quality of our services
- An external assessment of our standards by the Patient Environment Action Team resulted in the following scores being awarded to the Trust for 2007

	Environment	Food	Privacy & Dignity
Arrowe Park	Good	4 (Good)	5 (Excellent)
Clatterbridge	Good	4 (Good)	4 (Good)

Improving Our Facilities

- In this financial year, 2007/08, £16million will be spent on capital schemes to improve our facilities and update the services we provide – schemes include:
 - Implementing a 'state of art' digital X-Ray system = £3.1m
 - Replacing Cardiac Catheter Laboratory equipment = £1.7m
 - Expanding the Endoscopy suite at Arrowe Park = £1.3m
 - Improving the Maternity Ward and Delivery Suite = £200K
 - Altering and refurbishing wards to increase the number of single rooms, improve toilet and storage facilities = £650k
 - New & replacement medical and surgical equipment = £2.5m
 - In addition, we are working with an independent provider to improve Renal Dialysis facilities at Clatterbridge

Providing New Services

- The Trust has recently been designated as a centre for providing drug therapy for age-related Macular Degeneration. This is a new, local service for the benefit of Wirral residents.
- The Trust has recently been designated as a Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery

Come and Join Us! As a Foundation Trust we are keen to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have 5,500 Public Members and are keen to recruit more. Public Members can get involved as much or as little as they like – from just receiving regular newsletters to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. If you would like to become a public member please complete and return the membership application form that is available from the area forum area co-ordinator.

Wirral Primary Care Trust launch Health for all, Have Your Say

People in Wirral will have a greater opportunity than ever before to have a say about their health services. Wirral PCT is launching a wide-reaching listening exercise, 'Health for all, Have your say' which will give local people the opportunity to have their say on proposed plans for health and healthcare in Wirral over the next five years.

These plans will show how the PCT will work to reduce the gap between those who experience the best and the poorest of health, offer people greater choice about how and where they are treated and provide quality, personalised care.

The listening exercise will be launched on 7th January 2008 and people will be asked to forward their views by 14th April 2008. During January 2008, each person over the age of 16 who is registered with a GP will receive a personalised letter and the 'Health for all, Have your say' booklet, summarising the PCT's plans. There are a variety of ways in which people will be able to send us their views. Full details of this, together with a free post feedback form are included in the booklet. All members of the public who send in their comments will be entered into a draw with the chance to win a range of prizes including a LCD television, iPod Touch or shopping vouchers.

The 'Health for All, Have Your Say' campaign is being officially launched at a high profile event taking place on Monday 7th January at the Pyramids Shopping Centre in Birkenhead. There will also be a wide range of opportunities for people of all ages to get involved in having their say in the coming weeks, including Local Area Forums, Fun for All activity days, focus groups and other community based events.

Kathy Doran, Chief Executive of Wirral Primary Care Trust said: "We are committed to delivering the very best healthcare for everyone living in Wirral and believe that by working together we can make this happen. We were recently awarded the National Health Service Journal Award for Primary Care Organisation of the Year 2007, which was due in part to our commitment in involving patients and the public in what we do.

"We believe that this exercise will give local people the chance more than ever before to have their say about the future of local health services. We would like to encourage everybody to get involved in the coming weeks and months. We will ensure that all comments received will be taken into consideration in future plans."

Community Safety

October 2007 – January 2008

'Respect Wirral' from 1-5 October 2007. A week-long event aimed at promoting respect and raising awareness about preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour. The event, organised by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and involving many agencies, commenced with an 'Info Day' at Birkenhead Park for the public. Throughout the week, activities took place in a number of areas across the Borough, which included conducting environmental audits and clean-ups of areas. The event concluded with a Respect Conference for community representatives, ward councillor and MPs.

'Respect Bus' launched October 2007. The vehicle (a converted bus), managed by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, is designed to "take respect into the heart of communities". It has been used at least once a week since launch, visiting many areas across the Borough, and has been utilised for engagement with communities, including adults and young people. The vehicle is also equipped with sophisticated lighting allowing exterior areas to be lit.

Wirral's Family Intervention Project launched October 2007. The Project is run by NCH (formerly National Children's Homes) on behalf of Wirral Council. The Project targets the most problematic families (primarily those subject to enforcement action due to anti-social behaviour) and addresses the underlying causes of that behaviour. An approach of support coupled with sanction for non-compliance is adopted. The Project is currently funded by the government's Youth Task Force (formerly the Home Office Respect Task Force).

Wirral's Parenting Support Project launched October 2007. The Project provides parenting support to families engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, lower level anti-social behaviour. The Project is managed by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's Parenting Co-ordinator and is delivered through the Council's Children & Young People's Department, Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Trust and Wirral NHS Primary Care Trust. The Project is funded by the former Department for Education and Skills.

Housing Benefit Sanctions launched November 2007 Wirral is one of only eight areas in the country piloting new Sanctions for Housing Benefit. The new legislation allows for households that have been evicted for anti-social behaviour and fail to accept support to address the underlying causes of their behaviour, to have their Housing Benefit reduced or stopped. The Sanctions are designed to be preventative, encouraging households to accept the help they need.

Pantha vehicles These are 'trap' vehicles which record on CCTV person(s) breaking into the vehicle and spray the perpetrator with Smartwater. Police officers have been issued with special UV torches to detect someone having been in contact with Smartwater and make an arrest. There have been a number of arrests which has been a major factor in reducing car crime levels on Wirral.

Tranmere Winter Festival The Community Safety Team attended the festival on a chilly day in December but comfortably housed in a wigwam! We had our volunteers with us who manage the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme met a lot of people very interested in Neighbourhood Watch and the Vehicle Watch project. Vehicle Watch consists of two aspects, 'Over 25 years of age drivers only' and

vehicles not used between midnight and 6am. Any breach will result in police officers stopping the vehicle and checking the occupants. A number of people enlisted in the Vehicle Watch scheme. The Parenting Co-ordinator and Volume Crime Manager were present to give advice and guidance. In addition, the team provided crime reduction gadgets and aide memoir key rings to remind people to keep items out of sight - "On show It'll go". A very successful show where the team met with a lot of residents and visitors to the area.

3G CCTV This unique CCTV system has been rolled out to various hotspot locations and has the effect of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. There have been many favourable comments by residents who have seen the camera system of giving them a chance to breathe as the system adds to their quality of life..

Remote Alarms These are being issued to burglary victims to protect sheds where tools are taken which have led to a Burglary Dwelling. In other cases when cycles or other items are stolen from outbuildings or garages. The alarm alerts the householder who is made aware by the alarm activation. They have been distributed to Neighbourhood Police Inspectors and issued by CSO's in hotspot areas.

DVLA Project We developed a relationship with the Home Office Car Crime Unit and DVLA who sent letters to the registered keepers of vehicles that had items on display which our Parking Wardens identified. There have been in the region of 50 vehicles per week so identified but with the funding stream having finished, we have now worked closely with our partners to restart the scheme.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at Birkenhead, Bromborough, Heswall, Upton, West Kirby and Wallasey.

We are committed to innovative and imaginative change in order to help make our communities safer and stronger. We are also committed to integrated working with other authorities, agencies and the voluntary sector to improve public safety and well being.

We have recently published our Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/09 which sets out the measures which are intended to be taken to continue the modernisation and improvement of services to the people of Merseyside. This I.R.M.P can be viewed online at www.merseyfire.gov.uk/media or copies are available at local libraries and One Stop Shops.

A specific action point for Wirral is the implementation of the Hazardous Materials Incident Response Pump at Bromborough Fire Station. This will be a highly skilled team which will use the latest technology and equipment to facilitate the resolution of any incident involving the presence of hazardous materials. It is envisaged that Bromborough Community Fire Station will become the Centre of Excellence for training of all Fire Service personnel in the knowledge and skills required to deal with incidents involving hazardous materials, including the threats posted by terrorist attacks. This resource although Wirral based will provide cover throughout Merseyside and is due to be implemented early this year.

Community engagement remains the cornerstone of our proactive activity, in particular the delivery of the Home Fire Safety Checks and the provision of free smoke detectors were necessary. We continue to improve our effectiveness by

utilising intelligence led targeting of HFSCs. We are currently developing household specific dwelling fire prediction software to assist in the process.

The Service has set challenging performance targets and we are pleased to report that Wirral stations regularly achieve and exceed these targets. During the last quarter the Fire Service visited nearly 6,000 homes on Wirral and completed Home Fire Safety Checks.

Following our work to lessen the impact over the bonfire period, through our collaborative Bonfire Strategy, we are pleased to advise that Wirral saw a significant decrease of bonfires requiring Fire Service attendance. Working in partnership with the Police and Trading Standards we were also able to secure a reduction in the illegal sale and storage of fireworks across the district.

Fire Support Network is a non-profitable registered charity which works in partnership with the Fire Service on Merseyside to promote fire safety to the local communities through volunteers and partner organisations. Volunteer roles vary from working directly with the fire-fighters, leafleting and replacing batteries in smoke detectors to providing an after fire care service and fund raising. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can register online www.firesupportnet.org.uk or 0151 296 4600

The fire service on Wirral has many partnership arrangements which contribute to the development of healthier lifestyles across communities. Work with the PCT (smoking cessation, lifestyle and weight management etc) and Wirral Community Safety Team (Anti-social behaviour; arson reduction; youth engagement/distraction) are all having a positive effect upon the quality of life for Wirral residents as well as helping partners achieve their targeted objectives.

Community Fire Stations

- Birkenhead: Exmouth Street. Birkenhead CH41 4AX 0151 296 5325
- Bromborough: Dock Road South. Bebington CH62 4SQ 0151 296 5925
- Heswall: Telegraph Road, Heswall CH60 OAF 0151 296 5805
- Upton: Arrowe Park Road. Upton CH49 OUF 0151 296 5895
- West Kirby: The Concourse. West Kirby CH48 4HX 0151 296 5955
- Wallasey: Mill Lane. Wallasey CH44 5UE 0151 296 6180

For a FREE Home Fire Safety Check, including FREE smoke alarm installation if required please contact Fire Service Direct on FREEphone 0800 731 5958

Older People's Parliament

Wirral Older Peoples Parliament 2007 Our organisation has been in existence for almost a year, following the initial set up it has achieved some quite remarkable results. Firstly from setting up a small body with people from many diverse backgrounds. All combined with the very valuable assistance and encouragement from Wirral Borough Council, working in conjunction with Age Concern.

Recognition This has evolved into the recognition of the constructive contribution being made by elderly people in assisting and resolving issues, things that specifically have effect on those in the community, aged from 50 years plus. Our respective Sub Committee chairperson's, Committee Members, etc. Have established direct links with The National Health Service both at Major Hospital level

and Wirral Primary Care Trust, Elected Members of the National Parliament and local Authority Administrators.

Disabilities Mr Alan Stanbury, one of the founder members of the Parliament successfully negotiated a number of additional disabled parking places in close proximity to the main building at Arrowe Park University Teaching Hospital Trust, plus additional signage and close monitoring by security staff. To ensure the system is being used correctly. Unfortunately Alan has since passed away but has left a legacy of what can be achieved by indentifying a problem and solving the issue by skilful negotiation with the necessary authority involved.

Health Provision Sandra Wall, and her committee members, are actively involved in important discussion over a wide range of health care issues, items relating to Health Care Services provided by Hospitals, Clinics, and Specialist Providers, together with assessment and standards in Nursing Homes and Care Establishments throughout the Wirral. The Health & Social Care subcommittee, have such a wide list of elements to deal with, ranging from care and services within hospitals and outpatient, or clinical service facilities normally provided in your Own Home and Care Home locations. Involving Chiropody/Podiatry, Surgical Replacements, Hearing Aids, Dementia, and Optical improvement procedures.

Population Statistically the elderly population in Wirral is an ever growing number in comparison to the whole population count. And of course people are living longer, making the present and future provision of improved medical and social needs, a very high priority to all concerned. **Wirral Older Peoples Parliament**, is playing an important function with major constructive contribution, to the overall decision making process, carried out by The Council Officers, Hospital Trusts, Care Homes, and Clinics, etc.

Education Margaret Testo, and her committee members are deeply involved with a number of noted Educational Providers and various other departments. Like Wirral 3 L's and the Wirral Met College or the Learning & Skills Council. Who are all involved in the provision, encouragement, and availability of facilities, equipment, and assistance in the extension of learning systems for older people? The use of computer technology is quite important in today's society, and whilst some older persons may feel intimidated by such developments, the provisions of simple learning techniques are proving to be invaluable.

Accommodation Parliament Committee Members, belonging to various other organisations are using gathered information to ensure that elderly or vulnerable citizens in the community have a collective voice in the standards and compatibility of sheltered housing and community living facilities.

Law and Order Ken McDermott, has been in progressive consultation with the Police Authorities and Wirral Council Officers, expressing the related fears and concerns felt by many elderly residents, about the safety or wellbeing of communities, this is also an ongoing part of education and understanding being carried out in the schools educational system. The authorities place a high importance on that senior citizens and vulnerable members of our communities, have a right to live their lives in comparative safety and comfort.

Transport Joanna McIlhatton, and committee members have been assessing the available transport facilities provisions. And urging the need for better improved use of public transport. Enabling older maybe less mobile members of the community to travel in comfort. There are many examples where public transport fall short of

providing adequate services, if people are to be aware of the environmental impact that private cars have on society as a whole.

Jack Cuffe (Chairman Wirral OPP) Jack Cuffe, has dedicated a huge commitment to establishing the parliament, raising awareness and obtaining funding for the parliament to function. He himself has attended numerous meetings together with various Executive Committee Members, establishing a presence on **(The North West Older Peoples Advisory Group)** an active part of the **(Better Government for Older People)** with direct contact to the British Government Parliament in London.

Wirral Older Peoples Parliament has had meetings and presentations with many leading figures in authorities both here in the Wirral and Merseyside plus the North West Region.

The Chief Constable of Merseyside, Wirral Borough Council Chief Executive, plus senior directors of Wirral Social Services, Chief Executive of Wirral PCT and many of the senior managers of the PCT, also representatives from Wirral Voluntary Services, Wirral Libraries, Ambulance & Fire Service, plus many more representative bodies.

Local Forums The very successful local area forums have been a vital communication link with numerous other voluntary service groups in all of the Council Wards at the recent **WBC Area Forum Annual Conference** in July there were 16 representative members of the Wirral OPP present.

Later Life Convention (Staged by AGE Concern Sep 08) in Hulme Hall A stall manned by Wirral OPP gave out thousands of leaflets and information packs, to the general public and answered many queries about the vast range **“AGE Concern”** information booklets available, and documents relating to those in The 50 + age group. Booklets with advice on Welfare Benefits, Housing, Insurance, Investment, Transport, Keeping Warm, and Healthy Eating, etc are available from any AGE Concern office.

Executive Body Members The executive members of **Wirral Older People Parliament** have met at frequent intervals carrying out a multitude of organisational and promotional duties, arranging informative talks and presentations, gathering information and data, supporting committees, etc with extensive use of **AGE Concern** assistance and facilities, Cutesy of Jamie Anderson, who has been of exceptional help.

The support assistance and general encouragement from Council CEO Stephen Maddox OBE, Kevin Miller, John Webb, and Wirral Borough Council, staff members Andrea Grant, Tracey Smith, plus others has made a significant contribution to setting up the Wirral OPP in its first year of office. For more information Ring 0151 666 2220 (Parliament) E-Mail: parliament@ageconcernwirral.org

Better still have some input at the next Parliament Meeting in Wallasey Town Hall.

Take Note - Are you in the 50+ age bracket? Then you should be interested in the

“Wirral Older Peoples Parliament” our organisation working very closely with AGE Concern, and Wirral Borough Council, together with all the other major organisations in Wirral, are beginning to have a positive benefit in listening too and resolving many issues that particularly have effect on the older population.

With our links to the National Health Service, Police, Fire, & Security, Organisation we are able to examine and very often resolve issues for vulnerable sections of the community.

Assisting the elderly to have their voice heard and listened too. We are able to offer advice and assistance to those in Sheltered Communities, Care Homes, Nursing Facilities, etc.

The collective knowledge and experience of those in the 50+ age bracket is of absolute value and incredible service to the members of community that need it most.

You can play a most valuable part, get involved Come along to our parliament meetings and air your views, Write or phone, send an e-mail, get in touch, if not for yourself for a loved one, friend, neighbour, or family.

You can make a difference

- **Phone AGE Concern 0151 666 2220 (Parliament)**
- **Write to AGE Concern 44 Market Street, Birkenhead, CH41 5BT**
- **E-Mail: parliament@ageconcernwirral.org**

Merseyside Police



Bidston & St James ward

- Sgt Graham Bell, Sgt Marc Roberts, Constable Martin Ford, PCSO Lara Ledsham-Tunna and PCSO Russell Portbury

Claughton & Noctorum ward

- Sgt Graham Bell, Constable Tim Sproston, PCSO Scott Beaufort-Dysart and PCSO Alan Roe

Beechwood ward

- Sgt Graham Bell, Sgt Eddie Porter, Constable Paul Farnworth, PCSO Dave Egan and PCSO Joan Worthington

You can email them directly at: Ward.A.Bidston.StJames@merseyside.police.uk

Laird Street police surgeries Neighbourhood police officers in Laird Street are increasing their availability to the local community with the introduction of a number of new surgeries.

Beechwood and Ballantyne Location: Beechwood Advice Centre, Beechwood Drive, between 2pm - 4pm Dates: Tuesday 3 July, Friday 10 August, Tuesday 4th Sept and Tuesday 2nd October

Noctorum Location: Somerfield, Noctorum Avenue, between 10 am and 2pm, First Tuesday of each month

Oxton & Claughton Location: Sainsbury's, Woodchurch Road, between 2 and 4pm, first Tuesday of each month

Location: The Green Room, Christchurch Road, between 2 and 4pm, first Friday of each month

Bidston & St James Location: Aldi, Laird Street, between 2 and 4pm
Dates: Tuesday 14 Aug, Tuesday 11 Sept, Tuesday 9 October, Tuesday 13 Nov and Tuesday 11 Dec

Police officers and Community Support Officers will be available to discuss any issues or concerns you may have. They will also issue crime prevention advice leaflets and information.

Neighbourhood priorities update Police and partners have joined forces with residents in the Biston & St James, Claughton and Oxtton wards to prioritise the issues that are important to the local community, through door-to-door survey, local citizen panels and meetings of local community representatives.

Through the consultation, the three priorities identified were:

- **Burglary, Vehicle crime/Criminal damage and Anti-social behaviour**

These priority issues are being monitored and put into action by Merseyside Police and other relevant partner agencies using a range of tactics.

Underage Drinking Training literature will be circulated to off licences educating them about the issues surrounding selling alcohol to underage drinkers. The training pack will introduce the 'Under 21' rule, encouraging off licences to ask for proof of age from any customer who appears to be under the age of 21.

The Neighbourhood Team will also be working closely with Trading Standards to carry out test purchases at local Off Licences, to identify those outlets who are still selling alcohol to under 18's. Educational establishments are being visited and officers are delivering guidance and advice to students

Drug Dealing Local community and recreation centres are being visited and together with Youth Services clear messages are being delivered to the community in respect of drug dealing and abuse. The neighbourhood works hand in glove with Operation Hawk to combat the unlawful supply of controlled drugs. This includes the execution of search warrants at known drugs suppliers, encouraging and responding to valuable community intelligence. Leaflet drops follow informing the community of our intolerance to this activity and feeding back to them that we will respond to their concerns.

Antisocial Behaviour There are a number of continuous antisocial behaviour themes operating across the Force. These are happening on a daily basis in this neighbourhood. There is also a Section 30 Dispersal Order in force on a designated area of Bidston and St. James. This order prohibits the gathering of people and attaches a curfew for youths under 16 years of age. The legislation will run for 6 months and is a positive step to reduce antisocial behaviour.

Section Four

Area Forum Plan

The area forum 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 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 quality of life in the area.

Area forum plans form part of a much wider agenda for improving local services across the whole of Wirral and will influence the work of the local strategic partnership and the ongoing development of Wirral's local area agreement.

This section provides an update on some of the issues that have been resolved for this area forum.

Currently all Local Area Forum Plans are being refreshed and updated. This is an annual process to ensure that the plans are continually addressing the needs of individual areas.

There will be a more detailed update of the Area Forum Plans at the June 2008 forums which include:

- Operation Joker
- The Integrated Transport Block
- Highway Maintenance Programme
- Ensuring better transport links
- School Travel Plans/walk to school schemes
- Community Initiative Funding
- Community Safety Funding
- Local Agenda 21 Funding
- Primary Care Trust Funding

If you would like more information on the Area Forum Plan covering the area in which you live or how you can help towards any of the above issues please contact your area co-ordinator Michelle Gray 0151 691 8213 or email michellegray@wirral.gov.uk

Section Five

Streetscene

Wirral Council's Streetscene department is the main point of contact for people wishing to report issues affecting their area such as recycling, condition of roads, street lighting etc.

This section provides a report on the recent activities carried by the Streetscene department.

STREETSCENE AREA FORUM REPORT – produced January 2008

Waste Enforcement Policy - Wirral Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee recently passed an enforcement policy regarding Household Waste. This policy, subject to Cabinet approval, determines that anyone found to be deliberately and repeatedly contaminating their grey recycling bin can now be fined, after a warnings and offers of help from Council Offers.

It is important that residents note that the contamination we refer to is serious deliberate contamination, e.g completely filling the grey recycling bin with food waste, nappies, mixed rubbish in bin bags etc, week after week. It is not the intention to fine people who on the whole make a good attempt to recycle but put one or two wrong items in accidentally.

The policy also allows fines to be issued, after warnings, for leaving bins out after collection day. Leaving bins out on the pavement poses health and safety risks to disabled, visually impaired, and elderly people, and children. Also bins left out are at risk from contamination by passers by / neighbours etc. The fines will be £100, £60 if paid within 7 days.

This enforcement policy has been brought in as Wirral Council are now successfully recycling more than 220% more rubbish than this time last year - yet certain problem households are contaminating the recycling and we are having to take wagon loads of recycling to landfill as a result. This is bad for the environment but also costs us and therefore the tax payer.

School's Recycling - A pilot scheme is to be trialled in ten Wirral schools throughout February, in which 'Grey bin recycling' will be installed in class rooms, allowing children to recycle in school the same as at home. If successful, the scheme will in time be rolled out to all Wirral schools.

Residents Parking - All residents parking requests will now be coming through Area Forums. Initially, concerned residents should still call Streetscene on 606 2004 for background information on what is required for a residents parking scheme to be considered. Streetscene will provide residents with a criteria list, and when the criteria is met, residents are to revisit an area forum with the proposal, where like minded residents may want to contribute or discuss. The criteria basically is that at least 80% of at least 300 homes must be in favour of the scheme. All houses must be in favour of contributing a one off amount of approximately 75 for set up fees.

Community Speed Watch - Along with Merseyside Police, we are recruiting volunteers for our Community Speedwatch Scheme, where residents and community groups can use our radar guns and hi-viz jackets to perform speed checks on problem roads. All data captured can be passed back to the police and action may be taken. For more info, or to volunteer, contact Sgt Kate Roberts kate.roberts@merseyside.police.uk or 0151 606 5448 or visit their website at www.merseyside.police.uk

Road Safety - The Road Safety Team still have a few copies of the Highway Code to give away, after a pre-Christmas give away. If you would like your free copy, as there have been quite a few updates in the revised 2007 version, please call Streetscene on 6060 2004 or email streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

Planning Webcasts - We would like to remind residents that a trip to The Town Hall is no longer necessary to view a planning committee meeting. All meetings are

available to watch online via www.wirral.gov.uk , click 'planning webcasts' in the right hand menu.

If you are unable to watch it live, you can watch it at any time convenient to you after it has been archived and uploaded the next day.

Traffic Management Schemes - The following Traffic Management schemes completed since the last area forums in September/October 2007.

Eastham Rake, Eastham Puffin Crossing
Tollemache Road, Bidson Pedestrian Refuge
Bidston Moss (Roundabout) Signage Scheme

Highway Maintenance - The following Highway maintenance schemes have been completed since the last area forums in September/October 2007.

Footway Reconstruction Completed - Dalmorton Road New Brighton, Nursury Close Oxton, Upton Road Claughton, Grafton Street (part) Oxton, Burlingham Avenue West Kirby, Fieldway Bebington, Sussex Close Pensby, Mere Farm Grove Oxton, Oak Road Bebington, Reedville Road Bebington and Richardson Road Rock Ferry.

Footway Reconstruction Planned Works for - Hillfield Drive, Pensby Started 7/01/08 and Somerset Road, (part) Pensby.

Carriageway Resurfacing Completed: Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge, Neville Road Bromborough, Dibbins Hey (part) Clatterbridge, Wirral Gardens Clatterbridge, Patterdale Road Clatterbridge, Bassenthwaite Avenue Claughton, Laburnum Road New Brighton, Sandheys Road New Brighton, Mount Road access link to Clatterbridge Hospital

Carriageway Resurfacing Planned: Wetherby Avenue Wallasey, started w/c 7/01/08

Brynmoor Avenue Wallasey, started w/c 7/01/08, Kingston Close Moreton, to start w/c 14/01/08, Hawarden Avenue Liscard and Dock Road (part) Seacombe

Carriageway Retread Works Completed: Grant Road Leasowe, Mackenzie Road Leasowe, Harvest Lane (part) Moreton and Devonshire Road, West Kirby

Carriageway Surface Treatment Works Planned: Vyner Road North Bidston, Wroxham Way Upton, Seabank Road (part) Liscard, Newling Street Birkenhead, Trinity Street Birkenhead, Helena Street Birkenhead, Whiteheath Way Leasowe, Northbrooke Way Upton, Domville Drive Upton, Bridge Farm Close Upton, Glebe Hey Road Upton

Footway Surface Treatment Completed: Duke Street, (part) Birkenhead, Reeds Lane (part) Leasowe, St Marys Street Liscard, St Marys Avenue Liscard, Westminster Road Liscard, Wilton Street Liscard

Footway Surface Treatment Planned: Woodchurch Road (part) Upton, Pensby Road (part) Pensby and Bassenthwaite Avenue (island area only) Claughton.

Section Six

Equalities & Diversity

The Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG) provides a framework for local authorities to deliver continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

The standard has six strands or pillars:

Race

Disability

Gender

Age

Sexual Orientation

Religion or belief

New Corporate Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator appointed!

Jacqui Cross joined Corporate Policy Team on 5th November (and yes fireworks did fly!).

She is responsible for co-ordinating efforts across the whole authority to ensure high quality services are available to all citizens on the basis of need and to ensure the Council provides a fair and supportive environment for all staff, members and partners.

Jacqui can be contacted on 0151 691 8064 or email jacquicross@wirral.gov.uk

Other members of the Corporate Equality and Diversity Programme Team are:

Steve Foden, Access Officer, 0151 691 8212 or email stevefoden@wirral.gov.uk,

Ged Smyth NRAC Auditor, 0151 691 8217 or email gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk

Maxine Joynson Support Officer, 0151 691 6266 or email

maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk

Comprehensive Engagement Strategy A community engagement strategy for Wirral is currently being developed under the remit of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). This strategy will provide the mechanisms for delivering a strategic approach to community engagement, involving a wide range of partners and stakeholders.

As this strategy emerges, a consultation framework with residents, customers, local groups and communities will be designed for use across the whole Council.

Who we are working with A single equality group for Wirral known as Wirral Equalities Forum (WEF) has recently been established and includes partners from the LSP such as Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Police and PCT.

We are also working closely with the Merseyside Equality Forum and regional equality networks in order to promote the work being done across Wirral and to share information and best practice.

Initiatives We have recently established initiatives within the Council including:

- Three diversity forums for Council staff
- Launch of 'Equality Watch' – a newsletter for Council staff
- Further Equality and Diversity training for Council staff
- Continued access audits of buildings

Equality Impact Assessments (EIA's) An EIA is a self-assessment tool to help our council departments and services look at the likely positive and negative impact of their work on staff, members, service users / customers, partnerships, individuals and communities with regards to equality of opportunity in employment and service delivery.

The council is committed to ensuring that it delivers all of its services in a fair and equal way. It also pledges to develop an inclusive recruitment and selection procedure aimed at creating a strong and diverse workforce. This two-pronged approach ensures that we work towards removing barriers to our services and actively promote and support diversity.

The Equality Standard for Local Government helps us to measure progress towards promoting equality and diversity. The standard has five levels and Wirral council is currently at level two. In order to meet the requirements of the standard we need to ensure we carry out Equality Impact Assessments on all council functions, services, projects, strategies and policies.

Every service, function, policy and strategy that Wirral Council has, needs to have an EIA to highlight both positive and negative impact on various population groups.

Some useful information under the equality strands:

Age

Age Concern Wirral – please contact head office on 666 2220 or email www.ageconcernwirral.org

Youth forums for more information please contact Debbie McCabe on 637 6362 or email debbiemccabe@wirral.gov.uk

Older People's Parliament - for more information please contact Jack Cuffe on 652 0039

Gender

Women's Diversity Forum (Council) – met 26th November due to meet again on 15th January. For more info please contact Christina Bebbington on 691 8063 or email christinabebbington@wirral.gov.uk

Press for Change - is a political lobbying and educational organisation, which campaigns to achieve equal civil rights and liberties for all trans people in the United Kingdom, through legislation and social change. www.pfc.org.uk

Race

Race Diversity Forum (Council) – held their inaugural meeting on 26th November. For more information please contact Katrina Roberts on 691 8382 or email katrinaroberts@wirral.gov.uk

Promoting the talents of Muslim Women 21 January 2008, 1.45 – 6.45pm, Alberts Hall, Bolton. For more information please visit www.nwra.gov.uk/promotingmuslimwomen

Disability

Disability Diversity Forum (Council) – last on Monday 7th January 2008. For more information please contact Ged Smyth on 691 8217 or email gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk

Wirral Disability Action Forum – 25 January 2008 at Highcroft Centre, Bebington. For more information contact Diane Jones at Wired on 670 1500.

Sexual Orientation

LGBT Rainbow Partnership - For more information please contact Darren Knight via email at the Rainbow Partnership on rainbow@lgf.org.uk

LGBT Forum (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender) forum due to meet in February 2008. For more information please contact Peter Barnett via email on Wirralgbt_forum@yahoo.co.uk

Religion and belief

Churches together in Wirral - Churches Together in Wirral (CTiW) has provided representatives on a variety of strategic bodies including Local Community Forums, the Standing Advisory Body for Religious Education, and the Local Strategic Partnership. The Local Authority regard our work as being crucial to the partnerships they seek, and appreciate the integrity that CTiW give in their communications with a variety of bodies including National Government. www.churcheswirral.co.uk

Section Seven

Transport/Traffic Report

AREA FORUM UPDATE January 08

TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT DIVISION

INTRODUCTION

In partnership with Merseytravel, Merseyside Police and other Merseyside constituent authorities, Wirral Council develop a 5 year programme reflecting central Government objectives as set out by the Local Transport Plan (LTP).

Wirral is proactive in addressing the key issues of:-

- Road Safety
- Congestion
- Accessibility, and
- Air Quality

Each year the Council endorses a number of initiatives and schemes to address concerns in these four main areas. Schemes are developed after identifying areas and locations of most proven need for improvement and very often link directly with performance targets. To help identify schemes, certain criteria are used.

Prioritising schemes means that those chosen have a greater need for improvement than those not chosen, particularly when there is a competing demand on the finance available.

In order to be helpful in explaining the current situation, set out below are some of the main activities that are on-going in this financial year to March 2008. The list is not exhaustive and does not cover some of the minor interventions which may be taken, such as modest road signing and carriageway lining schemes.

LOCAL SAFETY SCHEMES

Local Safety Schemes are designed for locations where there is an already identified personal injury accident situation and it is considered that improvements can be made to reduce further risk.

Local Safety Schemes are planned for:-

- Dock Road, Seacombe – Route Action
- Hoylake Road/Fender Lane, Moreton - New Junction Layout
- Serpentine Road, Liscard - Traffic Calming
- Barnston Road (Telegraph Road – Gills Lane), Barnston -Route Action
- Telegraph Road (Church Lane Grammar School Lane), Thurstaston – Route Action
- Saughall Massie Road, Saughall – Signs, Lines and TRO
- Station Road, Storeton – Speed Reduction Measures
- Levers Causeway, Storeton – Signs and TRO
- New Chester Road/Poolbank Road Area, New Ferry – Buildouts, Lines and TRO
- Shrewsbury Road/Alton Road, Oxton – Signs, Lines and TRO
- Thingwall Road, Irby – Speed Reduction Measures
- Irby Road, Pensby – Pedestrian Crossing
- Surface Treatment – Various (Zebras, Pelicans and Bends)
- High Visibility Guard Rail – Various sites Borough-wide

SPEEDING TRAFFIC

Traffic calming and speed reduction is frequently asked for and to provide guidance that the monies are spent to the best advantage, the following criteria is used:-

- Sites will not be considered for physical measures such as vertical or horizontal deflections on emergency services priority routes – unless specific approval can be gained from the emergency services.
- Only sites capable of conforming to the Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1996 and current Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions advice on design and placement of measures will be considered.
- Sites must have a personal injury accident record which would be improved by the introduction of traffic calming measures or be adjacent to existing areas where a comprehensive inclusive zone can be implemented.
- Traffic calming measures may also be considered in support of specific initiatives, such as home zones, cycling and safer routes to schools where such schemes may not be justified on their existing personal injury accident record.

TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEMES

Traffic calming this year is scheduled for

- Cleveley Road Area, Meols
Comprising: Cleveley Road, Derwent Road, Station Approach and Lyndhurst Road (To be replaced with a community speed watch campaign initiative)
- St Peters Way Area, Noctorum
Comprising: St Peters Way, Neville Close, Newport Close, Naseby Close, Netherfield Close, Needham Crescent, Norris Close, Newark Close and Norfolk Close
- Martins Lane Area, Liscard – Scheme adjacent and linked to adjacent Local Safety Scheme
Comprising: Martins Lane, Hawarden Avenue, Oxford Road, Empress Road, Chatsworth Avenue, Eaton Avenue, Central Park Avenue and Ferndale Avenue

Reserve List

- Edinburgh Road Area, Liscard
Comprising: Edinburgh Road, Daventree Road, Caldby Road, Kenwyn Road and Arnside Road
- Lyndale Road Area, Eastham
Comprising: Lyndale Avenue, Grampian Way, Athol Drive, Renfrew Avenue, Berwick Avenue, Paisley Avenue, Glenburn Avenue, Adaston Avenue, Avondale Avenue, Wensleydale Avenue and Darleydale Drive
- Moreton Area
Comprising: Stavordale Road, Chapelhill Road, Stuart Avenue, Burnley Road, Wimbrick Hey, Sedgefield Road, Fender View, Pine Tree Grove, Carnsdale Road, Sandbrook Lane, Glebelands Road, Wyvern Road, Grampian Avenue, Napier Drive, Grampian Way, Pembroke Avenue, Chirk Way and Croft Drive
- New Ferry Road Area, New Ferry
Comprising: New Ferry Road, The Dell, Napier Road, Ingleby Road, Woodford Road, Cecil Road, Beverley Road, Henthorne Road, Sandfield Road, Irvine Terrace, Boulton Avenue, Easton Road, Tilstock Avenue and Thorburn Road

Where issues of speeding traffic are of concern to residents, these can be reported directly to the Police or alternatively to the Council, who will forward the matter on for attention.

A review of the speed limits on Classified A and B routes is to be comprehensively undertaken by 2011 and any queries of this nature will be taken into consideration in this review.

COMMUNITY SPEED AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

In addition to the above speed-related programmes, Community Speed Watch is being piloted this year with attention directed into a number of areas:

Acre Lane area ,Bromborough
New Ferry Road area , New Ferry
Oxton Village area, Oxton
Rigby Drive area , Greasby
Westbourne Road area ,West Kirby
Cleveley Road area, Meols (replacing the traffic calming scheme above)
Withens Lane area ,Wallasey (subject to Cabinet approval)

For residents wishing to be considered as a Community Volunteer in the initiative, the contact within Merseyside Police is Kate Roberts, 0151-777-2910, or via kate.roberts@merseyside.police.uk.

It is anticipated that partnering with the Police will have positive outcomes in helping to reduce motorists' speeds to around 20 mph in built-up areas and that the initiative can be further rolled-out in future years.

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

A great deal of attention is being given to encouraging school pupils to use healthier ways of getting to school other than the private car and also making sure that there are safe routes. Attention this year is at the following schools:-

- Millfields Primary and South Wirral High Schools, Eastham
- Heswall Primary School, Heswall
- St Bridget's CE Primary School, West Kirby
- St Peters CE Primary School, Heswall
- Townfield Primary School, Oxton
- Hilbre High School, West Kirby
- Lingham Primary School, Moreton
- West Kirby Primary School, West Kirby
- Plessington High School, Bebington
- Leasowe Early Years Centre, Leasowe
- New Brighton Primary School, New Brighton
- Pensby Infants School, Pensby

PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

In order to improve facilities for those who walk, pedestrian (PUFFIN) crossing signals are being provided at:-

- Laird Street, Birkenhead
- Hoylake Road, Moreton
- Townfield Lane, Oxton

Such schemes are identified on the road traffic and pedestrian movement and whether or not the road is assessed as being difficult and unsafe to cross, bearing in mind again the road safety record.

A dropped kerb-crossing programme has been developed and undertaken in consultation with Wirral Information Resource for Equality and Disability (WIRED). Locations identified for treatment are those with high pedestrian movements, links between residential areas and services such as shopping centres, health centres, libraries etc. The opportunity is also taken within the footway reconstruction programme to introduce dropped kerbs at junctions etc.

Although schemes for pedestrian central refuges are relatively modest, they do have significant benefits for pedestrians. Through this programme it has in the past also been possible to provide pedestrian refuges at a number of sites where formal signalised crossings were not justified.

Pedestrian central refuges are proposed at:-

- Leasowe Road (near Mereheath), Leasowe

- Seabank Road (Manor Road – Steel Avenue), New Brighton
With a reserve scheme at:
- Tollemache Road/Ashburton Road, Claughton

CYCLING

Cycling is considered an important element in transport accessibility planning and a Wirral Cycling Action Plan has been approved. This year we are concentrating on:-

- The Port Sunlight to Clatterbridge Route
- Network Development
- Wirral Way Phase 2
- Birkenhead Network
- Wallasey District Cycle Network

together with the general promotion of cycling across the Wirral.

REVIEW OF PARKING ON-STREET (YELLOW LINES)

When we receive a request to look at on-street parking situations to provide or remove yellow lines, we do check that road safety or congestion is not being compromised. If it is, the case that it is, then a scheme to make alterations can be scheduled to be progressed. Those locations on the main roads which at present are not linked to accident or congestion issues are to be reviewed over the next 3 years.

RESIDENTS PARKING

Requests for residents parking schemes should meet the criteria of 80% support, normally involve 300 households and should demonstrate agreement to charging (£75 set up fee per household and £10 per annum per permit).

BLUE BADGE HOLDERS

For those residents wishing to make a request for an on-street parking bay for blue badge holders, they should initially contact the Council's Call Centre on 606-2004 or access the application form at www.wirral.gov.uk, found in A-Z under "disabled people".

Wrexham Bidston Electrification

Residents will recall that an update was provided at the previous area forum meetings with regard to the progress of proposals to electrify the Wrexham to Bidston rail line and link it to the existing Mersey electrics network.

At the current time there is little further to report as discussions are ongoing and we are awaiting the results of a Network Rail GRIP3 (Guide to Rail Investment Projects) study jointly funded by Merseytravel and the Welsh Assembly Government which will provide a clear indication of the costs of the Project. The results of this study are anticipated in March 2008.

Future updates will be provided to the Forum as the project progresses

CONTACTS

Streetscene Call centre:	0151 606 2004
Wirral Council website:	www.wirral.gov.uk
Merseyside Police:	www.merseyside.police.uk
Merseytravel:	www.merseytravel.gov.uk
Local Area Forum:	www.engage@wirral.gov.uk or 0151-691-8026
Department for Transport:	www.dft.gov.uk

Section Eight

Funding

Every year each area forum has funding to give out to small community groups within their ward area. This funding is to help and support services that benefit the community. This section provides an update on how some of this money has been spent in this area.

Area Forum Funding Progress Report Bromborough / Eastham; Bidston & Claughton

previously awarded monies - 2007/08 onwards

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
New Ferry Gautby Road (NFGR) Table Tennis Club	<p>1. Bromborough / Eastham - to purchase surrounds, nets and balls.</p> <p>2. Bidston & Claughton - to purchase bats and balls.</p>	<p>1. Bromborough / Eastham - Panel considered this to be a good project that would benefit local children and agreed to award £700.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>2. Bidston & Claughton - Panel are aware of the club's hard work and encouragement on promoting healthy sporting activities, and agreed to award £467.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p>	<p>The equipment has been purchased. Gautby Road has used the equipment for their after school club on a regular basis. New Ferry will be running a holiday course in December that will be open to all.</p>

FREE FUNDING INFORMATION 4 YOU

Wirral Council supported by Wirral Local Strategic Partnership's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund are pleased to provide a FREE funding information service available online.

There are hundreds of grants available to support Wirral's voluntary and community groups from local opportunities to Government, National Lottery and Trust Funding sources.

To find out which grants you may be eligible to apply for visit our free search facility:

Step One

Go to www.wirral.gov.uk

Click on the *Funding Initiatives* icon under the 'Popular Pages' list.

Step Two

Then click on one of these links to browse and search for funding information.

www.open4community.info/wirral
www.open4socialenterprise.info/wirral

You no longer have to be left in the dark about what funding your group or organisation could apply for, find this out for yourself.

In addition you can also visit the following web site for a wide range of associated information including signing up for regular early funding alerts via email.

www.mfip.org.uk



Could Your Community Benefit From Up To £10,000?

Awards for All is a small grants programme supported by the Arts Council England, The Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England. If you have an idea that will make your community a better place, Awards for All could make it a reality with a Lottery grant of between £300 and £10,000. We want to fund organisations that deliver projects for people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, as well as projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.

Regional Overview Between 1 April 2007 and 31 December 2007 we received over 1,700 applications in the North West region. 931 applications have been funded amounting to around £6.4m. 48% of applications requested grants of between £7,500 and £10,000. The average award in the North West during this period stands at just over £6,800, with a success rate of 53%. The awards break down between the sub-regions as follows:

Sub Region	Amounts Awarded	Number of Awards
Cheshire	£681,213	108
Cumbria	£716,085	108
Greater Manchester	£2,254,219	325
Lancashire	£1,315,036	196
Merseyside	£1,336,415	184
North West wide	£77,844	10

Common reject reasons One of the main reasons that applications fail is because organisations do not send in all of the information required. As well as the completed application form, an organisation must also provide its governing document (or constitution), a formal set of accounts, a bank details form and three months worth of original bank statements. Another reason that applications fail is that the organisation does not have sufficient financial controls. You must ensure that you have appropriate financial procedures in place to adequately manage the funds you are requesting.

Further information can be found in the guidance at http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/docs/awardsforall_england_guide.pdf. You can also contact your local Council for Voluntary Service, Local Authority External Funding Officer or helper agency for further advice on completing the application form.

Regional Outcomes In the North West we have prioritised four strategic outcomes. Although your project does not have to meet the regional outcomes, your application will have a better chance of success if it does meet one of them. The regional outcomes for the North West are:

Increased involvement from people who face barriers to participation, Greater use of community buildings, Improved skills for running small community groups and Different communities working closer together

How to apply If Awards for All might be for you, applying is relatively easy. You can apply at any time, the application form is straightforward and you will receive a decision within eight weeks of sending in your completed application. You can apply if you are a not for profit group, a parish or town council, school or health body. Groups can apply for £300 to £10,000 in any two-year period and the grant must be spent within 12 months.

The kind of things we can fund include: Publicity materials, venue hire, computers, research costs, transport costs, volunteers' expenses, updating equipment for health and safety reasons, refurbishments, training, sessional staff, fees to hire equipment, educational toys and games.

For more information or to download application pack visit www.awardsforall.org.uk or call 0845 600 20 40 or textphone 0845 755 6656 to request a pack in hard copy. If you would like help in completing an application form contact Suzanne Fennah Lottery Officer 691 8196, e-mail suzannefennah@wirral.gov.uk