

# **Birkenhead, Tranmere/Rock Ferry**

## **Area Forum**

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

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2007**

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# Section One

## Minutes from last meeting and any matters arising from the previous forum

### Minutes - Area Forum (Birkenhead & Tranmere and Rock Ferry) - 5 June 2007

#### Present

Chair	Cllr Jean Stapleton
Ward Councillors	PL Davies, M McLaughlin, Mrs CM Meaden
Community Representatives	Stephanie Reid (Tranmere Alliance), Hazel Roberts (Together)
Lead Officer	David Ball (Head of Housing and Regeneration)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Andy Brannan
Street Scene Manager	Gary Cummings
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Kathy Doran (Chief Executive, Wirral PCT)
Merseyside Police	Sgt. Rachael Wilson
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Myles Platt (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service)
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Sue Green
Other Partners	Ian Robinson (Shell Tranmere Oil Terminal)
Council Officers	Mark Camborne (Health & Safety & Resilience Operations Manager), Abi Davey (Senior Research and Information officer), Ian Lowrie (Community Safety Team), Alan Stennard (Director of Regeneration), Clare Taylor (Recycling Officer)
Apologies	Insp. Mick Blease, Cllr Bill Davies, Brian Kenny, Lenny McCormick, Simon Petris

#### Minute 1 - Welcome / Introductions / Apologies

##### Minute Text :

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed forum members and 20 members of the

public to the Area Forum meeting in Rock Ferry Library. She invited forum members to introduce themselves.

## **Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinators Report including: Matters Arising from October 2006 and Area Plan Update**

Minute Text :

The minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 6 February 2007 had been incorporated into the Area Co-ordinator's report. Matters Arising had been included on pages 9/11 of the report. An update on Community Initiatives Funding was included on pages 29/32.

Wirral's Older People's Parliament have had several successful meetings. These allow older people to have their opinions expressed. Copies of Newsletters were available if anybody was interested in the Older Peoples Parliament.

Councillor Phil Davies gave a verbal update on the issues discussed at Children & Young People / Safer & Stronger Communities Workshops.

The main focus of the workshops had been to address some of the issues, particularly anti-social behaviour, in the Rock Ferry area and in Mersey Park and Victoria Park.

Some of the problems with young people have been addressed through Section 30 Orders and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders. An application had been made for the area to be designated an alcohol free area.

On the more positive side, the Tranmere Alliance and Wirral Youth Service are working collaboratively to provide activities for young people in the area that will deter them from getting into trouble.

There has been good dialogue with local residents over the past 18 months, but the views of the young people in the area are an equally important part of the equation. So far, separate meetings had been held for residents and for the young people. The next challenge is to build bridges between the generations and come up with solutions that will suit both age groups.

Abi Davey amplified on Local Area Plan Update given on page 33 of the report.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That –

i the minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 6 February 2007 and that actions taken on matters arising be noted;

ii Councillor Phil Davies be thanked for the update on Workshops;

iii Abi Davey be thanked for the update on the Local Area Plan;

iv the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for the report.

## **Minute 3 - Public question time**

Minute Text :

Written questions from Lenny McCormick had been received on dog fouling in the area; confusion by local residents on re-cycling; and the situation concerning the local Credit Union.

Alan Stennard – Wirral’s dog wardens are identifying the streets where dog fouling is most prevalent and efforts will be made over the summer to alleviate the dog fouling problem in these areas.

Claire Taylor, Assistant Recycling Officer – In general, the grey bin should be used for plastic, including bleach, bottles [but not the screw tops], paper, newspapers, clean cardboard, non-window envelopes, cans [preferably rinsed] drink cans, glass bottles, jars and other glass receptacles.

Broken glass and glass from window panes should not be placed in the grey bin; neither should shredded paper.

The answers to most recycling questions are given in the information leaflet delivered with the bin. Residents who cannot find answers to their specific questions should contact Streetscene when, if necessary, an officer will visit and discuss on a one-to-one basis the types of materials that should be placed in each bin. If in doubt, residents should err on the side of caution and use the green bin.

Information on changes to Wirral’s waste and recycling collections had been included on page 28 of the Area Co-ordinator’s report.

David Ball – There has been concern that the credit union office in Bedford Road has been experiencing financial difficulties for some time and the stage has been reached where it is not able to loan any more money. Colleagues within the Council are working with the Union to identify the options available to help the Union move forward. Each group is a stand-alone organisation and there are no suggestions that the problems in Bedford Road will affect credit unions in other areas.

The credit union is operated by a financial agency, which is outside the Council. Individual queries should be directed to the Area Co-ordinator who will provide more information as soon as it becomes available.

Peter Barnett – Recycling in multi-occupancy dwellings.

Claire Taylor - Residents in multi-occupancy dwellings have indicated that they wish to be included in re-cycling collections. All multi-occupancy dwellings have been visited and an audit has been carried out to assess the types of bins currently in use and whether there is sufficient space to accommodate grey bins. Each multi-occupancy will be re-visited in the very near future to discuss with residents the best solution for each property/block of flats. Where appropriate, residents should seek more information from their Housing Association, their Management Group, or the owners of the property.

Tina Cleaver – Anti-social behaviour by children in the parks; 18-20 year olds drinking in the streets [particularly in Parkside Road] at all times of the day and night; the

activities of drug dealers in the area.

Cllr M McLaughlin - Local councillors have been looking at the issues and they will be raised with the Police and the Anti-Social Behaviour team. A change in drug involvement has been noticed locally in the past 3/4 months where drug dealing, if not more prevalent, is certainly more blatant. People are seen making drops and there are queues of people [not all of whom are young people] waiting to use public phone boxes to place their orders.

Sergeant Wilson, Well Lane Police Station – Merseyside Police are aware of drug dealing activities in the area and have increased the number of Community Support Officers [CSOs] who provide high visibility policing. Plain clothes officers also operate in the area. Members of the public are passing on the vehicle registration numbers of cars involved in making drops in the area. Local residents can approach a CSO to pass on information on the activities they observe in the area. They can do so anonymously, or they can telephone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

#### **Minute 4 - Shell Terminal**

Minute Text :

David Ball introduced and welcomed Ian Robinson who, with colleagues Mark Camborne, Wirral's Council's Health, Safety and Resilience Operations Manager, and Myles Platt, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, had been invited to give a joint presentation on Tranmere Oil Terminal.

Ian Robinson, Operations Co-ordinator at Tranmere Stanlow Oil Terminal, explained that the operation at Tranmere involved taking crude oil from the ships and pumping it to the Stanlow Refinery at Ellesmere Park. The operation at Tranmere was different from that at Bunsfield, which is a processing plant. Nevertheless the management at Tranmere had looked very carefully at the recommendations arising from the Bunsfield inquiry and had reviewed all its procedures. Ian gave an assurance that the systems and processes at the Tranmere site were clean and very safe.

Mark Camborne agreed that the systems at Tranmere were safe. He explained that the Local Authority working in conjunction with partner organisations - Police, Fire & Rescue and Health Services – has responsibility for ensuring that an emergency disaster plan is in place to ensure the safety of people living in the area in the event of any emergency arising.

The plan had been tested in a large exercise in which the Bunsfield scenario had been assimilated. The feedback from the exercise had been very positive and reassuring.

Myles Platt described ways in which personnel from across Merseyside Fire Station are brought to the Tranmere site to test the installations and to be trained on the use of the high-powered fire fighting appliances available on the site.

Ian Robinson responded to questions from Mary Petris on the advice given to people who live in exclusion and evacuation zones. Information cards on 'What to do in an Emergency' were available at the meeting.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That Ian Robinson, Mark Cambourne and Miles Platt be thanked for the presentation

### **Minute 5 - Wirral Hospital Trust – Engagement Strategy**

Minute Text :

Sue Green gave a presentation on Wirral Hospital Trust Engagement Strategy. The development of the Engagement Strategy marks the second phase of the Trust's commitment to engage more closely with the communities it serves.

The first phase in February 2006 involved a major consultation programme, A Change for the Better, in relation to the Trust's application for Foundation Trust Status. The consultation laid out service plans for the following five years. The trust is half-way through its application for Trust status and it was felt that now is the right time to engage again with communities.

In the coming months the Trust will be talking – and listening – to Area Forums and community groups throughout Wirral on ways in which hospital services are changing. The focus of the presentation this evening would be on Who we are, Why we are changing, and How we are changing. The responses from the consultation will be feed into the strategy.

Unlike current NHS trusts, Foundation Trusts have Members and Governors. Members elect Governors to represent them and to set direction for the organisation. The membership and Assembly of Governors is a key part of the engagement strategy. The Trust is aiming to have 13,000 public members – currently it has 6,000.

The Trust would welcome anyone who wishes to become a public member or attend Assembly meetings – details are published in the local Press from time to time. A campaign will be launched in the coming weeks to encourage members of the public to become Members of the Foundation Trust.

In response to a question on plans for consultants or other senior professionals to work at weekends, Sue Green explained work at Clatterbridge Hospital around nurse led discharges by appropriately trained personnel. There were plans to look in the future at weekend and evening appointments, if that is what people ask for.

Sue commented on the arrangements that need to be put in place by Wirral Social Services and other agencies to ensure that the necessary clinical and other support is available immediately to patients who are discharged home from hospital.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That Sue Green be thanked for the presentation.

### **Minute 6 - Partner updates - Community Safety, Fire Service, Wirral Primary Care Trust & Police**

Minute Text :

Ian Lowrie reported the Home Office has identified Wirral as one of England's

Respect Action Areas. As part of the support programme, eight 'talking' CCTVs are to be installed in Wirral, one at Charing Cross, Birkenhead. The 3G camera for the Tranmere area will be installed in Church Road.

In East Wirral, certain youths will undertake, under supervision, the repainting of BT and NTL boxes.

£1.2 million has been allocated to provide laptops for pupils in 11 schools in neighbourhood renewal areas. Wirral Joint Community Safety Team will ensure that they are delivered and used in safety. Special software will be used to disable and locate stolen computers.

Miles Platt reported that with the help of the Community Safety Team, there has been a 75% reduction in vehicle fires related to anti-social behaviour in the past 12/18 months.

The reduction in the number of domestic fires in Birkenhead has continued and incidents are very low.

The number of home fire safety checks in people's homes has increased by over 20% with 900 carried out in this area since the last Area Forum meeting. As well as the free fitting of smoke detectors, the crews offer advice on evacuation routes to residents, and if appropriate signpost people to other services.

There are people who do not have a telephone and do not engage with services and every now and there is a fire death or serious injury that could have been prevented. One of the key objectives for all Wirral stations is to use local intelligence to access these 'hard to reach' members of the community.

In periods of dry weather it is not unusual for fire appliances to be deployed to Bidston Hill for 24 hours a day. Extra efforts will be made this year to reduce the incidence of fires in grasslands and open spaces. The Fire Service is working with schools to educate children on the dangers of fire.

Specialist advocates are working with the Fire Service to provide fire safety advice to other groups, such as the Older People's Parliament, and for those whose lives involve drug and alcohol misuse.

PC Rachel Wilson reported that two additional CSOs had been appointed in Rock Ferry and one in Tranmere.

The Section 30 orders in place expired in May 2007. During the time the orders had been in place there had been a noticeable decrease in offences in the areas and the numbers of reports of anti-social behaviour had reduced. The Police will continue to patrol the areas as before and new orders will be applied for should problems escalate.

Merseyside Police has been working with other agencies in the joint Operation Miami to tackle incidents of antisocial behaviour on the public transport system. A number of fixed penalty notices have been issued for non-payment of fares. Good feedback had



been received from members of the public who use train and bus services.

There has been a spate of burglaries on school premises in the locality. Acting on information received from members of the community, the Police have arrested three males in connection with the offences.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That Ian Lowrie, Myles Platt and PC Wilson be thanked for their reports

### **Minute 7 - Future meetings/presentations - Tuesday 2nd October 2007 Venue to be confirmed**

Minute Text :

it was agreed that the venue for Area Forum meetings alternates between Birkenhead Town Hall and Rock Ferry Library, and that the next meeting be held in Birkenhead Town Hall.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

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

Minute Text :

- Smokefree England: Kathy Doran commented that there are 25 days to go to the biggest health change facing this country – the banning of smoking in public enclosed places. Smoking damages people's health, causes cancer, heart disease and strokes and also is a contributory factor in many house fires. Research has shown that these diseases are more prevalent in this area than in other parts of the Wirral and by and large the causes can be related to smoking.

Anyone who wishes to stop smoking should contact their GP or a specialist smoking cessation unit.

## **Matters Arising:**

### **Ferries Credit Union**

Following the last Area Forum when the issue of the Ferries Credit Union was raised, there have been numerous meetings held between various interested organisations including Wirral Partnership Homes, former staff from the Ferries Credit Union, other registered social landlords and other groups in the area to discuss how best to meet the need existing in the area previously covered by the Ferries Credit Union.

Following these discussions it was decided that the best approach was to work with and promote Partners Credit Union, who already have two collections in Wirral at the Laurie's Centre and in New Brighton, to meet the need left in the area. We hope to encourage existing community groups to consider becoming a credit union collection point. The intention is to set up meetings with Partners and interested community groups in the near future.

# 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

### Alleygates crash through thousand barrier



The number of alleygates protecting Wirral properties from crimes such as burglary and vandalism is set to hit the thousand mark this month with the commencement of the latest installation phase.

Wirral's Joint Community Safety Team recently canvassed opinion from all residents in the Deveraux Road area of Wallasey ahead of the installation of 48 alleygates in that community and the response was overwhelmingly in favour of their

installation.

As a result of this public backing, the gates are beginning to be put in place in August. Once this phase is finished, the gates will bring a proven high level of protection against crime to some 619 more households.

The alleygating scheme began in Wirral in 2003 when the number of household burglaries was 210 a month on average, with some areas of Wirral suffering a burglary rate which was four times the national average.

By installing the alleygates in areas where burglary was at the highest, the number of break-ins is now down to below the national average and Wirral as a whole suffers less than three burglaries per day amongst its 144,043 households.

By April 2007, there had been a 49.9% drop in the domestic burglary rate or 1,267 fewer offences of domestic burglary compared to 2003 when alleygating began. They are justifiably very popular then and by March next year, there will be a total of 1,060 alleygates installed across Wirral.

Cllr. George Davies, who is the Cabinet member for Housing and Community Safety in Wirral, said: "Alleygates have proven how successful they can be in reducing burglary and the figures justify the investment Wirral has made in installing them so widely; investment that was only possible thanks to Neighbourhood Renewal funding."

Steve McGilvray, Manager of the Joint Community Safety Team, said: "Any burglary is unwanted and alleygates have substantially reduced the number being perpetrated in Wirral. However, it is important to remember at this time of year, when the weather is warmer, opportunist burglars will still take advantage of open windows or doors.

"With this in mind it is important to stress that everyone should still take care and check all windows and doors are securely locked before going out or going to bed."

## **Wirral Council would like to warn residents about bogus callers apparently posing as council workers.**

A group of men are reported to be randomly calling at homes in Birkenhead saying they are collecting unwanted bulky items, such as old washing machines, cookers and bikes.

The men are reported to be distracting residents by asking them to open their back gates so that bulky items can be removed, whilst one of the men steals money and valuables.

The gang appear to be wearing normal clothes, no uniform as such, and drive a large blue truck with a metal cage on the back.

Unless you have made an appointment with Wirral Council's Streetscene to have an unwanted bulky item collected from your home, (Eric Service) then no one should call. If you have booked a collection, we advise you to be cautious. Wirral Council's contractor Biffa will collect on the scheduled day booked in with Streetscene and will wear uniform.

If in any doubt, contact Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 to check if the staff are genuine before allowing them entry on to your property.

**Anyone who witnesses suspicious activities of this nature should contact Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111**

## **Agencies combine to tackle underage alcohol sales**

Agencies in Wirral are joining forces to try to reduce the risk of harm to young people from alcohol abuse.

Wirral Trading Standards, the Youth Service, police licensing and the Wirral Primary Care Trust are combining to provide new training, free of charge, to off licensees and their staff about underage sales.

The training is part of an ongoing drive to reduce incidents of alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour across the borough, as well as tackling related health issues.

John Malone, Trading Standards Manager said: "We want to work with businesses to prevent alcohol getting into the hands of young people. The new training we will be providing will look at the legal position for off licensees but a new element will also deal with the impact alcohol can have on young people's health and well being.

"It is essential that off licensees are aware of the health consequences of selling alcohol to young people. Hospital admissions for injuries caused when drunk, risky sexual behaviour and teenage pregnancy, involvement in crime, violence and anti-social behaviour, school truancy and road traffic accidents."

**If any off licensees and their staff want to attend the free training, which will take place at Wallasey Town Hall at 6pm on Wednesday 12th September, they can contact Nick Chesters of Trading Standards on 0151 691 8579.**

## Healthier Communities & Older People

Find out More log on to [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) Or [www.ageconcernwirral.org](http://www.ageconcernwirral.org)

# Wirral Older People's Parliament

Newsletter Issue Four June 2007 – Issue Number 4

**News Progress & Information** - Following comments at a recent parliament meeting any person receiving un-solicited letters (**Junk Mail**) or Telephone calls (**Silent Calls**) should make contact with the “**Mailing Preference Service**” and or “**Telephone Preference Service**” this is a very simple procedure via the web page, and registration of your address or telephone number should go a long way to clearing this sort of problem. You may still receive mail or telephone calls from companies you may have dealt with in the past, to eliminate this type of contact you will need to contact the organisation concerned and ask to be removed from their data base. Useful telephone numbers are “**OFCOM 020 7981 3000**” or “**Information Commissioners Office 01625 545745**” more detailed information is available at your local library, or CAB Office. Write to your local councillor and ask what provision is available for older people to learn about or even have access too Computers. I believe you will be pleasantly surprised at the volume of information available and the amount of help and support that is available to older people

**Regional Devolution** At the last Parliament Meeting a question was asked about reports that certain authorities are discussing banding together to draw up a Regional Devolution Plan, what effect this may have on Wirral Borough Council, at this moment true information seems to be sparse to say the least

**Transport and Free travel for the elderly** This subject has been under discussion for some considerable time and new legislation is to come into force in July of this year. It is yet to be seen if local authorities will all conform in a manner that is fitting for the needs of the elderly population. For instance in many locations even the so called rush hour busses are half empty, so why cannot we who are retired, use our passes on such routes it will not interrupt or compromise those going to work, but could boost the local economy.

**Express Your View** You have the opportunity to write or E-Mail to parliament if you are unable to get along to one of the meetings held throughout 11 local forum areas. Items directly affecting older people will be addressed by the Older Peoples Parliament Officers. You also have the opportunity to assist on one or more of the committee meetings held to assess the various items involved. People in the age group 50+ are a major influential body in the total population of Wirral Borough Council 22 different ward areas, it is important that their wishes are reflected in the decision making process “**Do you have something to say**” ?

**Computer Use** There are a number of places that encourage computer access and usage for the older generation. Most of the Library's have the required equipment, plus in some community centres there are opportunities for basic tuition.

Ring **Leasowe 630 3486, Rock Ferry 643 1215** or **New Brighton 639 1386** For up to date information, you may also check with your local School or Night School many of them run courses on basic internet access, **you are never too old to learn.**

**To learn about your local forum - Tracey Smith 0151 691 8026 ([traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk))**  
**To learn more about “the Older Peoples Parliament” - Lesley Howells 0151 666 2220**

## Children & Young People

### Wirral's students are celebrating

Wirral's students are celebrating after yet another year of improvement in A-Levels, AS Levels and Vocational Courses in the borough.

Today's results saw the average pupil's point score raise by 32.4 points – from 729 last year to 762 this year. Wirral also saw a rise of nearly 80 in the numbers of pupils sitting these exams.



Director of Children's Services Howard Cooper was very pleased with the results: "Once again, it looks as though our A-level, AS level and vocational training students in Wirral have surpassed themselves.

"I am extremely proud of all those students who put in so much hard work to achieve these results and I am also proud of the teachers and other school staff who helped and supported them in their studies.

"It is particularly encouraging to note that an increasing number of our youngsters are staying on at school to improve their chances of a better career and life. I wish all of them the best of luck in their chosen degree, college course or employment."

### Teenagers' challenge of a lifetime

Eight teenagers from Wirral are taking the challenge of a lifetime in a bid to turn their lives around from the risks involved with anti social behaviour, drink or drugs.

The group are canoeing 68 miles from Fort William to Inverness across Scotland's Caledonian Canal. Aged between 15 and 18, the young people were engaged through the Council's Response Service - a support service for at-risk young people.

In total the group of seven young men and three young women will complete the six-day course carrying their own equipment and camping gear.

Called The Imagine Project, the expedition, which is jointly funded by the Youth Opportunities Fund and Wirral Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT ) will be supported by experienced instructors from Wirral Council's Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre and key staff from the Council's Response Service.

The trip will see the group work as a team developing better health and improved life chances. For many, it is their first experience of working within a group but they represent a growing number of young people determined to tackle substance abuse through making changes to their own lives.

Individually the youngsters have already achieved a First Aid and Life Savers award and are aiming for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award for Outward Bound Achievement.

Pat Rice, Head of Response, said: “These young people first came to Response with some challenging issues, with some of them having personal experience of drug and alcohol misuse. They were on the brink of becoming disillusioned, and disinterested in life. But now they are healthier, happier and looking forward to this challenge and a great life-changing experience. I’m really proud of what they have achieved so far and I know that they will become valued members of their communities and a really great example to their friends and families”.

Terry White, Young Persons Programme Manager said: “The DAAT is committed to reducing the harm caused by substance misuse throughout Wirral. Through this type of partnership work we are able to prevent today’s young people, especially the most vulnerable, from becoming tomorrow’s drug misusers, which is a key target within the Wirral Drug and Alcohol strategy. This project is an exciting initiative that will result in healthier, happier and more confident young people build resistance against substance misuse,’ he added.

Jo Day, Outreach Team Leader for Response, said: “The project, which has been running since May, is about personal, emotional and social development and as a group they have built friendships and their confidence and self-esteem has grown during their time together”.

## **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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 and Projects in schools

The Service is flexible and able to respond to the needs of young people and offers opportunities that are both universal and targeted. Youth work on Wirral is delivered through joint working between the Local Authority, voluntary organisations and other agencies.

Youth workers work with young people in many different localities in Wirral. Having a variety of youth clubs and street work projects allows youth workers to work with young people in their neighbourhoods, meet their specific needs and respond to issues that are important to them.

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

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

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

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

Duke of Edinburgh's Award - The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 450 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

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

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/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.

The Viking Youth Centre is open for three sessions a week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 7.00pm – 10.00pm. In addition the Trustees run a weekly session for young children, called the bantams at teatimes on Wednesday. The Youth Club members enjoy a varied programme of sport and creative arts and play a full and active role in the activities of the Youth Federation. The dance group recently performed in Dance – England in the Lowry Centre, Salford and the 800 years celebration of Liverpool, taking part in the Pageant and danced in venue across the city. The members have also recently produced a DVD film of their trip to Barnston dale

The Beaconsfield Youth Club is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays 6.30-9.30pm. Working in conjunction with the Viking Centre a DJ and MC course that runs in both centres on Wednesday and Thursdays is proving very popular.

The Birkenhead Youth Action Project is working with groups of young people in Victoria and Mersey Parks, Victoria Fields Estate, Peel Avenue Estate, Woodlands Estate, St Peters, Borough Rd and in the vicinity of Central Station. A Youth Resource Shop has been opened in Bedford Road and the facilities are being used by a number of groups including some young people who made a successful application to the Youth Opportunity Fund, which will enable them to produce a newsletter for young people.

The Callister Youth Club in Argyle Street, Birkenhead is open 2 nights per week, Monday and Thursday. This club has a background of catering for disabled young people and particularly young people with hearing problems. It is operated on an integrated basis and encourages young people from the local area to attend although the membership is made up of young people from across Wirral. A varied programme is offered, with emphasis on young peoples involvement, which includes themed residentials, workshops on current issues and sports activities.

## **Economic Development & Enterprise**

### **A Wirral call centre has won a high profile contract with Woolworths because the famous high street retailer was impressed by their passionate approach and the available workforce in Birkenhead.**

This exciting development means The Contact Company, based in Birkenhead is now recruiting for jobs to meet the demand of their increasing portfolio of clients.

The company is holding a recruitment open day at Wirral Museum, Birkenhead on 23rd August to recruit up to 100 staff to work on this prestigious contract. They want to recruit local people for jobs which offer flexible hours between 8am and 8pm, seven days a week.

People interested in applying for vacancies can meet staff from The Contact Company and find out more about this type of work on the day.

The Contact Company's Chief Executive, Asif Hamid said: "This contract is further evidence of our growing profile within the competitive contact centre industry and demonstrates the confidence that large blue chip companies have in us to deliver a high quality service.

"The Contact Company operates an added value service at the higher end of the contact centre market and this approach is proving fruitful as we win more contracts like this. We are looking forward to adding to our excellent 125 strong team and are excited to be working with Woolworths" he added.

Wirral Council's Head of Strategic Development, Kevin Adderley said: "The Contact Company has rapidly grown its team in the last year and is now recruiting even more staff to meet demand. This type of work appeals to people who need flexible working hours and is in an attractive location in central Birkenhead. This is a fantastic jobs boost for Wirral."

The Contact Company has been trading since July 2006 and has already won 'New Business of the year' at the Liverpool Daily Post Business Awards and was one of the host call centres for this year's Comic Relief when millions were raised for charity.

## **Wirral Council is the first authority in the northwest to launch online web casts of Planning Committee Meetings.**

All Planning decisions can now be viewed live from anywhere in the world via Wirral Council's website, [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)

The new facility uses web cameras at council meetings to capture the live information and send it to a central server, which in turn sends it to anyone that would like to view the meeting via the internet.

The web cast facility also archives each meeting, meaning that recorded meetings can be viewed online at anytime of day, as many times as required. The use of the index points allow you to jump to a specific agenda point or speaker.

Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor John Cocker, welcomes the move;

"This new facility is very good news for Wirral residents and developers. Now the meetings can be watched live, or at a time that suits you, from the comfort of your own arm chair or from the side of a swimming pool on holiday.

Its also going to save many journeys across Wirral to watch the meetings in person, people can now log on and watch at home or at work, saving unnecessary car journeys"

To access the web cast facility, visit [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) and click on 'Planning Webcasts' on the right hand menu, or simply click here. The pilot scheme will be running until the end of the January 2008.

## **LICENSING ACT 2003**

The Licensing Act 2003 has been the responsibility of Wirral Borough Council since 24 November 2005.

In December 2004 a Statement of Licensing Policy was produced which sets out the principles the Council will generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions under the Act.

It is a requirement of the Licensing Act 2003 that the Council reviews it's Statement of Licensing Policy every three years.

The Council welcomes the views of any interested parties and you should feel free to draw the attention of this document, which can be found at [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk), to others who may be interested in responding to the consultation.

Full consultation on this document is being undertaken with: -

- The Chief Officer of Police
- The Fire Authority

- Bodies representing local holders of premises licences
- Bodies representing local holders of club certificates
- Bodies representing local holders of personal licences
- Bodies representing businesses and residents
- Other interested parties

You may find it useful to consult the Statutory Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act when making comments to the Statement of Licensing Policy. The Statutory Guidance is available at [www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk).

Your views are important to the Council in reaching a fair and proportionate Licensing Policy that discharges the Licensing Objectives. Please ensure we receive your views no later than **17 November 2007**.

If you have any further enquiries about the Licensing Policy please contact Margaret O'Donnell on 0151 691 8606.

# **Section Three**

## **Partner Update**

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.

## Community Safety

- Stealth software - the Joint Community Safety Team, working in conjunction with the IT Department of the Children and Young Person's Department, have a roll-out programme of software being loaded onto all computers belonging to the Authority e.g., schools, libraries, One Stop Shops, Community Centres.

In the event of a computer being stolen, it notifies a central control point where the machine is being used. The police are alerted and procedures are in place for the machine to be recovered and, if appropriate, person(s) arrested.

- Smartwater Project - most schools now have their valuable equipment marked with Smartwater which identifies which school the property came from.

All operational police officers on the Wirral have been equipped with special torches which identify Smartwater marked property. In addition, Trading Standards attend Car Boot Sales with police officers and check for Smartwater marked property.

- DVLA Project - whenever Parking Wardens, Community Support Officers, Police Officers see vehicles with items on display a letter is forwarded to the registered keeper to remind them of their responsibility and they should remove items on view in the future to ensure their vehicles are not going to be targeted by thieves.

Most thefts from vehicles are committed by opportunists.

- 'Talking CCTV' launched 31/5/2007.  
Funding was secured from the government's Respect Task Force enabling broadcasting systems to be attached to existing CCTV cameras at key site. The systems enable operators in the Council's CCTV Control Room to prevent and challenge anti-social and criminal behaviour by broadcasting directly to members of the public and giving out key messages relating to crime and disorder.
- Reparation initiative launched on 13/6/2007.  
A partnership between Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Wirral Youth Offending Service (YOS), BT and Virgin Media using young people engaged with YOS through reparation to repaint streetboxes affected by graffiti and flyposting. Residents can report streetboxes requiring repainting to 'It's Your Call' on 606 2020 or at any One Stop Shop.
- Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords signed-up to Respect Housing Management Standard on 26/6/2007 as part of a local Consortium.  
Eighteen RSLs in partnership with Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team signed-up to the Standard as part of a local Wirral RESPECT Consortium. The Standard is commitment to challenging unacceptable behaviour and promoting good behaviour. The Consortium now meets regularly to share intelligence and best practice and develop initiatives.
- Operation Safe Space launched 18/7/2007.  
A new partnership initiative, led by Merseyside Police, aiming to increase the use of parks and open spaces. This involved enforcement activities across hot-spot parks

by the police and diversionary activities throughout the summer in multi-use games areas.

- Youth RESPECT Team appointed to Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team launched on 27/7/2007. The Team consists of youth workers and play workers with the focus of preventing and reducing ASB by young people. They are identifiable by their distinctive red jackets.

## Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

### **Young people dig it at Bromborough**

An exciting new community facility that has been designed and put together by young people at Bromborough Fire Station tomorrow (Thursday). Around 30 young people have put their heart and soul into a market garden which is now growing vegetables, fruit and plants and also contains a pond, wildlife area and borders.

The Dig It project was established last year after the Fire Service and South Wirral Young People's Project engaged with young people in the area to see what activities would be an alternative to hanging around the streets. They said they would like to develop a market garden where they could learn to grow vegetables and how to cook them.

Since then the young people have designed the garden, put together bids for funding and worked with contractors to develop their landscaping skills. They have also designed a community kitchen that has also been completed.

Station Manager Myles Platt said it had been fantastic to see how much the young people have developed as a result. He said: "I'm extremely impressed by them. Some of them have some challenging personal circumstances and this is a real outlet for them. It has given them a sense of responsibility and achievement. A couple have moved on and got employment and this project has helped them to do that by developing their practical and social skills."

The initiative has cost more than £50,000 and has received support from various funds and local companies. These include the Urban Green Land Initiative; Youth Opportunities Fund; Wirral Partnership Homes; Riverside Housing; Eastham Oil Refinery; Local Area Forums Community Initiatives Funds; BT It's Your Community Award; UniLever Green Machine; and Uniqema.



## Merseyside Police

### **Drug arrest in Birkenhead**

Merseyside Police in Wirral is continuing its war on drugs.

Police officers executed a warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act on Wednesday 29th August at an address on Dundonald Street, Birkenhead.

Quantities of what is believed to be amphetamine and ecstasy were seized at the property.

A 33 year old man from Birkenhead was arrested on suspicion of possession of a Class A drug. He has been released on police bail pending further enquiries.



If you have information about drug activity in Wirral, either call Merseyside Police on: 0151 709 6010 or alternatively call Crimestoppers anonymously on: 0800 555 111

If you have any concerns about drug use, need advice or support telephone ARCH 0151 647 8633 (office hours) or ACT 0800 028 1300 - available 24/7.

## Wirral Primary Care Trust

### **Primary Care Trust (PCT) Small Grants Programme to support Community Initiatives Fund**

During 2007 the PCT will be supporting the Local Authorities Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) and will allocate 5K across Birkenhead Tranmere and Rock Ferry Area Forum. The funding will be allocated to health promoting activity, which meets the needs of local people within the area. Voluntary and Community sector groups are invited to submit applications through the current CIF application criteria. All proposals will need to meet funding limits and priorities, determined by each area forum.

The PCT Funding must address following health themes:

- **Wirral taste for health** – improving access to healthy, affordable foods and helping people to develop shopping and cookery skills.
- **Wirral active** – encouraging people to participate in activities that are enjoyable and health enhancing.
- **Smoke free Wirral** – providing support for people to stop smoking and protecting children from second hand smoke.
- **Damage Limitation** – providing diversionary activities for young people to reduce harm related to alcohol misuse.

If you feel you can support the delivery of some of the above health themes and wish to apply for funding please contact the Council Community Engagement Team on 0151 691 8650 or email : [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk)

### **Primary Care Practice developments update**

No update for this forum report

### **Update on questions/discussions raised at Area Forum held Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at Rock Ferry Library, Old Chester Rd, Rock Ferry.**

No issues or queries raised at this forum.

### **Wirral Primary Care Trust Involvement Strategy 2007 - 2010**

The Primary Care Trust is currently developing its 'Involvement Strategy' which will set out its plans towards:

- Involving patients: as consumers of health care services and using their views to influence Primary Care Trust commissioning and help shape current and future health services.

- Involving citizens: to provide legitimacy and accountability for health policy and health care service provision decision making.

Winning hearts and minds: enabling people to take a more active role in their own health and wellbeing. A summary version of the Involvement Strategy will be available for the public.

A summary version of the Involvement Strategy will be available for the public.

## **Wirral Primary Care Trust Commissioning Strategy 2007 – 2010**

The PCT is currently developing its commissioning strategy this will provide information on PCT investment and funding programme for 2007 - 2010.

### **The PCT would like to invite you to “Have your say”; we want to know what you think of your health service?**

Wirral Primary Care Trust (PCT) is responsible for commissioning health services in Wirral. We want to know what you as a patient think of the services you have received, be it your family doctor, dentist, optician, pharmacist or community based service such as district nursing. We also want to know if you have any ideas for making services even better.

Your comments will be used to improve our services so that they continue to meet your needs and the needs of local people.

### **How can you submit comments to the PCT?**

We aim to give all our patients and members of the public an opportunity to contact us through a variety of methods. You can go to our public web-site by clicking on to the icon on the home page, or you can place your comments on our on-line form. The following is a list of approaches you can use when contacting us to ‘Have your Say’.

- You can call in person to our PALs office at Laurie’s Centre, 136 Claughton Road, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 6EY
- Call us on our freephone 0800 085 1547
- Write to us at FREEPOST HAVE YOUR SAY
- e-mail us at <mailto:Haveyoursay@wirralpct.nhs.uk>
- Have Your Say on line form at [www.wirralpct.nhs.uk](http://www.wirralpct.nhs.uk) and go to home page and click on ‘Have Your Say’ document. Click on left hand side box ‘Have your say request form’ and you will then be guided through the ‘Have Your Say’ process.
- SMS text on 07781472493

### **What happens next?**

If you provide your contact details when submitting your comments you will receive acknowledgement and if appropriate, after 21 days you will receive a formal response to your comments.

# **Section Four**

## **Local Transport Update**

Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside.

The LTP is a document prepared by the five local authorities and Merseytravel.

The second LTP covers the period between 2006/2007 and 2010/2011 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

## **Wrexham Bidston Electrification**

The Forum will be familiar with the Local Transport Plan which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The LTP is a document prepared by the 5 local authorities and Merseytravel.

The second LTP covers the period between 2006/7 and 2010/11 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

Included within the LTP is reference to the electrification of the Wrexham Bidston rail line to link it to the existing Mersey electrics network.

The electrification of the Wrexham Bidston (Borderlands) Line involves the extension of the electrified network to all or part of the line between Bidston and Wrexham.

It also included the construction of new stations at Deeside and Woodchurch.

In 2005 consultants First Class Partnerships and Mott Mac Donald had looked at the physical infrastructure and what was needed to electrify the line.

Both considered a number of options with the Mott Mac Donald report being more detailed but indicating greater costs.

During 2006 consultants Faber Maunsells had provide Benefit Cost Ratios for a number of options.

Earlier this year (Jan 07) Neil Scales, Director General of Merseytravel attended the Streetscene and Transport Services Overview Committee to update members on the scheme and indicated that the following actions need to be taken to progress the scheme;

- (1) Further discussions with the Welsh Assembly – Neil Scales has been discussing the issues with WAG.
- (2) Clear indication of the costs of the Project with Network Rail undertaking work which would give a clearer understanding of the work that had been carried out to date using the GRIP ( Guide to Rail Investment Projects) scale. They had been asked to provide an estimate of the cost of taking forward the design to a higher GRIP level. This study is currently underway.
- (3) Merseytravel would be considering this project along with other possible rail projects which would require funding through the Regional Funding Allocation process.
- (4) The development of greater costing detail was important to be able to provide a greater certainty of the Benefit Cost Ratio as the intention would be to include the project in the Regional Funding Review which was likely to take place in the next two years. This would effectively cover the English element of the funding profile.

- (5) The overall capital funding of the project if approved would however come from a combination of English and Welsh Government finance. A separate application to the Welsh Assembly would be required.
- (6) Revenue funding was a separate issue. It was likely that a revenue funding gap would exist and a means of bridging the gap would need to be identified.

Future updates will be provided to the Forum as the project progresses. If any of the area forums want more information on any aspects of the capital programme we could come along at the next round of forums in February/June 2008 a presentation if the forums think that this would be useful.

**Julie Barnes, Principal Officer (Forward Planning & Strategy) Technical Services, traffic management Division, Forward Planning/travelwise.**

**Julie Barnes@wirral.gov.uk or 0151 606 2004**

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL  
CABINET - 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES  
LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2007/08

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#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following the announcement by the Department for Transport (DfT) in December 2006, approving a Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement for Wirral of £6,549,000 for 2007/08, this report sets out a draft transport capital programme in line with the Local Transport Plan (LTP) targets.
- 1.2 This report is identified in the Forward Plan.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will be familiar with the Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Merseyside, which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The second LTP (LTP2) covers the period between 2006/07 and 2010/11 and contains a 5-year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.
- 2.2 Future funding allocations will be dependent upon the successful delivery of the LTP targets over the coming years. Therefore, it is necessary for Wirral's transport capital schemes to deliver the outcomes necessary to help meet this aim.

#### 3.0 PROGRAMME REVIEW

- 3.1 The second Merseyside LTP was submitted to the Government in March 2006. LTP2 contains 41 targets – some of which are mandatory. In order to ensure that these targets are managed effectively, they are delegated between the various Merseyside LTP sub-groups. As such, the sub-groups are responsible for the targets' monitoring and reporting.
- 3.2 For LTP2, the Government introduced four 'shared priority' areas: Congestion, Road Safety, Accessibility and Air Quality/ Environment. Each target, and indeed each transport scheme, is likely to contribute to the delivery of more than one of these 'shared priorities', however, there is generally one that can be identified as the 'main' priority.
- 3.3 Consequently, the LTP programme for 2007/08 (see Appendix) is presented differently to last year. Members will note that the main budget headings reflect the four shared priorities and that the sub-

headings more closely reflect the LTP2 objectives and policies. To ensure effective monitoring, each is owned by the LTP sub-group that is responsible for the respective targets.

- 3.4 Whilst it is essential that each of the proposals help towards meeting the delivery of the various LTP2 targets, it is evident that some schemes contribute towards a greater number of targets than others. In order to inform the funding allocations for 2007/08 consideration has been given to target delivery, however, the relative significance of each target also has to be borne in mind, along with the highway responsibilities that the authority has in terms of statutory duties.
- 3.5 Therefore, to assist the continued development of future transport capital programmes, a further piece of work will be undertaken over the coming months to develop an improved appraisal framework. This framework will provide a transparent process and help further improve scheme prioritisation, whereby ensuring funding will be allocated to projects that have the most benefits for LTP2 delivery and/or statutory obligations.
- 3.6 This framework will also be applied to longer-term projects that might be introduced into the LTP process in the future. To justify future schemes, such as specific junction improvements, it will be necessary to have a clear framework upon which decisions are based. Consequently, should appraisal of a particular project, in terms of LTP delivery, not provide strong justification then the project may not receive funding prioritisation in the LTP programme and it might be necessary for alternative funding to be acquired for the project's implementation to be pursued.
- 3.7 Should Members, through the Area Forums, be aware of potential junction or transport projects that might be considered in this appraisal process, I would appreciate any suggested locations to be forwarded to me by the end of June 2007. As the success of any project will be dependent upon its appraisal against LTP criteria, I would appreciate if members would also include the reasoning for their nominations and what element(s) of the LTP strategy each project would help to deliver.

#### 4.0 SHARED PRIORITIES, TARGETS AND SCHEMES

##### 4.1 Congestion

4.1.1 This shared priority contains schemes and initiatives that are primarily focussed on reducing/managing levels of congestion and the negative impact of the motor vehicle, and/or promoting public transport and the effective movement of freight. This is particularly relevant in terms of the LTP Person Delay Indicator on part of the A552 corridor between Prenton and Birkenhead. This shared priority also has a supporting role to the authority's Network Management Duties under the Traffic Management Act 2004, which require highway authorities to manage and ensure the expeditious movement of traffic.

4.1.2 Measures might include:

- Strategic highway improvements
- Parking (demand) management
- Area traffic control
- Intelligent transport systems
- Bus priorities
- Park and ride schemes
- Strategic signing on freight routes.

4.1.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with congestion:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP2	Change in area wide road traffic	9.2% cap on growth to 2010/11
LTP5	Bus punctuality	90% by 2012/13
LTP6	Changes in peak traffic flows to LCC (7-10a.m.)	7% cap on growth to 2010/11
LTP7	Congestion (Person Delay)	6.4% increase in traffic leading to a 4.3% increase in journey time over the life of the LTP2
BVPI 102	P.T. patronage (bus, rail)	Bus: 1% growth to 2010/11

		Rail: 7.9% growth to 2010/11
BVPI 104	Satisfaction with local buses	65% by 2009/10
L1	Sustainable transport as the final mode for air passengers	12% - 2008/09, 14% - 2010/11
L2	HGV journey times on designated freight routes	Capped at 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> of increase in traffic levels
L3	Limit current number of car parking spaces in LCC	16,500 public off-street cap
L4	% of network below threshold speeds during peak periods	Monitoring only
L5	Extent of peak spreading	Monitoring only
L6	Road works coverage	Monitoring only
L7	Park & Ride usage	35% increase by 2010/11

## 4.2 Road Safety

4.2.1 This shared priority not only contains the more traditional types of scheme to reduce road accident casualties but also those to ensure a safe and well maintained highway asset. Road safety measures undertaken as part of the LTP strategy can also contribute to the Council's road safety stretched target.

4.2.2 Road safety schemes can be split into two principal types: Those that meet accident reduction criteria and those that are not required to meet such criteria. The former are essential Local Safety Schemes (LSS) to reduce road accident casualties and can comprise of speed reductions schemes and junction / route improvements. Non-criteria safety schemes include Safer Routes to School, street lighting and structural maintenance programmes. In order to enhance previous years' road safety programmes, a NEW budget heading of "Community Projects" has been included in the LTP capital programme for 2007/08 to fund initiatives such as "20 is Plenty" and recognise recent concerns raised by elected Members in this area.

4.2.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with road safety.

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
PI 99 (X)	Total killed and seriously injured casualties	40% reduction by 2010
PI 99 (Y)	Child killed and seriously injured casualties	55% reduction by 2010
PI 99 (Z)	Total slight casualties	No change in absolute numbers to 2010
BVPI 187	Footway condition	Wirral – 18%
BVPI 223 (96)	Principle Road Condition	National survey data processing problems; DfT aware of issue & effects on target setting.
BVPI 224a (97a)	Non-Principle Classified Road Condition	Target to be set after June 2007
BVPI 224b (97b)	Unclassified Road Condition	Wirral – 4% by 2010

## 4.3 Accessibility

4.3.1 New to LTP2, the Access Plan sets out a strategy to ensure access health care, education and jobs and opportunities created through regeneration. It is anticipated that external funding will provide the main expenditure for this work therefore the LTP programme is relatively modest.

4.3.2 The LTP partners will:

- Pursue improved bus services
- Review the role of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)
- Build upon the expertise of the Community Transport Sector
- Continue the TravelWise campaign
- Encourage the development of Travel Plans with businesses and schools

4.3.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with accessibility:



TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP1	National Accessibility Indicators	Monitoring only
L8	No. of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service	Minimum 95% standard to be maintained through LTP2 period
L9	No. of rail stations upgraded to meet preset standards for (a) facilities & (b) access	By 2010/11: (a) 15; (b) 5
L10	BVPI 165 (accessibility of pedestrian crossings)	Wirral – 96% by 2010/11
L11	Bus based physical access (a) % low floor vehicles (b) % near level boarding via access kerbs	(a) 88% by 2010/11 (base 35%) (b) 32% by 2010/11 (base 12%)
L12	Affordability – Index of transport usage costs	Monitoring only
L13	Accessibility – Economic impact: Accessibility of workless residents to employment locations	Average 1% per annum improvement (target developed with Job Centre Plus)
L14	Accessibility – Education: % NEET group to access post 16 establishment	Average 1% per annum improvement (target developed with Learning & Skills Centre)
L15	Crime / fear of crime on and around public transport: (a) No. of broken window incidents reported on PT (b) Proportion of people who are discouraged from PT use at night	Monitoring only

#### 4.4 Air Quality/Environment

4.4.1 The final shared priority is to improve air quality, the quality of life and the environment. The aim of this priority area is to support sustainable travel modes to provide alternatives to the private car, including walking and cycling, as well as works to improve local environmental conditions.

4.4.2 This shared priority contains:

- Local environmental works, e.g. Home Zones and relevant junction improvements
- Walking schemes, i.e. pedestrian signals, dropped crossings and pedestrian refuges and signing
- Cycleways and cycle storage facilities

4.4.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with air quality / environment:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP3	Cycling – Index of usage	10% increase by 2010/11
LTP4	Mode share of journeys to school	Due 2007
LTP8	Pollutant concentrations within AQMAs	28%, 13% and 10% reductions in emissions at receptor sites in AQMAs
L16	Estimated transport related emissions (tonnes/year) of CO, nitrogen oxides & particulate matter	Monitoring only
L17	Vehicle mileage in the AQMA or area of exceedance	7% traffic growth cap (AQMA1) and 9.2% traffic growth cap (AQMA2)
L18	Environmental standard of bus fleet (Euro111 or equivalent)	70% of fleet to meet standard by 2011 (baseline 35%)
L19	Physical Activity Indicator	Monitoring only

#### 4.5 Transportation Planning

4.5.1 In addition to the four shared priorities above, the LTP programme contains an additional budget heading of transportation planning. Due to the constantly evolving range of demands linked to the LTP delivery, this funding stream ensures that effective forward planning can take place.

4.5.2 The type of projects under this heading include:

- Preliminary design of schemes and measures that are in the forward programme
- Acquisition of land
- Research to inform strategy development and identify future schemes.

## 5.0 DRAFT 2007/08 TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME

5.1 Wirral Council's total 2007/08 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement of £6,549,000 is made up as follows:

• Maintenance Block	£2,515,000
• Bromborough Pool Bridge (PRN)	£ 500,000
• Integrated Transport Block	£3,534,000
	TOTAL £6,549,000

5.2 The Maintenance block includes road, footway and bridge structural maintenance works. The Integrated Transport block covers the remaining elements of the LTP programme, including walking and cycling, local safety schemes, highway and public transport improvements, and traffic management schemes.

5.3 The Appendix shows Wirral's draft 2007/08 programme set in the context of the LTP2 shared priorities and policy headings. For additional information, it also includes the comparable levels of funding that were approved for 2006/07.

5.4 Due to the necessary level of analysis required for some of the budget heads, I am, however, unable to provide a breakdown of all elements of the programme at this time. Therefore, I propose to bring a separate report to elected Members in the Committee cycle in May 2007 covering cycling, pedestrian improvements, road safety, school travel and structural maintenance. These block allocations are highlighted in the Appendix with an asterisk (\*) as being subject to a more detailed report.

## 6.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Future levels of LTP funding will be dependent upon the successful delivery of the LTP programme and successful progress towards meeting the LTP2 targets. Running parallel to this, the level of funding via the LTP process is expected to reduce nationally. In terms of Wirral, it is likely that the annual LTP allocations will reduce by over £600,000 between 2007/08 and 2010/11.

6.2 Staff from my Department will continue to provide Wirral's input to the LTP and its strategic development. However, delivery of the transport capital programme will continue to have an impact on staffing requirements, particularly in the areas of work that require detailed accident analyses and public consultation prior to the scheme identification and implementation. It may be necessary, therefore, to appoint consultants to undertake certain categories of work so that I have the required flexibility to deliver the proposed programme of works.

6.3 Revenue implications – There will be increased maintenance costs or, in some instances, savings arising from specific projects. Where these arise, they will be detailed when projects are brought to Members for approval. However, it is recognised that levels of revenue funding available to the authority are not comparable to the level of capital infrastructure that is being implemented as part of the transport strategy.

## 7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific ethnic minority, elderly persons or equal opportunities implications arising directly from this report. The transport strategy, which underpins the LTP, includes measures to assist the transport needs of all sections of the community.

7.2 In addition, the Accessibility Plan within LTP2 identifies current transport barriers to key destination across Wirral. This work will inform the identification of potential transport proposals to improve opportunities for all people.

7.3 Wirral's highway and transport proposals consider the needs of people with disabilities and impaired mobility, as set out in the Merseyside Code of Practice on Access and Mobility, which takes full account of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

## 8.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 In accordance with DfT guidelines, the LTP2 is closely aligned with the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and other strategic and local policies, including the Regional Transport Strategy, Wirral's Tourism Strategy and local environmental, social and economic regeneration strategies.
- 8.2 The Merseyside authorities are currently developing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) regarding land use and transport, which will improve linkages within the planning approvals' process. It is intended that the SPD be approved and implemented in the near future and will be reported to Members separately in due course. Members will note that the SPD was particularly noted by the Government in the settlement letter as "indicative of forward thinking on the links between transport and planning".

## 9.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Most of the schemes in the Transport Capital Programme have positive Community Safety Implications, either through improvements in road safety (e.g. introducing physical changes to the highway) or improvements in personal safety (e.g. installing better street lighting).
- 9.2 LTP2 directly addresses the Government's shared priority of road safety, which links closely with the council's Local Performance Service Agreement (LPSA) to reduce traffic accidents.
- 9.3 Furthermore, LTP2 complements the Housing Market Renewal Initiative by helping to improve the street environment.
- 9.4 The LTP2 complements the majority of the Council's corporate objectives, however, it is directly linked to that of 'Improving Transport'.

## 10.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no specific human rights implications arising directly from this report.

## 11.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Sustainability and LA21 issues are common threads running through all the transport policies.
- 11.2 Specific elements of LTP2 include:
- Sustainable Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the strategy;
  - Joint working with health authorities and the promotion of walking and cycling;
  - Reduction of transport related pollution;
  - Encouraging greater use of public transport and non-motorised modes of transport;
  - Development of Travel Plans with schools and businesses; and
  - Merseyside 'TravelWise' – the initiative that is specifically helping to make an important contribution to people's behaviour change and the promotion of alternative modes of travel to the private car.

## 12.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

- 12.1 No background papers have been used in the preparation of this report.

## 13.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The LTP contains a Wirral-wide transport strategy and implementation plan.

## 14.0 RECOMMENDATION That:

- (1) the transport capital programme for 2007/08 be approved;

(2) Members inform the Director of Technical Services of potential future highway/transport schemes, for inclusion in the forthcoming appraisal framework, by the end of June 2007; and

(3) in view of the fact that the capital allocation is valid for only one year, the Director of Technical Services, in consultation with party spokespersons, be authorised to arrange the redistribution of funding between budget heads according to the changing demands of the programme.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

# **Section Five**

## **Area Forum Funding Progress Report**

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.

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## Progress report from applications previously funded through Birkenhead and Tranmere / Rock Ferry

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Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Park Family Night Association	To contribute towards running courses and activities for families.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £300.00, specifically to cover the equipment element of the project, towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding we received has had a significant impact on the lives of local people from the community. It has raised adults and children's self esteem, confidence and aspirations. The funding has provided safe structured sport specific activities with qualified and vetted coaches.
Viking Centre and Youth Club Limited	To enable the centre to operate on Friday evenings.	Panel considered this to be a good project, and agreed to contribute £500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund and £500.00 from the Community Safety Fund towards this.	We opened every Friday night from January to May 2007, targeting 8 - 12 year olds. Approximately 25 young people attended each week over the duration of the project.
Birkenhead Grange Hard of Hearing Club	To purchase a projector and screen, hire the services of a palantype machine and operator for AGMs, and to organise a coach outing and meal for our members to celebrate our 20th	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £550.00 towards this, specifically for projector, screen and palantype machine, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Thank you for the generous award which has been put to good use for the benefit of the club. It was used to purchase a projector, hire the services of a palantypist and for a computer course.

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Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Age Concern Wirral	To set up a project enabling people to record their life story through Life Diaries.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We ran our 6th Older Persons Conference in October 2006, as part of the day we ran a Reminiscence workshop and each older person was given their own copy of the life diary.
Goyararu Contemporary Arts Centre	To provide blinds in the main training hall and to assist with advertising costs.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this, specifically towards the blinds for the project, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	With the installation of the blinds all groups can use the hall safely without the glare of sunlight in their eyes. Yoga and relaxation classes feel the benefit of meditation with the blinds down and the lights off.
Wirral Life Education Centres	To contribute towards the costs of providing a mobile classroom at local primary schools.	Panel considered this to be a very good project with a good impact on young people and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.  Panel requested information on which schools are to be visited within the forum area.	The Wirral Life Education Centre has been fully utilised throughout the last academic year visiting 53 primary schools in the borough and being attended by over 12,000 children. It has delivered its full range of programmes from Reception to Year 6 with the aim of helping children make healthy choices.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Hillside Christian Fellowship	To upgrade and improve the security of the building to allow the expansion of our youth project.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to fund this.	The youth project is going well and recently we had to split the younger youth club into two due to increasing numbers. The older youth (11-19) is also doing well.
Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	To train / recruit five volunteers to cope with the emotional support and practical help for people attending Birkenhead Magistrates Court, and to cover volunteer's travel	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £210.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	We have recruited and trained five volunteers based within Wirral Magistrates court to help support nearly 3,000 witnesses.
Egerton Park Residents Ltd	To renovate two small traffic islands to design out some crime and to enhance the visual impact upon the entrance to the Egerton Park Estate.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Both traffic islands have been re-built and renovated. The first island has been topped with wrought iron railings and the railings for the second should be completed by the end of August 2007. The nuisance problem around the islands has now been virtually eradicated.



Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Age Concern Wirral	To contribute towards the Active Ageing Project by covering the costs of training expenses and the purchase of equipment.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £150.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The project was set up to benefit the existing clients and to encourage a new client group. The award enabled the continuation of the tutorial classes, covering expenses and the costs of consumables (paper, cartridges etc.)
Wirral Ladies FC	To set up an under 16 girls team.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £735.00, specifically towards kits, first aid and football equipment, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	<p>The funding has enabled us to create an under 16's girls team for the forthcoming season. We held training sessions and they were coached in football skills by qualified voluntary members of our club.</p> <p>We also used the funding to buy football equipment , a new kit and a first aid kit.</p> <p>The team is now ready for the new season and are really excited, we appreciate the support you have given us as it has had a significant impact on the development of girls and womens football.</p>

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Age Concern Wirral	To contribute towards expenses and equipment to enable the setting up of an Active Ageing Outreach Project to promote healthy eating on a budget at sheltered accommodation venues.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £150.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	<p>The project was designed to promote healthy eating on a limited budget. The volunteers have been on an accredited food education awareness training course. The volunteers visited various sheltered accommodation properties in the Birkenhead and Tranmere area giving demonstrations.</p> <p>The project was very successful and through further NRF funding we have now opened a healthy eating café in the Tranmere area.</p>
Mountwood Allotment Society	To carry out repairs to community plot and to create a meeting area.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £100.00, specifically for chairs and table, from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	The funding was used towards cost of materials used to make solid flagged pathways leading to enclosed growing beds. This has resulted in easy access to the community plot, with particular emphasis on people with special needs.
Birkenhead Park FC (Rugby)	To continue the Birkenhead Park FC Regeneration Project, specifically the promotion of the Birkenhead area as a sports hub for the local population.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund, £500.00 from the Community safety Fund (specifically towards CCTV) and £500.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund (specifically towards landscaping).	The construction of the new facilities continues and the new all weather pitch has attracted considerable use from a wide variety of users from the community. The new multi purpose community room will enable us to offer a range of indoor activities.

## Applications granted for financial year 07/08

All applications were assessed by a panel (see below) membership decided and approved by each of the area forums against agreed and publicised criteria, and in making their recommendations the panels referred to any local priorities set by their particular area forum.

Birkenhead & Tranmere Rock Ferry	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2007	Cllr Stapleton, Stephanie Reid, Lenny McCormick, Andy Brannan (advisory role)
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### Applications to Area Forums

The availability of the funding was publicised widely, including an advertisement in the Wirral Globe, publicity leaflets at Information including leisure centres, One Stop Shops and libraries etc across all of the wards and through the area forums.

### Projects funded through the Birkenhead, Tranmere and Rock Ferry forum only

Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry								Declaration of interest
SA	8	Wirral Cooperative Orchestra	To contribute towards the cost of hiring Charing Cross Neighbourhood Centre to enable the group to put on concerts (such as special needs and hospice concerts).	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel did not support this application as it was unclear exactly what the funding was required for.
SA	28	Wirral Positive Futures - Birkenhead	To fund a challenge to engage with a group of 12 boys aged between 16 and 19 that have been proving very hard to engage with.  (see also Id SA142)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not feel that it was appropriate to fund another Council department's initiative.

SA	57	League of the Good Samaritans	To cover the first years insurance for a minibus being purchased by the league.	£800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£800.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £800.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	
SA	62	Childcare and Training Scheme (CATS)	To contribute towards transport costs for affordable days out for the community.	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Safety Fund.	
SA	65	Rock Ferry Local History and Research Group	To cover advertising and publicity costs for publication on the history of Tranmere.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as felt that it was possibly a money making scheme.	
SA	66	Tranmere Alliance	To cover cost of administering the Prohelp service for local community groups and voluntary organisations.	£800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£800.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £800.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Stephanie Reid
SA	81	3 E's	To purchase a sound system for T-Dancing sessions and to run yoga sessions and stress management workshop.	£800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£800.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £800.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	
SA	103	Rock Ferry Animal and Wildlife Hospital	To cover costs incurred for the care of injured, abused, orphaned or abandoned animals and wildlife.	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	£500.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	

SA	110	Worth Unlimited (Wirral)	To train young men between the ages of 16-19 in the Tranmere area in the discipline of Parkour, to help them and to develop their respect for the local area.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as does not meet the priorities as closely as other applications.	
SA	113	10th Birkenhead Scout Group	To repaint the front elevation of the Institute	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as were unsure as to the owner of the building and what repair work would actually be carried out.	
SA	115	Rock Ferry Primary School and Childrens Centre	To contribute towards the refurbishment of the playground.	£800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£800.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £800.00, specifically towards the cost of playground furniture, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Lenny McCormick
SA	119	Birkenhead Scouts Centenary	To contribute towards staging an exhibition at the museum from November 2007 to March 2008.	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	
SA	120	Bebington Road Allotment Society	To clear site and construct recycling bays.	£0.00	£0.00	£150.00	£150.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £150.00 towards this, specifically towards cost of recycling bin, from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	

SA	141	The Salvation Army, Rock Ferry Corps	To contribute towards cost of replacing central heating boiler serving the community hall, improving access to the premises, provision of black out blinds and replacing crockery.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project but did not support this as it does meet the criteria as closely as other applications..
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**Projects funded by various area forums, including Birkenhead, Tranmere and Rock Ferry.**

Id		Organisation	Total CIF Awarded	Total CS Awarded	Total LA21 Awarded	Total Awarded
MA	3	Royal Army Service Corps & Royal Corps of Transport (RASC & RCT) Association. To purchase a desk top computer, monitor, workstation desk, printer and inkjet. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £307.39 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£706.03	£0.00	£0.00	£706.03
MA	7	Wirral Pathfinders To continue to expand on the volume and day to day information, help and support we give to people who suffer with mental health problems and their carers. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £250.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
MA	15	Wirral Women and Children's Aid To contribute towards the cost of running a youth club for our resident and ex-resident children aged 10-16, who have all witnessed / experienced domestic violence, to offer them respite from home and on going support. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	£600.00	£1,300.00	£0.00	£1,900.00

MA	36	Families need Fathers (FNF) – Wirral To maintain and run the existing office and voluntary services, providing help and support to families. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £400.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£2,750.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,750.00
MA	42	The Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (RASA) To provide new furniture for the counselling rooms in the safe house. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund	£1,900.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,900.00
MA	43	Wirral Tuesday Club To help cover the costs associated with running the club, including transport costs, hall hire, presents and trips. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £750.00, specifically towards costs for hire of hall, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£3,200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,200.00
MA	47	Sundowns To provide a two-day conference on challenge behaviour in November 2007. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,950.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,950.00
MA	51	Age Concern Wirral To purchase a greenhouse, seating furniture and a storage shed for the allotment project. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £600.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£600.00
MA	59	Wirral Community Pipe Band To purchase two bass drums and cases. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £70.08 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£905.92	£0.00	£0.00	£905.92
MA	77	Wirral Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	£4,625.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,625.00

		To provide an out of hours telephone advice service. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £675.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.				
MA	92	Wirral Society of the Blind and Partially Sighted  To provide an outreach service to maximise the awareness of the organisation and to ensure blind and partially sighted people in the community have access to services. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £640.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£3,128.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,128.00
MA	99	JoJoes Out of School Club  To contribute towards Love to Learn - an initiative to add extra learning opportunities to an established out of school club, through the provision of specialist equipment and tuition. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,334.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,334.00
MA	114	Victim Support and Witness Service Merseyside  To run a volunteer recruitment drive and to run volunteer training. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £900.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	£150.00	£2,850.00	£243.00	£3,243.00
MA	121	Wirral Raynet  To provide a radio and tracking device to enable a quick response of deployment of emergency vehicles. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £100.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	£0.00	£700.00	£0.00	£700.00
MA	124	Grand Parents Carers Group  To contribute towards purchasing suitable equipment for children and young people for activities and games during the summer holidays. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £500.00 from	£500.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,500.00



		the Community Initiatives Fund				
MA	126	Parkside United JFC To purchase a football kit for the club. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £213.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£566.00	£0.00	£0.00	£566.00
MA	127	Birkenhead Central Parents Forum To run a community safety course for women. To renovate area outside forum meeting area. Panel considered these to be good projects, but due to limited funding available, agreed to contribute £1,000.00 towards these (£500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund and £500.00 from the Community Safety Fund).	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
<b>Total Awarded</b>			<b>£38,259.59</b>	<b>£8,572.50</b>	<b>£5,443.00</b>	<b>£52,275.09</b>

# **Section Six**

## **Local Area Forum Plan Update**

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.

**CABINET – 20 JUNE 2007**  
**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES**

**ROAD SAFETY**

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The Local Transport Capital Programme, which was considered and approved by Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007, sets out project details relating to proposed schemes within the areas of road safety, school travel, structural road maintenance, walking and cycling.

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Merseyside, which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The second LTP (LTP2) covers the period between 2006/07 and 2010/11 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets

On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007, Cabinet approved the report (Minute 310) on the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme described how, in accordance with Government guidance, the new LTP is constructed to relate to four “shared priorities” – Road Safety, Congestion, Accessibility and Air Quality/Environment.

Consequently, the LTP programme for 2007/08 has been revised to match these priorities and more effectively reflect LTP objectives and policy areas.

This shared priority contains the more traditional types of scheme to reduce road accident casualties as well as those to ensure a safe and well-maintained highway asset. Road safety measures undertaken as part of the LTP strategy can also contribute to the Council’s road safety stretched target

**WALKING AND CYCLING**

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The following programmes comprising of pedestrian signal controlled crossings, dropped kerb crossings, pedestrian refuges, pedestrian signing and public rights of way, are proposed to encourage walking through better environments where it safe and attractive to walking

The Walking Strategy deals with the following specific programmes and recommends works/allocations for each of the following headings:-

	<u>Allocation</u>
Pedestrian Signals	£140,000
Walking/Pedestrian Dropped Crossing	£26,000
Pedestrian Central Refuges	£26,000
Signing for Pedestrians	£10,000
Public Rights of Way	£15,000
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	£217,000
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Area Forum – Heswall, Pensby, & Thingwall	£16,300
Area Forum - Bromborough & Eastham	£16,300

Further details of this report will be included in the Birkenhead, Tranmere and Rock Ferry Forum Plan for 07/08. Please contact Andy Brannan on 0151 691 8391 for more information.



# **Section Seven**

## **Streetscene Update**

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.

## Residents Parking Zones

The Residents' Parking Zones consultations for seven pilot areas have been completed. The seven areas were:

- **Atherton Street area, New Brighton** – near to New Brighton train station and a small number of businesses.
- **Alexandra Road area, West Kirby** – Near to boating lake, beach, shops and Coronation Gardens.
- **Grasmere Drive area, Wallasey** – Just outside of Liscard resident parking scheme. Near to local shops.
- **Barnston Lane area, Moreton** – To the north of an existing small scheme. Within Moreton town centre where there is generally low provision for commercial off-street parking.
- **Probyn Road/Ponsonby Road, Wallasey Village** – Near to train station.
- **Acacia Grove area, West Kirby** – Mixed residential/commercial use, close to train station, shopping centre and leisure areas.
- **Brookfield Road/Brookfield Gardens, West Kirby** – primarily residential with displaced parking related to nearby businesses and train station.

The findings of the consultation were recently reported to Wirral Council's Cabinet. The resolution is that Residents' Parking WILL NOT be implemented in the 7 pilot areas as the majority of residents involved did not want the schemes. Wirral Council will now write to all those involved.

In future, people will refer to their Area Forum Coordinator to request a Residents' Parking Scheme. Area Forum Coordinators will be provided with information in time for the next meetings. (Not October's meetings)

## School Children Win Road Safety Prize

In conjunction with Merseyside Police and Radio City, Wirral Council have presented a £1000 prize to Rock Ferry High School for their outstanding entry in our Road Safety video competition.

Pupils from Wallasey School, Park High School, Rock Ferry High School, and Woodchurch High School scripted, directed, filmed and edited videos, aimed at getting road safety messages across to other young people.

All of the films were excellent and we couldn't possibly pick the winner - so we gave the opportunity to Wirral's young people to vote online for their favourite video, and Wallasey were the clear winners.

The videos can still be viewed online on Radio City's website [www.radiocity.co.uk/roadsafety](http://www.radiocity.co.uk/roadsafety)

**Traffic Safety Schemes – the following safety schemes have recently been completed:**

St. Peters Way, Noctorum - 20mph/Traffic Calming Scheme

Portsunlight Train Station to Clatterbridge Hospital - Cycle Route  
(including 3 Toucan Crossings :- Brimstage Road, Bebington, Church Road,  
Bebington, Bromborough Road, Bebington)

Arrowe Park - Ambulance Priority Scheme (substantially complete)

Hoylake Road nr. Danger Lane, Moreton- Puffin Crossing

Townfield Lane, Oxton- Puffin Crossing (substantially complete)

**Puffin Crossings have been proposed at the following locations:**

- Hoylake Road / Stuart Avenue, Moreton - Conversion of existing zebra crossing, 13m West of its junction with Stuart Avenue
- Laird Street / Miriam Place, Brikenhead - 8m North-West of its junction with Miriam Place
- Irby Road / Fishers Lane, Pensby - Conversion of existing pedestrian refuge, 29m North of its junction with Fishers Lane
- Townfield Lane / Calverly Close, Oxton - 60m West of its junction with Calverly Close
- Eastham Rake / Plymyard Avenue, Eastham - 16m South-West of its junction with Plymyard Avenue

**Recycling Update:**

All Wirral Residents' should have recently seen a "Recycling Update" wrapped around the Wirral Globe Newspaper. To re-cap:

**Grey bins - recycling**

Since the roll out of the grey recycling bin across Wirral, the recycling rates for the borough have rocketed! The latest figures show that approximately 32% of Wirral's waste is being recycled, as opposed to 12% this time last year.

Grey bins have been rolled out gradually over the last 9 months and now 95% of properties are on the scheme. Those who live in flats or multiple occupancy housing will be joining the scheme soon.

The grey bin is for plastic bottles, glass bottles, jars, cans and tins, paper and card and other dry recyclables. Whilst food waste, plastic bags, plastic containers, foil and textiles go in the green bin as normal, and garden waste goes in the brown bin.

Message from Director of Technical Services:

"I would like to thank all the residents of Wirral for their support and participation so far. I am aware that there were teething problems to begin with, as all major changes take time to get used to, but now the system is working excellently and our latest recycling figures prove that."

David Green, Director of Technical Services, Wirral Council

Also, certain households who received their grey bins very early on in the scheme will be receiving literature very shortly, informing them that there has been a slight change in what they can put in their grey bin. As they were the first to get the bins, it was thought that the MRF recycling facility at Bidston would be able to process foil and certain plastic containers. However, foil and certain plastic containers such as yogurt pots are not able to be separated from the other materials very well. They tend to end up in the paper stream which increases the risk of the paper bails being rejected from the mill that finally recycle the paper. Therefore the only form of plastic that we can accept in the grey bin is all types of plastic bottles. All other kinds of plastic can not be recycled in your grey bin scheme. Neither can foil, or foil lids.

### **Brown bins – garden waste**

17,000 Wirral Households were taking part in a combined food and garden waste brown bin pilot. People on this pilot will have originally received a small brown kitchen caddy, along with their brown bin, and instructions about how food waste and garden waste could be put in the brown bin. These households will have recently received information telling them that the pilot scheme has now finished, and that brown bins will be for garden waste only from now on.

The pilot has concluded that it is better to collect garden waste only in our brown bins. This is because processing a combined collection of food and garden waste is a complicated and expensive way of collecting organic waste. If successful it could have helped reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill and increased Wirral's recycling rate.

Unfortunately, due to a combination of the following factors, the scheme hasn't helped us to reach these targets:

- The composting units have struggled to maintain consistency with the biological reaction necessary for this type of enclosed composting.
- We've actually received very little food waste from residents as a whole, which meant the scheme was not cost-effective.
- Residents had concerns over putting food waste directly into a bin without wrapping.

Due to the above issues, the Council did not receive the benefit it expected in terms of weight of recycling, and now plans to reassess food recycling. There are many new options available, but these depend on facilities offered by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, with whom we are working to research and develop the best options.

### **Home Composters**

We are offering low cost composters to Wirral households, in conjunction with Recycle Now. Up to a third of an average household bin can be composted. Items such as fruit and veg peelings, shredded paper, teabags, flowers and cardboard egg boxes can be easily composted at home.

[www.recyclenow.com/compost](http://www.recyclenow.com/compost) 0845 077 0757

### **Future footway works planned**

Grafton Street (part) Birkenhead ([STARTS NEXT WEEK](#))

Lord Street (part) Birkenhead



Chester Street (part) Birkenhead

Downham Road (part) Birkenhead

Richardson Road, Rock Ferry

**Carriageway resurfacing completed**

Devonshire Road (part) Birkenhead

Bedford Road (part) Rock Ferry

New Chester Road (part) Rock Ferry

Bridge Street, (part) Birkenhead

Argyle Street,(part) Birkenhead

Mount Road (part) Bebington

**Carriageway Retread sites completed**

KNOWSLEY ROAD/VICTORIA DRIVE  
ALLERTON GROVE

ROCK FERRY  
BIRKENHEAD & TRANMERE

**Carriageway Surface Treatment sites completed (or due to be completed within the next 2-3 weeks)**

NEWLING STREET  
TRINITY STREET  
ABERDEEN STREET  
CRAVEN STREET  
RODNEY STREET  
HELENA STREET  
FOX STREET  
COLLEGE DRIVE

BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
ROCK FERRY

**Footway Surface Treatment sites completed (or due to be completed within next 2-3 weeks)**

RUSSELL STREET  
CRAVEN STREET  
RODNEY STREET  
HELENA STREET  
FOX STREET  
KNOWLES STREET

BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD  
BIRKENHEAD

# **Section Eight**

## **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 equality and diversity policy and strategy for Wirral Council**

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 and these are: Race, Disability, Gender, Age, Sexual Orientation and Religion or belief

Wirral has a new equality and diversity policy which sets out the council's commitment to fair employment and equitable service delivery and includes detailed statements in relation to all six strands of the equality standard. It also sets out the legislative framework within all local authorities must operate.

The council currently has 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.

Main site [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)  
or use the following link [http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO\\_Policy.htm](http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm)

Alongside its new equality and diversity policy, Wirral has introduced an equality and diversity strategy. The strategy recognises that Wirral has particular challenges in relation to this area of work, and that the council must work at all levels to progress this important agenda.

The authority has mechanisms to ensure all departments regularly discuss equalities. There is, for example, a cross-cutting corporate group which meets regularly to assess the progress of departments through the equality agenda. In this way the council works to address any areas of weaknesses in employment practice or service delivery.

### **Council staff diversity forums go from strength to strength**

An employee diversity forum has long been established within the council. This group consists of staff from across the local authority and brings together issues relating to the six strands of the equality standard.

The group meets regularly before the council's corporate group, in order for the forum's views to inform strategic discussions. For more information about the employee diversity forum please contact Steve Russell (Chair) on 0151 691 8656 or email [steverussell@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:steverussell@wirral.gov.uk)

More recently, two further staff diversity forums have been set up specifically designed to align to a particular strand, the gender diversity forum (women's group), and disability diversity forum.

The gender diversity forum has met twice since their inaugural meeting in May with the next meeting scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> September. The focus of this meeting will include

agile working and transforming working practices to meet the future and addressing the gender imbalance within the top 5% of staff within the Council.

For more information please contact Christina Bebbington (temporary Chair) on 0151 691 8063. or email [christinabebbington@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:christinabebbington@wirral.gov.uk)

The disability diversity forum has met three times since their inaugural meeting in May discussions have included terms of reference for the group and discussing council communications aimed at raising awareness about the reasonable adjustments to which people with disabilities are entitled.

For more information please contact Ged Smyth (temporary Chair) on 0151 691 8217 or email [gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk)

If you are interested in finding out more about what the council is doing about equality and diversity please visit the council's website where you can also have your say.

### **Wirral Black and Racial Minority Partnership established**

The Wirral Black and Racial Minority Partnership (WBRMP) held its inaugural meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

The aim of the WBRMP is to provide Wirral Black and Racial Minority communities with a co-ordinated voice to enable them to become more involved in local issues that affect their lives.

The Partnership has recently agreed its constitution and appointed officers. Presently, they are being supported by the Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network, Community Engagement Team at Bebbington CVS.

The Partnership is hoping to hold their official launch on 3<sup>rd</sup> October this year in The Laurie's Centre.

Current members of the Partnership include; Wirral African and Caribbean Community Voice, Wirral Cultural Diversity Group, Irish Community Care, Wirral Change, Wirral Sikh Association amongst others.

If you are interested in the work of the Partnership or wish to join please contact Julie Johnson or Karen Livesey 0151 645 4038.

### **Mayoral reception for Wirral's leading BME community members**

The Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Phil Gilchrist, held a reception for Wirral's leading BME community members at on 6<sup>th</sup> September in the Round Room, Wallasey Town Hall.

The council recognises the growing diversity in Wirral and wanted to provide a forum to meet with those who represent both the established and the emerging minority communities.

Although informal, the reception offered an opportunity to discuss any issues that are of concern and a selection of senior council officers were in attendance.