

Birkenhead, Tranmere and

Rock Ferry

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

5th June 2007

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SECTION ONE

Minutes - Area Forum (Birkenhead & Tranmere and Rock Ferry) - 6 February 2007

Present	
Chair	JV Stapleton
Ward Councillor	WJ Davies, PL Davies, Brian Kenny, M McLaughlin, Mrs CM Meaden
Community Representatives	Lenny McCormick , Stephanie Reid (Tranmere Alliance), Hazel Roberts (Together)
Lead Officers	David Ball (Head of Housing and Regeneration)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Maxine Joynson
Primary Care Trust(s)	Alison Shead
Merseyside Police	Insp. Mick Blease
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Myles Platt
Other Partners	Myrtle Lacey (Age Concern Wirral)
Council Officers	Gary Cummings (Area Streetscene Manager), Ian Lowrie (Deputy Community Safety Officer)
Observer	Andy Brannan
Apologies	Pam Bethell, Alan Stennard (Director of Regeneration)

Minute 1 - Welcome / introductions / apologies

Minute Text :

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed forum members and 30 members of the public to the Area Forum meeting in Birkenhead Town Hall. She invited forum members to introduce themselves.

Minute 2 - Matters arising from previous meeting (October 2006)

Minute Text :

The minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 3 October 2006 had been incorporated into the Area Co-ordinator's report. Matters Arising had been included on page 15 of the report. A up to date leaflet on Healthier Communities and Older People was available at the meeting.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That the minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 3 October 2006 be noted and the actions taken on matters arising.

Minute 3 - Correspondence

Minute Text :

No correspondence had been received.

Minute 4 - Area Co-ordinators Report / Area Plan Update / CIF Update

Minute Text :

The Area Co-ordinator highlighted the key points of her report –

Page 44 - Update on the Older People's Parliament. People who had expressed interest in becoming members of the Parliament had attended an event at Wallasey Town Hall in January. A final decision had not been made on the representation for this Area Forum. Elections would be held before June.

Page 70 - Update on Community Initiatives Funding for 2006/07. The availability of Community Initiatives funding for 2007/08 would be advertised in the local Press at the end of April/early May.

Page 62 - Progress report on the strengthening of the Bedford Road Bridge which commenced on 3 January 2007, and details of the scheme.

Page 85 – A report on the Integrated Transport Block (Capital Programme). Area Forums had been requested to advise of any traffic issues or locations requiring investigation for potential inclusion in the Integrated Transport Block Programme for 2007/08. Suggestions should be submitted to Andy Brannan, Area Co-ordinator, by Friday, 9 March 2007.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: To thank the Area Co-ordinator for her report.

Minute 5 - Public question time

Minute Text :

Simon Petris - Community Initiatives Funding – It appears that applications for funding for poorer areas are over-subscribed, whilst area forums in affluent areas have surplus funding at the end of each financial year. The imbalance could be addressed if the funding available is re-distributed in a way that would favour the poorer areas.

David Ball - Council policy is to adopt a consistent approach across the Borough, regardless of whether the area is poorer or more prosperous. The total amount available is allocated to each area forum on an equitable basis for spending in local communities on projects that meet the criteria. Each area forum is responsible for administering its own allocation and for deciding how the money is spent.

Brenda Fearon – On behalf of the Grenville Umbrella Tenants' Association, I would like to request advice on a series of issues that, despite repeated requests to the Council, remain unresolved in the Tranmere and Rock Ferry areas. The issues are concerned with inadequate street lighting, street cleaning, dog fouling on grass verges, overflowing gullies, street cleaning immediately before bin emptying, the siting of some trees which create a hazard particularly to elderly people, children climbing onto roofs and incidents of anti-social which cause distress for local people.

Minute Decision :

The Chair asked the Gary Cummings, Street Scene Manager, to join a colleague from Waste and Recycling Department, and walk around the area covered by Grenville Umbrella Tenants' Association and ensure that each issue is addressed.

Minute 6 - Empty Property Strategy

Minute Text :

The Chair welcomed Steven Eaves, manager of the Empty Property Team set up by the Council with a remit to bring empty properties in Wirral back into occupation and to identify derelict land.

In his presentation, Steve explained that there are six thousand empty properties in Wirral, representing 4.3% of all the housing stock in Wirral. The area covered by Birkenhead & Tranmere and Rock Ferry, with 921 empty properties, has a disproportionately high number. The reasons properties are empty include structural alterations being carried out; the owner in hospital or in care or providing care elsewhere, Police activity; resident travelling; a second home; in probate or being re-possessed; and charitable or faith dwellings awaiting re-occupation. The totals did not include properties due for demolition or in clearance areas.

The Council had secured a limited amount of Capital funding from NewHeartlands, the Housing Market Renewal Initiative pathfinder, to bring empty properties back into use. The Council has acquired three empty properties and are refurbishing them to the Eco Homes and Security standards. The refurbished homes include new bathrooms, gas central heating and new kitchens and would be offered for sale for owner occupation from April 2007. Prices would start from £85,000 and a 10% grant towards the market value would be offered to eligible buyers. The Council would use the proceeds of the sales to acquire and refurbish more properties.

Members of the public who wish to report an empty property, or are interested in purchasing a refurbished property, can contact the Empty Property Team by telephone on 0151 691 8005; by email on emptyproperties@wirral.gov.uk; or online at: www.wirral.gov.uk and search for empty properties. Information on a range of related topics was also available on the website.

The Council was also trying to identify the private owners of 16 derelict sites with the objective of making the derelict empty land into attractive, green and maintained spaces. The project is grant funded through Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, Planning Delivery Grant and the Housing Market Renewal Initiative and is known as UGLI (Urban Green Lane Initiative). The areas to be prioritised are the six NRF areas of Tranmere & Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Bidston, Woodchurch, Leasowe and Seacombe. Referrals should be sent for the attention of Steven Eaves at Wallasey Town Hall.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That Steven Eaves be thanked for an interesting presentation.

Minute 7 - Wirral 2008

Minute Text :

The Chair welcomed John Gorman.

John explained that he had left Wirral some 30 years ago and had returned to Birkenhead to co-ordinate events to celebrate Wirral 2008. John had spent the first nine months visiting every show, event, festival on the Wirral to gauge the level of talent across the Arts. He had been overwhelmed by the amount of talent he had found in professional artists, amateur theatre companies, youth and adult choirs and musical groups.

Proposals for projects and shows that would run in 2008 - and in many instances, continue as annual events thereafter – included:

A festival in the Parks advocating healthy and ecological lifestyles; an Easter parade in Hamilton Square; a film week, an Art exhibition; a May Day festival, and poetry competition and grand slam, a month-long event on War and Peace, a Shakespeare Festival, a spiritual event to celebrate the sacred music, drama and literature of all religions in Wirral, and a Wirral fete.

There would be world premier musicals, classical music, opera, plays and dance.

Each primary and secondary school would choose its own School Poet Laureate. The Wirral Young Poet Laureate would be chosen from amongst these and would receive an award offered by Willy Russell. There would be football fun on the promenades and many activities encompassing the whole spectrum of arts and cultural life of the Wirral.

John firmly believed that Wirral 2008 offers a unique opportunity to enrich the every day lives of the whole of the Wirral community, but the involvement of the community was vital if the proposals were to materialise. Members of the public would be asked to support events by turning up and helping to organise and steward events. All the events and activities would be self-financing and, apart from sponsorship from the business community, there would be no appeals for funding to the general public. Wirral would receive a modest grant from the Liverpool 08 initiative, but the amount had not yet been announced.

The initial idea for Wirral 2008 had come from John and a steering group would oversee the overall project. Any member of the public who wishes to become actively involved would be most welcome. [contact person: The Arts Development Officer, Pacific Road.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: To thank John Gorman for the presentation.

Minute 8 - PCT Update - Public Health Annual Report

Minute Text :

The Chair introduced Alison Shead, new Primary Trust representative at Area Forum meetings.

Alison explained that Wirral's Public Health Annual Report had been produced in an electronic format this year. The evolving Internet based report enables the content to be updated on an ongoing basis with new information being added as soon as it becomes available. The Annual Report, which contains a wealth of easy to digest Public Health information, includes - data in map and graph formats, demographic information, life expectancy information, health inequalities data and research methodology. The report can be accessed on www.wirralpct.nhs.uk/publichealthintelligence.

Copies P R I M E, a free NHS magazine packed with information about how to stay healthy, feel good and reduce your risk of serious diseases, were available at the meeting.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: To thank Alison Shead for her update.

Minute 9 - Partner Updates - Community Safety - Fire Service - Police

Minute Text :

- **Fire Service:** Statistics pertaining to this area forum indicated a 8% fall in the number of calls to buildings and houses; a reduction of 10/15% in calls to incidents caused by anti-social behaviour, with the most significant reduction in the number of calls to deliberate vehicle fires. There had been three calls to road traffic collisions in the three-month period. The Birkenhead Fire Station had undertaken nearly 600 home safety checks in private dwellings and, where required, had fitted smoke detectors free of charge. Every Fire Station in Wirral has a gymnasium which can be accessed free of charge by anyone with a cardiac condition. The profile of the firefighter is being used increasingly to help young people with life style issues and to provide alternative activities that will bring them in off the streets.

- **Police:** According to latest statistics, crimes of burglary have reduced by 18%, violence by 11% and vehicle crime by 17%. Operation Shop Safe had been a tremendous success this year, with the lowest crime recorded in the town centre for a number of years. The biggest issue is anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. Efforts made to curtail these activities included working with the DAAT team to visit schools and talk to the children and discourage them from using alcohol.

The Wirral Customer Service Desk had been launched on 2 October 2006 to improve performance in 'Calls for Service' for all grades of incidents. Since its launch Wirral's performance targets across all grades of incident has improved significantly. The refurbishment work at Well Lane Police Station has been completed and the building has been re-occupied. The general enquiry office is open daily between 9 am and 5 pm. The Mounted Section would be operating three-month training courses involving two horses in Wirral.

The DAAT team have employed two outreach workers to engage with homeless people and are trying to identify a property they can use to take homeless people to and try to help them resolve issues connected with homelessness.

A member of the public highlighted the problems caused by large numbers of 9-13 year old children who congregate during the evenings in the Lidl/Spar Shop/Library area in Rock Ferry. Local residents and passers-by felt intimidated by large groups of youngsters, even if they are just standing around.

The Police Officer explained that under a Section 30 Order, the Police have powers to disperse people who were being anti-social, but not to move them on. The Police would liaise with the CCTV operators and ask them to alert the Police when youths are gathering in the area.

- **Community Safety: Smartwater:** The Police Crime Protection Unit was promoting the use of smartwater technology to protect schools and other premises from illegal entry. The

smartwater kit includes a bottle of fluid which is used to mark all the valuable equipment kept in every school in Wirral. The hands and clothing of anyone handling the equipment is marked invisibly with an indelible mark which glows when detected by a special light. The custody suite and local nightclubs have been equipped with the lights that detect the mark when anyone enters. The technology enables any piece of stolen equipment that has been found to be traced back to the school or premises it has been stolen from.

Smartwater kits were being supplied free of charge to houses with alley gates. Kits would be supplied to households in other areas at a specially discounted charge of £15. Other security equipment includes a PIR light and an audible system that detects intruders in garages and sheds. Free Key Safe units, designed to prevent 'Hook & Cane' burglaries, were distributed at the meeting.

Copies of a graph depicting the decrease in the incidence of crime in alleygated areas compared with non-alleygated areas were distributed at the meeting. [Copies to be included with the minutes].

The Police were making efforts to identify the person/s responsible for blocking up alleygate locks. One person has been arrested but a successful prosecution has not yet been made. It has been found that the locks can be cleared by the careful use of a blowtorch.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: To thank Inspector Mick Blease, Ian Lowrie and Myles Platt for their updates.

-Copies of a graph depicting the decrease in the incidence of crime in alleygated areas compared with non-alleygated areas were distributed at the meeting. [Copies to be included with the minutes].

Minute 10 - Future meetings / presentations

Minute Text :

The Chair suggested that in future the venue for Area Forum meetings should alternate between Birkenhead and Rock Ferry, and that the next meeting should be held in Rock Ferry Library.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That –

i the next meeting of the Area Forum be held on Tuesday, 5 June 2007 at Rock Ferry Library;

ii the agenda to include an Update on the Workshops and a presentation from Shell on the Tranmere Oil Terminal.

Minute 11 - Any other business

Minute Text :

•Appreciation: Lenny McCormick, Community Representative, referred to a dangerous wall in Rock Ferry that had been brought to the attention of the Council some time ago but had not received attention. Local residents had contacted Councillor Bill Davies, and through his intervention the matter had been quickly resolved.

•Maxine Joynson: Mary Petris stated that Maxine was attending her final meeting as Area Co-ordinator for this Area Forum. Maxine had been a great influence in Rock Ferry for a long time, especially as a member of the Regeneration Team, and she had been involved in events in Rock Park over several years. Maxine is a very special person and she will be greatly missed. On behalf of Rock Ferry residents, Mary presented Maxine with a floral tribute as a gesture of their appreciation.

•Andy Brannan: The Area Forum welcomed Andy Brannan as the new Area Co-ordinator and looked forward to working with him.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Matters Arising

Minute Decision:

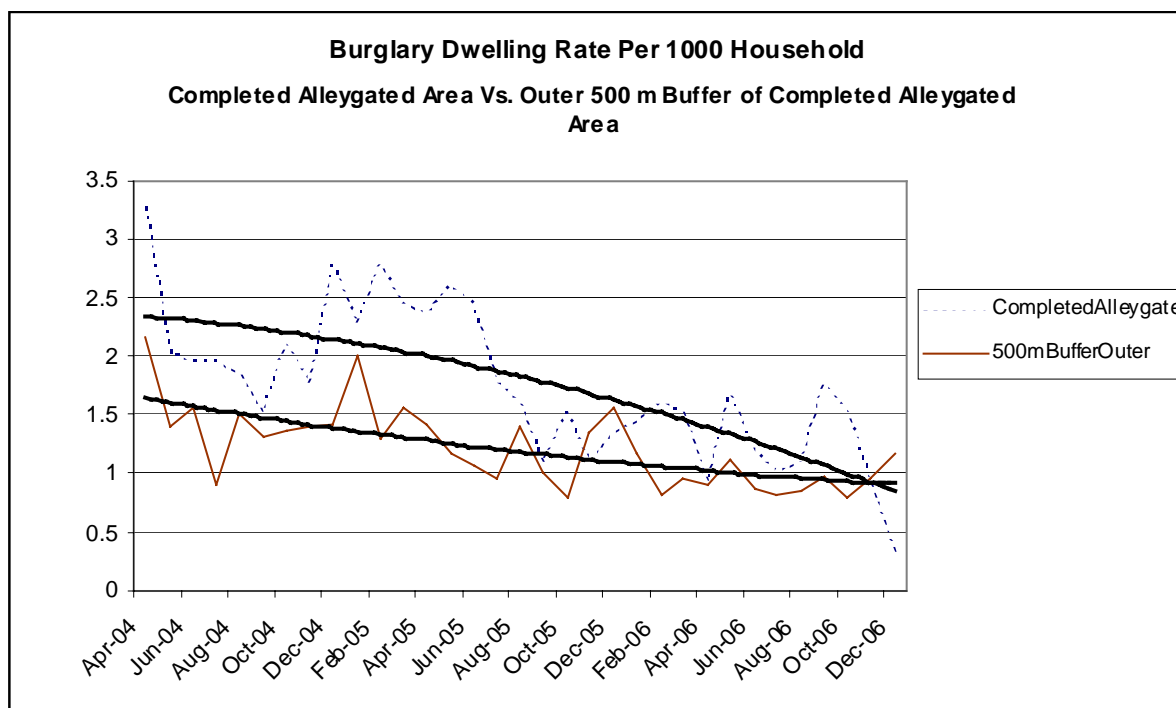
The Chair asked the Garry Cummings, Street Scene Manager, to join a colleague from Waste and Recycling Department, and walk around the area covered by Grenville Umbrella Tenants' Association and ensure that each issue is addressed.

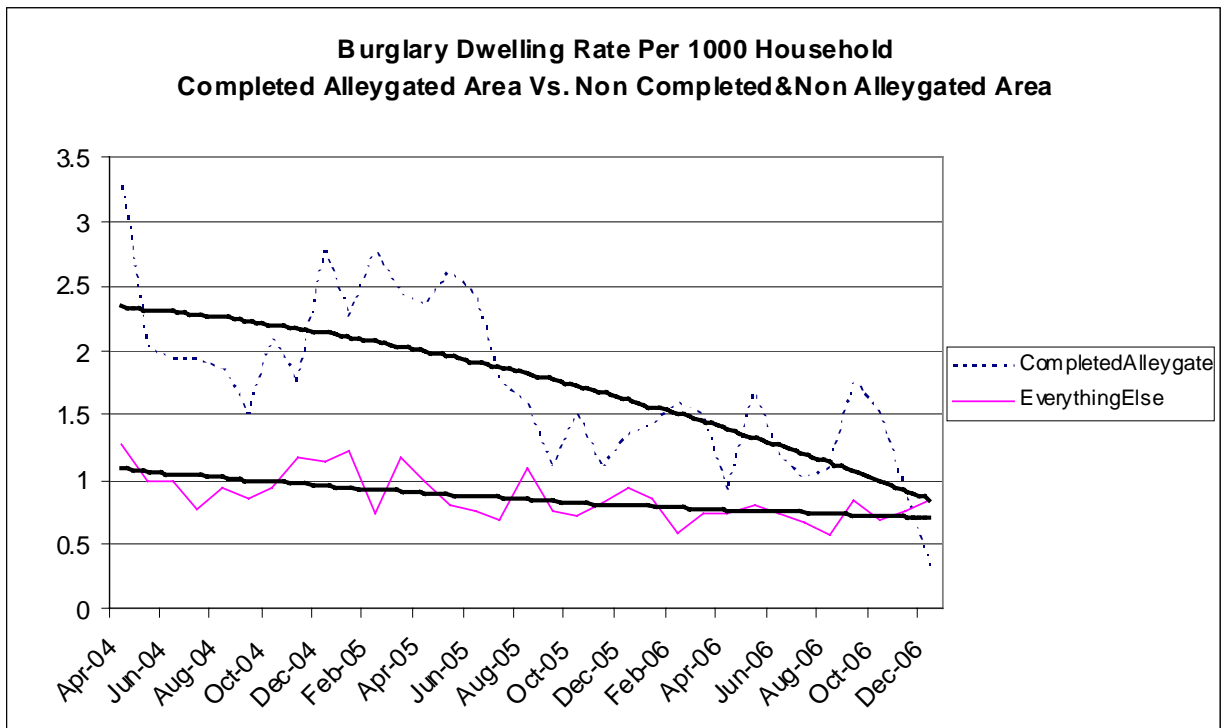
Garry Cummings, along with a Highways Officer, Fergus Adams from the Waste Department and Officers of the Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations, spent time with members of the Grenville Umbrella Tenants Association looking at the problems in their area.

After listening to the residents views covering issues from litter to anti-social behaviour, Garry as a Highways Officer, was only able to fix certain issues directly, but did liaise between the relevant sections and the group on all issues raised.

Minute Decision:

Copies of a graph depicting the decrease in the incidence of crime in alleygated areas compared with non-alleygated areas were distributed at the meeting to be included with the minutes.





Access gained through Front Door/window 63% reduction within the period
 Access gained through Back Door/window 34% reduction through out the period

Minute Decision:

A member of public enquired about alleygating along Park Road and why some sections of the road didn't have alleygating installed.

An objection was raised by a resident along Park Road which resulted in alleygates not being installed. Unfortunately it only takes one objection from a resident to prevent alleygates being installed in a street or area.

Update on workshops

Children & Young People / Safer & Stronger Communities

Verbal update to be given at the Forum

Healthier Communities & Older People

500 copies of the 'Get out get active leaflets' were designed and printed to promote all the activities available in Birkenhead and Tranmere, and Rock Ferry.

The leaflets were given out at the area forum with a view to encouraging people to take in these activities and hopefully lead a healthier lifestyle. If more copies of the leaflets are needed please contact Andy Brannan, Area Forum Co-ordinator on 0151 691 8391 or email andrewbrannan@wirral.gov.uk

SECTION TWO

Safer & Stronger Communities

Unlicensed landlords urged to contact council

WIRRAL Council is calling for all owners and managing agents of large rented properties to contact them before the end of the month or risk prosecution.

From last summer, large houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) have been required to be licensed by the council to comply with new housing laws. If a property is three storeys or more in height, occupied by five persons or more or forming more than one household sharing some facilities such as a kitchen or bathroom, then it will require a license. Without one, the owner or managing agent will face prosecution and a fine of up to £20,000.

Alan Stennard, Director of Regeneration at Wirral Council, said: "Houses in multiple occupation present some of the biggest health and safety risks for residents, especially with the risk of fire. To protect residents' well-being we urge landlords and managing agents of HMOs in Wirral to contact the council immediately. "So far we have issued licenses to 35 owners and managing agents but we know there are far more properties that should be licensed. By the end of March, we will have allowed 10 months for landlords and agents to contact the council. From April 2007 we will begin to prosecute those who have failed to apply for this compulsory scheme."

If you own or manage a HMO you should contact the Private Sector Housing team on 0151 691 8118 now. After March 31st it will be an offence to run or manage unlicensed premises and after that date the council will increase the level of license fees to be charged to cover its enforcement costs.

Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association

The Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association would like to hear from anyone worried about anti-social behaviour in their community.



Representing around 50 tenant and resident associations in Wirral, the Federation of Tenants and Residents Association sees first hand the effect anti social behaviour has. Anti social behaviour affects people's lives in so many ways. To help address this issue, Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association is organising an anti social behaviour conference in September at Tranmere Rovers FC.

The conference will provide an ideal opportunity for tenants and residents to meet and speak to the people who's jobs it is to reduce anti social behaviour in Wirral.

If you are interested in attending please contact Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association on 0151 666 1770 or email wirralfed@hotmail.com

New Services at your local One Stop Shops

Since February this year the following services have been made newly available via your local One Stop Shop:

Licensing

The main change is that the Licensing Reception point at Wallasey Town Hall has closed to the public and therefore you are able to pick up and drop off forms plus get advice and information at any One Stop Shop on the following areas:

- Licenses for airport/chauffeur services
- New and renewal licence applications for Hackney/Private hire drivers
- Permits for house to house collections
- Lottery licences
- Personal licenses for the supply of alcohol at licensed premises
- New licenses or requests for variation of existing licenses for premises or club premises
- Review requests for premises or club premises licenses
- New and renewal license applications for private hire operators
- Applications for Street Collection licenses
- Temporary Event notices
- New and renewal licence applications for Hackney/Private hire vehicles

We will also check any proofs that you supply, take payments where necessary and book any relevant tests/courses you will need to go on

Council job vacancies

If you see a vacancy you want to apply for, you can now go to any One Stop Shop and get an application pack for that job. You can also contact our Call Centre and a recruitment pack will be sent to you within a few days.

Also when you come to return the form you can take it back to any One Stop Shop and they will record that they have received it from you and give you a receipt. This means that you no longer have to go to Wallasey Town Hall to hand job applications in, and you can be guaranteed that the form is in before the closing date.

Streetscene

You can also access more Streetscene services at your local One Stop Shop so you can now request:

- Removal of any fly tipping
- To go on the Help List for bin collection
- Help following a missed bin collection
- Street cleaning
- A replacement bin following damage etc

Also don't forget if you have a query about when your bins are due to be collected you can do this via your local One Stop Shop, Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 or at www.wirral.gov.uk/recycling/

Tourism

One Stop Shops can now give information and advice on Wirral's tourist attractions and events on Wirral.

Pest Control

It is planned that from the end of June you will be able to request the Pest Control Service from your local One Stop Shop as well as being able to phone our Call Centre. We will be able to make the appointment for you there and then whilst you wait.

New Advice Surgeries

Bebington One Stop Shop

There is now a Police Surgery being held at Bebington One Stop Shop on the first Tuesday of each month. The times and dates for 2007 are as follows:

1pm-3pm 5th June 2007
1pm-3pm 3rd July 2007
1pm-3pm 7th August 2007
1pm-3pm 4th September 2007
1pm-3pm 2nd October 2007
1pm-3pm 6th November 2007
1pm-3pm 4th December 2007

Police and Community Support Officers will staff the surgery and will be there to discuss neighbourhood concerns of local residents.

Eastham One Stop Shop

There is a Police Surgery being held at Eastham One Stop Shop (next to the Library). The surgeries are held between 10.00am and 12 noon with the next one on the 18th June. They are then every 3 week after that. Officers will be handing out crime prevention materials to encourage local people to improve their personal, home and car security

So pop into your One Stop Shop for further information on any council service – everything you could ask for under one roof.

For details of where your nearest One Stop Shop is please contact 0151 606 2000 or go to http://www.wirral.gov.uk/fn/one_stop_shops.htm

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Each year each fire station produces a service plan setting key objectives for that station to focus its activities on during that financial year. The objectives are agreed and

are set in line with the Integrated Risk Management Plan for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service which can be viewed on our website merseyfire.gov.uk

Key objectives for all Wirral stations include:

- Use of local intelligence to access the “hard to reach” in the community to deliver Home Fire safety Checks.
- Affect a strategy to reduce fires in derelict properties.
- Continue to work with community partners to promote healthy lifestyles.
- Work with partner agencies to reduce the number of Road Traffic Collisions.
- Devise a strategy to reduce small fires in grasslands and open spaces with the Arson Reduction Advocate.
- Introduce a specialist Hazardous Materials response vehicle at Bromborough.

Home Fire Safety Checks

The number of home fire safety checks including the free fitting of smoke detectors carried out by operational crews in peoples homes in Wirral has increased by over 20% with 1700 carried out in April alone.

To get your free home fire safety check call 0800 731 5958.

Station Contact Numbers Ask for the Watch Manager

Birkenhead	0151 650 0422
Bromborough	0151 548 9258
Heswall	0151 342 4510
Upton	0151 678 0819
Wallasey	0151 630 3040
West Kirby	0151 625 1157

Information and details relating to particular areas will be available from the Wirral Management Team at the Forums.

Wirral Community Safety Team

All Wirral

- 3G cameras now available and in use in Tranmere and soon to be in Woodchurch
- The Home Office Minister Louise Casey has identified Wirral as one of the England’s ‘Respect Action Areas’. The ‘Respect Housing Standard’ an agreement with Registered Social Landlords will start in early June. Wirral’s largest registered social Landlords are signed up to this initiative and will be meeting on a monthly basis to ensure standards are maintained.
- Police and Wirral Partnership Homes are working with the Wirral Joint Community Safety Team to reduce Criminal Damage to properties. This will act as a pilot project to be taken up by other registered social landlords.

Birkenhead and Tranmere

- The much publicised ‘talking CCTVs’ are now being deployed starting with Charing Cross, Birkenhead.

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas

- An initiative to provide computers to pupils has worked with Wirral Joint Community Safety Team to ensure they are delivered and used in safety. Specialist Brigadoon Stealth software was deployed which disables and locates computers if stolen.

Planning Aid

Planning Aid provides free, independent and professional town planning advice and support to communities and individuals who cannot afford to pay planning consultant fees. It complements the work of local planning authorities, but is wholly independent of them.

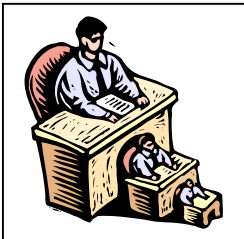
In addition to providing advice, Planning Aid aims to empower local communities by helping them to effectively engage with the planning process and influence decisions that affect their neighbourhood.

The service is targeted at people who would otherwise be excluded from participating in local decision making. The current focus of the organisation is on widening engagement in the planning process and giving an equal voice to all those involved in planning.

Planning Aid could help with education of forum members or community groups to help them better understand the Planning System or hold consultation events. If the forum knows of any areas where the charity could become involved, this would be a great opportunity. Leaflets could also be made available to publicise the service.

The following links provide more information about Planning Aid & some of the projects it has supported:

<http://www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk/>



LEES NEWS



VOLUME 5

EDITION 7

DATE 08/02/2007



At Last.



No 37 and 39 Howson Street.

At long last, after 5 years of letter writing and a lot of help from your M.P. Frank Field and your local councillors, work has finally begun on renovating the two eyesores in Howson Street. When the work has been completed, the properties will be sold, hopefully to owner occupiers who will maintain them in the condition they will be brought to by the contractors carrying out the work.

Barbecue

Every property in the area received a flyer advertising the planned Association barbecue for the May Bank Holiday Sunday. You were asked to fill in the tear off strip at the bottom of the flyer and push it through No19 Lees Avenue if you wanted to attend. Regrettably, the response has been somewhat disappointing. So I have been asked to re-advertise the event in this newsletter. If you want to go to the barbecue, please write down your name, address, the ages and the numbers wishing to attend and push it through the door of 19 Lees Avenue. If there are insufficient numbers wishing to attend then unfortunately we will have to cancel the event. **You have until Monday to do this, the event will not be re advertised.**

FUNDING SUCCESS

We have successfully applied to The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for funding to carry on the Kangoo exercise classes on a Monday and Wednesday evenings for a further twelve months. The total sum awarded was £4,320.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the staff of Tranmere Alliance for their assistance in completing the application forms. Without their help the application may not have succeeded. Thank you all at Tranmere Alliance, in particular Stephanie Reid. The kangoo classes are proving to be a great success, they are good fun, an excellent form of low impact exercise and ideal for weight loss. So why not come along and have a go? You never know you may like it. The classes are held on Monday nights from 7pm until 8pm and Wednesday nights from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. If you are interested.

Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held in the school sports barn on Thursday 8th February at 7.30pm. Please come along and tell us what you want for your area. We need your input to improve things, so come along and have your say. As usual there will be free tea, coffee and biscuits available to anyone who wants to have them.

Healthier Communities & Older People

Wirral Hospital 
NHS Trust

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NHS Foundation Trust - All hospitals have to become FTs by 2008. NHS FTs are a new kind of NHS organisation. They are accountable to their Membership and to Parliament, rather than to the Department of Health. An independent regulator, Monitor, makes sure they meet requirements and reports on this to Parliament. FTs have Members and Governors – unlike current NHS trusts. Members elect Governors to represent them and to set direction for the organisation. The establishment of a

membership and Assembly of Governors is a key part of our ongoing engagement strategy. We are aiming for at least 13,000 public members – currently we have 6,000.

An NHS FT:

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

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

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

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

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

services while making realistic financial assumptions and meeting national efficiency requirements. To do this we have developed a five year plan which includes:

- Our plans to treat many more patients and so reduce waiting times to 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment by December 2008
- Our plans to spend over £10M a year on better equipment and facilities such as more single rooms and ward upgrades, patients accommodation and a new heart treatment laboratory
- Our plans to develop more specialist services locally to avoid patients having to travel to Liverpool

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

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

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

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

Technology to help vulnerable people in Wirral to live at home

Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services, in partnership with Wirral Partnership Homes and Wirral Primary Care Trust is setting up a new, technology-based service that will help disabled and older people to live at home more safely.

The Assistive Technology Project will be launched officially by Wirral's Mayor, Cllr Peter Johnson, at the 'Smart House' on the Woodchurch Estate in Birkenhead on Monday, April 30.

The 'Smart House' will showcase equipment to support people who have difficulty due to age or disability in carrying out everyday tasks.

Nationally, the benefits of assistive technology have been well researched. They include enabling people to live more safely at home, assisting with hospital discharges, supporting falls or accident prevention and reassurance for carers.

Wirral has concentrated on two areas of assistive technology; Telecare and Telemedicine

Telecare means supporting and reassuring service-users from a distance with the help of technology. A range of smart sensors and detectors designed to improve safety in the home connect users by telephone to a monitoring centre via a Lifeline base unit, which is provided by Wirral Partnership Homes.

In the case of an incident or a request for help, the sensors will activate and alert the monitoring centre within seconds. Trained operators will promptly respond to the call.

In many cases, operators will contact a key-holder nominated by the client, for example a relative or neighbour. In other cases this will be a back-up response service.

Wirral's Director of Adult Social Services, Kevin Miller, said: "This is a genuinely exciting project that will enable vulnerable people to live safely and independently in their own homes.

Kevin added: "The extent to which this project can make a difference to the lives of older people and their carers is staggering; The range of sensors that Wirral will be providing in the initial phase of the project include fall, flood and gas detectors, emergency pull-cord, movement and wandering detectors, bed occupancy sensors and a medication reminder."

The equipment can be commissioned by occupational therapists and social workers working in hospitals, community teams and Adult Social Services.

In the longer term, the Assistive Technology Team will be exploring the role of Registered Social Landlords and other service-providers in the provision of assistive technology.

Telemedicine will come on stream in the coming months. It is designed to compliment traditional health care and will not replace face-to-face contact with older and disabled people. Telemedicine works by monitoring vital signs such as blood pressure, blood sugars, pulse etc. The data is then transmitted to the clinician's computer where it is closely monitored ensuring a constant picture of a person's health and well being and alerting clinicians to problems

Children & Young People

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

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

- 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 from Wallasey to Eastham and Birkenhead to West Kirby. Street work teams of youth workers make contact with young people who do not access the service elsewhere, build relationships with them and in negotiation with the young people, develop programmes which address their specific needs. This work is delivered on the streets, through project work and on mobile Kontaktabus.

Response

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty.

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

International Work

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

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 500 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

The Award is available to all young people aged between 14 and 25 with the emphasis being the development of young people's leisure time. By taking part in the Award, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts

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.

Birkenhead & Tranmere and Rock Ferry.

Viking Youth Club

Every year Viking hosts a red ribbon football competition and this was another great success. As winners of the Youth Federations Mission Impossible the winning team were able to enjoy an evening at a pantomime followed by a meal. Sports and arts activities are the main focus of the programme. Young people from the Club help regularly in the local community particularly in the delivery of community newsletters.

The Birkenhead Youth Action Project

The Birkenhead Youth Action Project undertakes street-work in the area. The Harmony Project that runs on a Friday night aims to bring young people from the Muslim community together with non-Muslims to participate in sporting activities. Recently, over 50 young people attended an open forum with the police and local elected members to discuss their concerns about the area. In partnership with Tranmere Together, The South Wirral Young People's Project continues to work with young people in a street-work context. Work is going well with the Dig It Project, a Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service/ Wirral Youth Service initiative, supported by elected members. It is hoped that the plants grown by the young people will soon be ready to sell, possibly at the New Ferry Farmers Market.

Wirral school children win recycling challenge

Schoolchildren across Wirral have scored a double jackpot simply by recycling old Yellow Pages directories - winning hundreds of pounds for their schools and raising enough money to plant and care for 70 native trees.

Twenty schools recently took on the Yellow Woods Challenge – the simple, educational and fun environmental campaign for schools run by Yellow Pages, working with the Woodland Trust – the UK’s leading woodland conservation charity - and Wirral Council.

The schools had fun competing against each other, recycling over 6000 old Yellow Pages directories. Clare Mount Specialist Sports College beat off fierce competition, recycling an impressive 12.53 old Yellow Pages directories per pupil to take the ‘Gold Oak’ title and win £300. Kilgarth School has been named the ‘Silver Birch’ winner and receives £200, while Orretts Meadow School has been rewarded with £100 and the ‘Bronze Beech’ title.

Stanley Special School will also receive a £100 bonus prize from Yellow Pages for the school that builds the best giant sculpture using old Yellow Pages directories.

Richard Duggleby, head of external relations at Yell – the publisher of Yellow Pages directories, said: “For every pound we award to schools for recycling old Yellow Pages directories, we give a matching pound to the Woodland Trust. Thanks to the recycling efforts of residents and schools in Wirral, that’s another £700 raised for the Trust.”*

The Woodland Trust will use the money to support its ‘Tree For All’ campaign – the most ambitious children’s tree-planting project ever launched in the UK.

Janice Hix, corporate partnerships manager with the Woodland Trust, said: “This is a very valuable contribution towards our goal. We’re hoping to raise enough money through the Yellow Woods Challenge this year to plant and care for more than five hectares of native woodland – an area as big as 13 football pitches. “Woodland is the UK’s richest wildlife habitat and offers benefits for the environment, for people and for communities. Tree planting is really important as we are one of the least wooded countries in Europe.”

The local competition has now closed, but the schools have several more chances to win thousands of pounds in the national competition for their recycling, environmental education, community involvement and sculpture building efforts.

David Green, Wirral Council’s Director of Technical Services added: “This has been a fantastic competition with over 5 tonnes of old directories diverted from landfill and recycled into cardboard. I congratulate our schools for their achievements locally and wish them all the best of luck in the national competition.”

For more information about the local and national Yellow Woods Challenge competition, please visit www.yellow-woods.co.uk

Thousands of Pounds available for Wirral Teenagers

Wirral’s teenagers will soon get the chance to bid for a share of hundreds of thousands of pounds to pay for projects and equipment to improve their lives.

A total of £377, 513 is available from the Youth Capital Fund and the Youth Opportunity Fund this year in the borough.

Application forms are available from April 2 – and must be submitted by midday on June

25. Wirral's new grant panel of young people aged 13-19 will decide which projects are successful.

Youth Capital Fund money is for capital projects – ie buying equipment, new builds or refurbishments.

Youth Opportunity Fund money is for places to go and things to do – ie projects, residential stays, trips which support young people's personal development.

Applications should be made from groups or young people aged 13-19. Individuals can't apply.

Last year the funds were oversubscribed by almost £1 million. Successful applications included a new minibus for a youth club, new equipment for parks and clubs, support for homeless young people, a booklet written by young carers to help others in their situation, residential and trips.

Maureen McDaid, Head of Wirral's Youth and Play Service, said: "Last year's money has paid for some wonderful projects and broadened opportunities for Wirral's young people. This year's grant panel will have to make some tough decisions – they will be paying close attention to the benefits each application represents."

To request an application pack or find out more about serving on this year's grant panel please contact Youth and Play Service on 637 6370.

First school in Wirral to pioneer grey bin recycling

WIRRAL Council and St Anselm's College have joined together to introduce Wirral's paper and packaging recycling collection to the school.

New grey bins have been delivered to match every regular bin to encourage students to recycle everything they can. The school is leading the way with innovative ideas to help the environment and reduce the amount of waste they produce.

David Green, Director of Technical Services said, "St Anselm's was chosen to pilot the paper and packaging collection due to their forward thinking in many areas of environment protection. We were also very impressed that it's the students that are pushing for the recycling, not just the teachers.

"It's essential that we think about schools as well as households in Wirral in order to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and recycle as much as possible."

St Anselms students created an eco-group the self-named 'Plastic Scousers' who have accepted the task of getting all students to use the grey bins recycling plastic bottles, cans and tins, card and glass by holding assemblies for all students. The paper has already been collected out of every classroom and recycled for some time.

Mr A Rumsby, Deputy Headmaster commented; "When I joined the college in September there was some recycling happening but the systems were not in place for it to be expanded. It took very little to spark the boys into action and the whole initiative is

now being driven by our Eco Committee. They have been given the brief to investigate and promote recycling options within our community. They have just found a source for stationery manufactured from recycled materials; the possibilities for continual improvement seem to be endless!"

The school also recycles mobile phones, ink cartridges, CDs and another student group called 'Organic Youth' care and attend to the school's new vegetable garden with a school composter recycling kitchen waste.

The school is appealing for any help to continue to set up the new vegetable garden so any cash, seeds, plants or compost would be greatly appreciated.

Space-themed reading project ready for lift-off

Pupils from four local primary schools and staff from nearby libraries are on final countdown ahead of the launch of this year's "Reach For The Stars" reading project.

The project, which first took place 10 years ago in Wirral, involves children from the schools being split into teams then reading as many books with a space theme as they can over a six-week period.

They report into their local libraries on a weekly basis to provide an update on their progress and select more books to borrow.

At the end of the project, everyone who takes part will be invited to a celebration event where the Mayor will present them with a certificate and badges in recognition of their achievements.

The Mayor, along with popular Liverpool poet, Levi Tafari and the project's very own spaceman, will be on hand to launch this year's project on Thursday and Friday this week. Levi has written a special "Reach for the Stars" rap, which he will perform at the launch and at the celebration finale.

On Thursday 3rd, it is all systems go at Leasowe Library at 10.30am with children from Leasowe Primary school. Then on Friday 4th, pupils from Portland Primary will be St. James' Library at 9.15am for their launch, followed by similar events in the children's section at Birkenhead Central library with pupils from Cathcart Street school (10.30am) and at Ridgeway Library with St. Peter's primary at 1.15pm. The Mayor, Levi and the project's astronaut will be present at all four launches.

Sue Powell, Head of Libraries and Halls for Wirral Council, said: "This project has proved massively popular with children for a decade now and goes from strength to strength. It aims to promote reading for pleasure among pupils, at levels above and beyond what they might do anyway and we are delighted to have the backing of the Mayor and Levi once again this year."

Economic Development and Enterprise

Fairtrade Guide available

A new Fairtrade Guide to Wirral is now available with details of local shops and cafes, more about the local campaign and about why it's important to support farmers in the developing world.

Wirral officially became a Fairtrade Borough in April 2006. In partnership with Wirral Council, the campaign has been led by the Fairworld Group – part of Wirral Local Agenda 21 Network – which includes representatives from many local churches, environmental and social justice groups.

The Guide lists dozens of local shops and cafés that stock products with the distinctive Fairtrade Mark on them. It also highlights the work local schools have done to spread the message.

It will be widely available at local libraries, One Stop Shops, Fairtrade shops and cafes, or by calling 0151 639 2121

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Not sure when your bin or recycling is collected?

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

www.wirral.gov.uk (Home Page) **Just follow the home page 'waste and recycling' link:**

- Scroll Down and click on “Waste & Recycling Link” on the right hand side of the page
- There you will find information on the following:
 - **Wirral Refuse & recycling Collection and Related Links:**
 - Get Composting
 - Grey Bin FAQ
 - Interesting Fast
 - Glossary of waste & Recycling Terms
 - What is Global Warming
 - History of disposing of our rubbish
 - So what is landfill

- Collection Calendar

Latest news on changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collections

Residents urged to read their information packs as changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collections get underway. Wirral's new waste and recycling collections have begun, with residents being asked to use different types of bin for their waste and recyclable materials.

As the new collections roll out across Wirral, homes will use:

A brown bin, for garden waste only (with the exception of a limited number of homes who are taking part in a trial combined food and garden waste scheme). A grey bin, for 'dry' recyclables such as plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars, paper, cardboard, tins and cans. Their usual green wheelie bin for all other waste that can not be recycled.

The new service is being delivered area by area, and as each phase begins, residents in that area will receive an information pack and collections' calendar so everyone will know which bin is being collected when, and what to put in it.

The information you receive is specific and targeted to the street you live in, and is not applicable to a friend or neighbour, even one living nearby. You should ensure you read the instructions delivered to your home carefully and keep them in a safe place. We know that some residents are apprehensive about the new scheme, but this is one of the most convenient schemes around the country; instead of a number of different bins, bags and boxes for different types of waste, this gives residents the chance to use the minimum of means to recycle the maximum amount of waste - with no need for sorting. We do it for you.

Help is available from a number of sources: If you have access to the internet, use our [collection day search engine](#) for a road-by-road breakdown of latest collection information for your street. Alternatively you can call into any of Wirral's One Stop Shops, or to your local library, who will be able to access the internet for you for free.

The council call centre, Streetscene on- 606 2004 - will also be able to help, but please be aware that it is experiencing a high volume of calls at the moment and you may have to wait for assistance. We're sorry for any inconvenience you may be experiencing due to this.

These collections are being introduced to help the Council meet new recycling targets to cut down on the amount of waste it sends to landfill. In the long run, it will not only save precious resources for future generations, but will save council taxpayers money as it reduces the amount of landfill tax we have to pay.

Please bear with us while these changes settle down; as with any major change, it takes time for people to get used to new processes and new systems. We appreciate your patience and apologise for any inconvenience suffered while the service is established

SECTION THREE

Birkenhead, Tranmere and Rock Ferry CIF Funding Update

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Wirral Chinese Association	To promote Chinese culture by the provision of recreational activities for ethnic Chinese.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £200.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We held Origami / knots binding and Chinese painting sessions for 110 participants. The students created ornaments and Chinese paintings and these were put on exhibition at the end of term.
Rock Ferry Robins Majorettes (renamed Bethany Starlights)	To contribute towards the costs of weekly hire of bus and to purchase new uniforms.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,000.00 towards the uniforms from the Community Initiatives Fund, and requested that photographs of troupe be submitted for inclusion in the area forum progress report.	A big thank you from everyone at Bethany Starlights Majorettes for the donation towards our uniforms. The uniforms are now finished and we are competing in our 2007 season.
Birkenhead Squash Club (Part of Birkenhead Park Football Club)	To carry out improvements to the squash courts and purchase sports equipment.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £249.70, specifically towards squash racquets and junior safety glasses, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Thank you for your donation that has been spent on kit for junior squash. The equipment is being made available to schools that use the club as part of our Community Club Initiative.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Charing Cross Methodist Centre	To secure the building against vandalism and theft by the installation of roller shutters on rear windows and french door.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives / Community Safety Fund.	The roller shutter for the french door is now fitted and in use. The centre is now much more secure.
Charing Cross Methodist Youth Club	To create a sensory garden next to the adventure playground.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We started by consulting young people on the gardens they like and included them in the planning. We then had some hard work clearing and preparing the area. Next we planted bulbs and bought some planters. Throughout this young people have helped to plan and carry out the garden work.
Wirral Women & Childrens Aid	To help run the youth club for the next 12	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £930.00 towards this, specifically towards the equipment element of the project, from the Community Safety Fund.	The children who attend our weekly run youth club have all experienced / witnessed domestic abuse. Most of them have lived in the refuge for part of their young lives. The youth club provides weekly activities for for them, enabling them to be children and giving them, and their mums, respite for a short period of time on an ongoing basis.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Tranmere Community Project	To purchase sports equipment and games for evening youth activity sessions.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £970.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding was used to provide the sports equipment, games and arts/craft materials for evening youth sessions held between October 2005 and April
Mersey Unit Maritime Volunteer Service (MVS Merse)	To extend training and marshalling service by the purchase an additional boat.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £200.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding was used towards the purchase of a rigid inflatable boat costing £4,500. The boat has provided additional training facilities for members and also it has been used to introduce young people from Birkenhead Boys Club to boat handling.
Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability	To contribute towards provision of a new heavyweight scooter for Birkenhead Shopmobility to meet the needs of an expanding membership.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £300.00 towards this project from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The scooter has been purchased, thank you for your support of our important work that that serves disabled people on Wirral, and particularly Birkenhead.
Christ Church Birkenhead	To contribute towards refurbishment works to the kitchen.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £300.00, specifically for fridge, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We allocated your kind donation to a new fridge and have refurbished our kitchen. We look forward to offering our regular Sunday lunches again, and introducing Saturday breakfasts.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
The Salvation Army (Rock Ferry Corps)	To redecorate and replace carpeting and equipment at the	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £230.00, specifically towards leaflet racks, oven trays, serving dishes etc., from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Leaflet racks have been purchased and installed in the Community Hall and now display a variety of information. Various items of kitchen equipment has been purchased to improve and upgrade the functioning of the Lunch Club and other activities. Decorating has proceeded by volunteers.
Bebington Road Allotment Society	To improve the roadways at the allotment site.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £873.03 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The first phase of the improvements to the roadways on the allotments have been successfully completed. This has been of huge benefit to the local community. It has enabled both ploholders and unemployed local people, undergoing training in horticulture, to access the site.
Football in the Community at Tranmere Rovers FC	To deliver a football specific soccer school to children from Gilbrook School during the Summer holidays.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £39.00 for medals / certificates from the Community Initiatives Fund, as are unable to fund the coaching element of the scheme.	<p>Numerous coaching sessions and competitions were organised for the children of Gilbrook School. We were able to fund the coaching element of the scheme through other sources but were very grateful for the funding allocated for medals and certificates.</p> <p>The children of Gilbrook really appreciated our involvement with the school and we will be looking to repeat this exercise again in the future.</p>

SECTION FOUR

Local Area Plan Update

Background The area plans were developed during 2004 to 2006 and launched in May 2006. In order to align them to Wirral's local area agreement, the area plans will be refreshed and reviewed on an annual basis to reflect Wirral and area forum priorities, and will follow the same delivery timeframe as the agreement.

Purpose The purpose of the area plans is to identify local issues, priorities and needs and to support and guide the forums in working towards addressing these throughout the year. The area plans are a development that will evolve over time as issues are addressed and new priorities emerge. The area plans aim to give an understanding of the local area in which residents live through the provision of information about what is in the area and statistical information about the needs of the local population. It also identifies local issues that have been raised through the forums and contributes towards achieving local area agreement priorities and outcomes.

The purpose of refreshing the plans is to standardise the 11 area plans ensuring they are easy to use and useful to residents. The proposed new structure will enable local issues and priorities to be identified and included in the area plans, this will ensure that through regular monitoring, Wirral Council and its partners are providing a dynamic and responsive approach to local issues.

Proposals for new look area plans It is proposed that the area plans will feature three main sections;

- Introduction
- Statistical Information
- Local priority action plan

Introduction This section will set out the purpose of the plans and introduce the members of the area forum. Contextual information about the area will still feature in this section, however in order to make these plans as user friendly and accessible as possible, this section will look to signpost to other websites and contact details for further information where appropriate.

Statistical Information In order to provide a standard approach to all of the area forum plans, the statistical information for each of the area plans will follow the same format and include the same content, adapted to show highlighted information for each of the forum areas. The section will focus on the individual area forum and also provide comparative information for Wirral to provide context.

Local priority action plan As part of the review of the existing area plans, each area coordinator will address the issues which feature in the local issues section of each plan and identify outstanding issues. These issues will transfer into the refreshed area plans to ensure they remain a key focus for the area forum. The owner of each action will be a named partner who will have responsibility to tackle this issue. Issues that have been resolved will not be taken forward into refreshed area plans. This will ensure that there is a clear focus on the key outstanding priorities and issues that are identified at a local level for each area forum. As new priorities are identified, they will also form part of the local priority action plan to be addressed at each area forums and progressed through the responsible partner.

SECTION FIVE

Streetscene and Waste Update

Birkenhead Parking

New parking regulations came into force in Birkenhead Town Centre in April, which replaced the existing Disc Zone with a new Controlled Parking Zone.

Motorists now have to pay to park in the new parking zone, between the hours of 8:00am and 6:30pm. Wirral Council did allow for people to become accustomed to the new charges, by offering a few weeks 'grace period' where no parking fines were issued.

The charges have been introduced to reduce congestion and accidents, encourage people to use public transport, free up more parking spaces, and improve access for emergency vehicles and disabled drivers.

Changes to Speed Restrictions

Wirral Council received a number of enquiries and petitions expressing concern about the speed of traffic in sections of Telegraph Road, Column Road and Thurstaston Road. As part of a scheme to improve road safety it is proposed to reduce the speed limit along sections of these roads.

Consultation letters have been sent out to residents in the area, notices have been placed on site and the proposed orders appeared in the local press.

The proposed speed reductions are as follows:

- Telegraph Road and Column Road from Church Lane to Grange Cross Lane will be reduced from 50mph to 40mph.
- Drivers travelling along Column Road from Grange Cross Lane to Croome Drive will be forced to slow from 40mph to 30mph.
- The existing 50mph speed limit in Thurstaston Road from Telegraph Road to reduced to 40mph.

Residents Parking Zones

After many requests and complaints from residents about the lack of parking facilities outside their homes due to non-residents (students, shoppers, commuters) using the spaces, Wirral Council are running a consultation about possible Residents' Parking Zones. The consultation is in the very early stages and will be carried out in seven pilot areas across the borough.

The Council have no budget set aside for creating Residents' Parking Zones so are suggesting that all residents' who opt for a zone pay an approximate £75 set up charge per household. This funding would then go to signing, road markings, permit issuing and enforcement.

Residents in the seven pilot areas will be receiving a letter, leaflet and questionnaire. We urge everyone who receives this correspondence to state their views via the feedback questionnaire and return it.

No charges will be incurred by residents within existing zones.

Road Safety Campaigns - Young pedestrians, young drivers and young passengers

Wirral Road Safety Partnership (Wirral Council & Merseyside Police) commissioned a radio advertisement campaign aimed at teenagers and young

people. A series of three hard-hitting adverts were aired daily on Radio City 96.7 throughout March and April, urging young people to belt up when in car, and to take care as a pedestrian.

In addition to the air-time campaign, Wirral Road Safety and Radio City are hosting a competition between four Wirral high schools - Woodchurch, Park High, Rock Ferry High and The Wallasey School. This competition asks for students to compile a short road safety advert film, and spread the film to friends and other young people, via mobile phone and the internet etc. The winners will be announced in June.

Traffic Safety Schemes

Since the last update at the beginning of the year, we have implemented the following traffic safety schemes:

Conway Street / Exmouth Street	Signal Improvement
Hoylake Road / Reeds Lane	Signal Improvement
Duke Street	New Puffin Crossing
Port Sunlight Station	New Refuge
Bebington Station	New Refuge
Greenfield Avenue / Dawpool Drive	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
Dock Road	Traffic Improvement
Birkenhead Park Station	Convert Zebra to Puffin Crossing
Manor Lane, Liscard	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
St. Georges Way, Thornton Hough	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
M53 exit slip road (Toyota Dealership)	Speed limit reduction /
New Carriageway and markings / New signs	

Highway Maintenance Contracts

The extensive procurement exercise for the future provision of all Highway Maintenance works continues. Consultants, Capita Symonds, are currently preparing options and reports to be put to Members. The contract will cover maintenance works such as footway and carriageway works, traffic signals, gully cleansing and street lighting.

Wirral on the Road to Recycling

Working alongside Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, Wirral Council is encouraging local companies to use recycled materials and where possible use them within Council business.

One example of this is how we are using 100% recycled plastic kerb stones for pavements around the borough. The kerbs are light, very hard wearing and are reducing the length of time it takes to repair roads. This ultimately will save the Council money and provide us with a more effective material for road reconstruction.

The kerbs mean the use of technical lifting equipment is unnecessary due to their light weight and it's therefore much safer for staff to use. All the pilot schemes have also shown us how hard wearing the material is.

Cigarette / Smoking-related Litter

Wirral Council are aware that when Wirral goes 'smokefree' on July 1st, there will be a backlash of cigarette litter.

In preparation for this, the installation of 50 cigarette bins is imminent in the Birkenhead and Liscard town centre areas. Discarding cigarette butts is an offence, as is dropping any litter, and is subject to a £75 fine.

To deter Wirral residents from committing the offence, we are warning them of the £75 fine. We are heading up an extensive advertising campaign, including adverts

on billboards, bus stops, phone boxes and bus rears. Will also be hosting events to give away portable ashtrays (Stubbi pouches) and communicate the fact that people will be given £75 fines if they are caught dropping a cigarette stub, or any form of litter.

Major Surfacing Schemes

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

Footway works completed
Heswall Mount, Thingwall
Rullerton Road, Wallasey (part)
Downham Road, Tranmere (part)
Orchard Road, Moreton
Parkway/Parkway Close, Irby
Moseley Avenue, Wallasey
135 -157 Thingwall Road Irby Cestrian Drive, Thingwall
Birchway, Gayton
Aysgarth Road, Wallasey
Craigleigh Grove, Eastham
Holmlands Drive (Part) Oxton
Haydock Road, New Brighton
Darmonds Green, West Kirby

Future footway works planned
Wakefield Drive, Leasowe
Caldwell Drive, Upton
Burlingham Avenue, West Kirby (part)
The Laund, Wallasey
Derwent Drive, Liscard
Dalmorton Road (part) New Brighton
Croxteth Avenue, Liscard
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard Devonshire Road, West Kirby
Bassenthwaite Avenue, Claughton
Upton Road (part) Claughton
Nursury Close, Oxton
Grafton Street (part) Birkenhead
Well Lane, Bebington
Fieldway, Bebington

Carriageway resurfacing completed
Trinity/Eddisbury/Kingswood/Berwyn Roads, Wallasey
Wright Street, Wallasey
Kinglake Road, Wallasey (part)
Lingdale Road North, Claughton
Adelaide Road, Birkenhead
Byron Close, Prenton
Redcar Road, Wallasey
Moseley Avenue, Liscard
Palmerston Road, Wallasey Gorsedale Road (part) Seacombe
Beryl Road, Claughton
St Elmo Road, Liscard
Hoscote Park, West Kirby
Elm Grove, Hoyle
Orchard Grange, Moreton
Twickenham Drive (part) Leasowe
Darmonds Green, West Kirby
Redhouse Lane, West Kirby

Carriageway resurfacing planned
Sherlock Lane, Poulton

Brompton Avenue, Wallasey
Haydock Road, New Brighton
Chadwick Street, Moreton
Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge
Derwent Drive, Liscard
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard
Wharfedale Road, Wallasey
Aysgarth Road, Wallasey
The Laund, Wallasey
Perrin Road, Wallasey
Acres Road, Bebington
Richmond Close, Bebington Neville Road, Bromborough
Dibbins Hey (part), Clatterbridge
Wirral Mount, Clatterbridge
Patterdale Road, Clatterbridge
Devonshire Road (part) Birkenhead
Townsend/Challis/Curlender Roads, Bidston
Bedford Road (part) Rock Ferry
New Chester Road (part) Rock Ferry
Bridge Street, (part) Birkenhead
Argyle Street, (part) Birkenhead
Mount Road (part) Bebington

Tall Ships 2008

Plans are already underway to manage the huge amount of traffic that the Tall Ships 2008 event will attract. The event is set to take place between 18-21 July NEXT YEAR (2008). We are working with Merseytravel, Culture Company and Liverpool Council to create a suitable park and ride site on Wirral and to ensure East Wirral's streets are not gridlocked when the event is taking place.

Walk to School Week 2007

Wirral Council have been working hard to ensure as many schools as possible encourage their students to walk to school by setting up 'walking bus' programmes throughout the year. Walk to School Week is Monday 21 – Friday 25 May 2007. The Mayor of Wirral, Phil Gilchrist will be joining a walking bus to Woodchurch Primary School on Wednesday May 23 at 8.30am and then St Joseph's Primary School, Seacombe on Friday May 25 8.30am.

Garden Recycling

Garden waste brown bins have now been delivered to most homes that have a garden. This includes an extra 11,500 households previously without a garden collection scheme and brings the total to approximately 85,000 households.

Collection calendars have been delivered to all households with a brown bin. Collection days have been changed in order to provide greater balance of collection rounds and more logical route plans. Unfortunately, after being considerably let down by the distribution company some households did not receive their calendars. Wirral Council is now collating this information and arranging for calendars to be delivered as quickly as possible.

There have been some teething problems getting residents on to the new collection days, however the contractor are now catching up with collections and bins are being presented with lots of garden recycling.

Paper and Packaging Recycling

The new paper and packaging scheme has now been extended to more residents bringing the total households to 110,000. Plastic bottles, glass, paper, cardboard, tins and cans are being collected, combined, from the kerb-side and taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Bidston where they are separated and sent to local processors for turning into new products.

The final phase (excluding flats) is beginning with the grey wheelie bins being distributed currently. All residents will be on the scheme by 11 June, this includes a further 33,000 properties.

Comprehensive information and advertising for the scheme has been provided to all residents. The Council applied for funding from the Waste Resource Action Program (WRAP) for the communications activities and this was awarded providing Wirral with an extensive marketing campaign. The marketing literature was used as good-practice by WRAP. Wirral's website has been updated and provides all the most recent information for residents.

Some problems occurred at the beginning of the recent roll-out of the bins. This was mainly due to the contractor playing catch up after the Easter Bank Holiday's as residents were unaware collections would take place. This led to a back-log of bins to collect and caused some problems with delayed collections. The Council did experience high volumes of calls to Streetscene and negative press coverage, however since the scheme has begun, residents have presented huge amounts of recycling and have really taken ownership of the scheme.

Wirral saw almost treble the volume of recycling within the first four weeks on the paper and packaging scheme with a 95% participation rate. It is anticipated that Wirral will exceed our recycling target of 23% next year. Wirral is very encouraged about the standard of recycling with very few bins having to be rejected for contamination, i.e. wrong items presented for collection in a recycling bin.

Home Composting

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

Update on Integrated Transport Block

Senior officers from my Department have engaged with each of the eleven Area Forums in the June 2006 cycle of meetings.

Nine out of the eleven Area Forums had decided that the whole of the Integrated Transport Block allocation remains at the centre for use on a borough wide basis. Bromborough and Eastham and Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forums expressed a desire to have a share of the budget allocated locally.

It was noted that this would mean that the two Area Forums would receive 1/11th each of the Integrated Transport Block for local allocation and that any projects within those areas above that level of funding would not be able to proceed.

I am expecting suggestions at the June 2007 cycle of Area Forums, which will be considered, where appropriate.

Suggestions already received from some of the Area Forums have already been considered along with all other requests received for Speed Reduction and Aids to Movement schemes. Requests for Speed Reduction schemes are included within a separate report to this Committee. The remaining initiatives within the Aids to Movement programme are considered below.

I do, however, propose to bring a separate report to your Committee following the next cycle of Area Forum meetings and report on the requests made within the Bromborough and Eastham, and Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forums, identifying Aids to Movement schemes to be implemented from the allocated share of the Integrated Transport Block.

SECTION SIX

Equality and Diversity

Introduction

Welcome to this new section of the forum's report! This will be a regular feature in future and if anyone has any comments, ideas or items they would like to see included in this section, they will be most welcome.

What is Equality and Diversity?

The ESLG (Equality Standard for Local Government) assesses how we are performing in respect of gender, race and disability. The standard provides a framework for delivering continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

There are 6 strands/pillars of the Equality Standard:

- Race
- Disability
- Gender
- Age
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion or belief

We currently have a statutory duty to produce schemes which address any negative impact in respect of race, disability and gender, all of which can be found on the Council's website.

http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm

The Equality Standard has 5 levels, Wirral is aiming to achieve level 2 by December 2007. A validation exercise took place recently where 'critical friends' were invited to help assess us informally as an Authority in order for us to reach level 2. The process for level 2 is self assessment and includes colleagues from other local authorities, Age Concern, Youth Service, Jigsaw, Wirral Change, WIRED and Women's Enterprise Breakthrough.

The Council has mechanisms to ensure all departments regularly discuss equalities. There is also a Corporate Group which meets bi-monthly to assess the progress of departments through the equality agenda. In this way we hope to address any areas of weaknesses in our employment practice or service delivery.

If you are interested to find out more please visit our website and your views/comments would be appreciated and fed back to the Corporate Group.

Useful groups/contacts

Clint Agard, Wirral Change - Wirral Change is a Black and Racial Minority Outreach Service which offers information, advice and guidance on jobs, education, training, self-employment and signposting to other services for Racial Minority people on the Wirral. We offer drop-in sessions for internet access/job search. We also now have a new service which provides immigration advice.

For further information please contact Clint on 0151 650 5428

Margaret Jones, Chair - Wirral Disabled People's Forum - The Wirral Disabled People's Forum meets four times a year at different accessible venues across the Wirral. The Forum exists to discuss issues that are of importance to disabled people and their carers and to ensure that their views are taken forward to the relevant bodies where decisions are being made. By doing this disabled people in Wirral have the opportunity to influence services in the area.

For further information please contact Margaret on 0151 327 5508

Peter Barnett, Wirral LGB&T Forum (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) - A forum for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender community has been set up; this has been done with the support of the NETWORK (WVCSN), Wirral Borough Council and Merseyside Police. At this moment in time we are setting up the core group to assess the policy's and aims of the forum, if any one is interested in joining the core group please email us at wirralgbt_forum@yahoo.co.uk

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