

YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**

**Birkenhead Tranmere and
Rock Ferry
Area Forum**

Papers for the forum meeting

3rd June 2008

**Birkenhead Town Hall
7.00pm – 9.00pm**

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<u>Section One</u>	Minutes from last Meeting Matters arising	Page 3
<u>Section Two</u>	Local Updates	Page 12
	Strong local economy	Page 13
	➤ Prince Andrew unveils £1.75 million state-of-the-art maritime training centre in Birkenhead.	
	Sustainable appropriate housing	Page 14
	➤ Affordable renovated houses for sale.	
	Life chances for children and young people	Page 15
	➤ Youth service update	
	➤ Wirral given green light to offer new diplomas	
	➤ Young people's achievements celebrated	
	Safer communities	Page 18
	➤ Community safety	
	➤ Merseyside police	
	➤ Merseyside fire & rescue service	
	➤ Bring Accidents Down 2 Zer0	
	➤ Wirral Council signs up to Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy	
	Health and well being	Page 23
	➤ Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS foundation trust	
	➤ LINk. Wirral Local Involvement Network.	
	Living and working environment	Page 26
	➤ Wirral top of recycling table.	
	➤ Wirral receives a tourism boost	
	Cross cutting	Page 26
	➤ Equalities & diversity	
<u>Section Three</u>	Funding	Page 31

Section One

Minutes from last meeting and any matters arising

Minutes - Area Forum (Birkenhead & Tranmere and Rock Ferry) - 4 February 2008

Present

Chair

Cllr Jean Stapleton

Ward Councillors

PL Davies, Brian Kenny, M McLaughlin, Mrs CM Meaden

Community Representatives

Peter Exley, Lenny McCormick, Mike Parkinson, Stephanie Reid (Tranmere Alliance)

Lead Officer

David Ball (Head of Housing and Regeneration)

Area Service Co-ordinator

Andrew Brannan

Wirral Primary Care Trust

Tina Long (Director of Strategic Partnerships)

Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Len Richards, Chief Executive, Wirral NHS Trust

Merseyside Police

Sergeant Kevin Jones, Inspector Rachael Wilson

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Ben Ryder

Other Partners

Myrtle Lacey (Age Concern Wirral)

Council Officers

Ian Lowrie (Community Safety Team)

Apologies

Cllr Bill Davies

Minute 1 - Welcome / introduction / apologies

Minute Text :

The Chair opened the meeting and informed the forum that the five Councillors from this meeting will arrive later as have had to attend another meeting. She welcomed the forum members, including some new members, and 17 members of the public to the Area Forum meeting in the Rock Ferry Community Centre. She invited forum members to introduce themselves.

Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinators Report - Including: Matters Arising from October 2007

Minute Text :

Area Co-ordinators Report

The Area Co-ordinator informed the forum that the minutes of the last meeting held on 2 October 2007 had been incorporated into the Area Co-ordinator's report. The matters arising were included on page 10 of the report, including a response to the query on the GP Surgery and Birkenhead Park update, and introduced Adam King who gave an update on this:

Adam informed the forum that he has been the Senior Ranger for the past three years and has now taken over from Martin McCoy as the Manager of Birkenhead Park. The seven year £11m restoration of the park is coming to a conclusion, and has led to vast improvements to the park's appearance and the number of visitors. The main job left is drainage, but this has had to be left due to the recent wet weather. The park has achieved the Green Flag Award,

the National Standard in Parks, for last year and this year. The park has also been the first park on Merseyside to be awarded the Green Heritage Site Award.

There has been an increase in the number of volunteers, and the Friends of Birkenhead Park has a volunteer to co-ordinate the volunteers in the Park, this is the community coming together. We work with community groups, such as bowls groups and community sports forum. Park newsletters are produced to promote the park, and copies were available at the meeting. Various events have taken place in the park, the biggest was the race for life, attracting 7000 visitors. The park pavilion visitors centre has a cafe, information point and gallery that features a different exhibition every three weeks.

An advisory committee has been set up and meets four times a year. The committee has been looking at night time closure / security of the park. Questionnaires re: locking the park at night have been issued and the results of these will be taken to the Culture Committee.

A Community Involvement Project within the park has been awarded lottery funding of £0.5m. This is a five year education / community programme. A piece of land adjacent to the park has been taken over to set up a market garden. We are looking to recruit a Park Adventure Play Officer. We are looking to put on six weeks of activities "Art in the Park" during the year for schools on uses of the park. We have increase school involvement, and last term involved 2000 children from primary schools.

The following questions / issues were raised:

Q. Have the bowling greens been improved?

A. Two gardeners have been improving the aeration / top dressing. We have six greens, one is being rested and the other five are being managed. The grass levels will be lowered by the end of March.

Q. Why is there fencing by the rocks?

A. Temporary chestnut fencing was put there by the contractors, to protect areas to allow plants to be established.

Q. Is the iron fencing around the lakes temporary or permanent?

A. This is permanent and is a similar, but slightly higher, to the original Victorian style railings. The rails are quite plain and have all been painted dark green to blend in.

Q. Can the inner gate on the ring road be opened during the bowling season?

A. This was locked, at the request of the bowlers, to prevent people from cutting across the greens. Will discuss this with the bowls forum.

Q. Why did the plans for the pavilion change from the original, as disappointed that it is not as accessible as it was supposed to be (e.g. the corridor to the meeting rooms is too narrow)?

A. The Swiss Bridge is an original structure, but all paths are wheelchair / pushchair friendly and have had an inspection recently. Will discuss this in more detail at the end of the meeting.

The Area Co-ordinator also informed the forum that he would be to deal with any questions or issues from the report and he can be contacted on 0151 691 8391 / andrewbrannan@wirral.gov.uk.

Matters Arising

David Ball updated the forum on the following:

Grange Road Shopping Centre - there had been delays to the car park project, but it is hoped that this will be started in the near future and will look at addressing the condition of road surfaces.

Peel Holdings waterfront / town centre development - the latest development on the masterplan for developing the waterfront will help with how this will link in with the town centre development. Consultations will take place to look at aspects of proposals for the town

centre.

David agreed to report back further on these at the next meeting.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that:

- (i) the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for his report
- (ii) Adam King to discuss issue of locked gate on inner ring road with the bowls forum
- (iii) David Ball to report back to the June 2008 area forum on developments re: Grange Road Shopping Centre and Peel Holdings waterfront / town centre plans.

Minute 3 - Sustainable Communities Strategy

Minute Text :

The Chair introduced Jane Morgan, Performance Management Officer, who gave a presentation on the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreements (LAAs).

Jane informed the forum that it is a statutory requirement to have an SCS which sets a strategic, long-term vision for the area. The Council, in consultation with its partners, sets a framework for an action plan, with the LAA as the delivery plan. The aim of this is to enhance quality of life of local communities through actions aimed at improving economic, social and environmental well-being.

The SCS tells Wirral's 'story' (people and places); highlights the differences between areas, the big problems and solutions; determines vision and what do we need to do achieve the long-term vision for Wirral. Wirral's long-term vision: A more prosperous and equal Wirral, enabling all communities and people to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Wirral's 'story' / big problems:

- it is a borough of stark contrasts (25 areas are within the 3% most deprived but 7 areas are within 10% most affluent)
- it has the worst health inequality in the North West
- has an underperforming economy and an ageing population
- has a significant inequalities including educational attainment; crime and worklessness.

How do we solve the problems?

- focus on right people and places
- shared local action (work in partnership, involve all agencies including the third sector and direct resources to where most needed)
- shared principles (community cohesion, sustainability and equality & diversity)

The Strategy belongs to and allows everyone to connect to the 'big picture'. You can be involved by letting us know what people and places you think we need to focus on. A consultation document will be available, within the next few weeks, at www.wirral.gov.uk. If you would like more information on this or have this in a different format please telephone 0151 691 8030.

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

Q. What happens if departments don't listen to what people say, as people affected often don't get a say? / Groups work hard and want to improve facilities for local people, so need to ensure that they are involved in plans.

A. All departments have been involved in identifying the priorities within the LAA and have bought into this. The SCS is only a paper document, so we are going out to forums to try and make a difference where it matters and address any gaps and want your comments.

Q. Under the Social Services Review of direct payments hours have been cut drastically and can have an affect on people receiving this (i.e. they may no longer be able to afford to work, so would end up back on benefits and not contributing / paying income tax). Will issues such as this be acknowledged?

A. The Strategy will review what has been done to date and information, based on real

evidence of key issues, will be shared. We are in an environment of decreasing resources.

Q. The shortfall was given back, so why is there still a mental attitude of decreasing resources?

A. (David Ball) Central Government have set guidelines on LAA service provision and we now have a much wider partnership to deliver services. Often there are more priorities than resources to carry them out and we can't do everything we want to do, so we need to choose key priorities and target these. Nationally the government has had issues with finances, and local authorities have been required to make savings. We are trying to get better together and use resources more effectively. We are making progress in that direction, but some of the decisions won't please everyone. There are still situations where national and local authorities don't sit well together, and we are trying to address these. We are consulting on this to allow you to feed into the process on setting priorities.

Q. Is the Council considering the "Ground for a Pound" scheme where old government buildings that are to be demolished are sold to community groups, trusts, charities etc.?

A. (David Ball) - The Council have researched this along with a range of other ideas about using local assets to actually get further investments and regenerate areas. The Council is working on these concepts to get maximum value on assets. A lot of work is going on (e.g. through Tranmere Together) but much of this is very new and needs more detailed work before we can move forward. Further updates will be made on this at future forums.

Q. What is happening re: Byrne Avenue Regeneration?

A. (David Ball) - There are a number of issues re: the former baths, in terms of Council ownership, and we are in touch with the members of the trust to try and sort out issues and move forward on this.

Q. How can the public influence the plan when they are not mentioned as partners in the plan / are there mechanisms in place to ensure that plans, such as Together, are not in conflict with the local area plans?

A. Local area plans are under review and the consultation process will include looking at how local plans feed into the LAA. A list of the partners, including the voluntary and community sector, can be provided to show how we are engaging and working to avoid duplication when addressing issues.

Myrtle Lacey added that all local community groups have the opportunity to join the voluntary and community sectors network. There are 400 groups in the network and representatives from each sector can be elected to the network panel and have a direct seat on Local Strategic Board, Local Area Agreement Programme Board and associated development groups. If you would like further information on this please contact me.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Jane Morgan be thanked for her presentation.

Minute 4 - Wirral's contribution to capital of culture

Minute Text :

The Chair introduced Emma Degg, Head of Tourism and Marketing, who gave a presentation on Wirral's contribution to capital of culture.

Emma advised the forum on Wirral 08 - culture for all, a borough-wide campaign aiming to encourage residents to have pride in Wirral, generate publicity for and raise Wirral's profile, link to Capital of Culture 08, and support cultural initiatives from local communities. The Council is not the font for all creative knowledge for the area and want to encourage local communities to get more involved, help generate publicity and raise Wirral's profile.

Wirral's main events include:

- Wirral BookFest (7-12 April)
- Kites Across the Mersey at New Brighton Dips (7-8 June)
- Wirral Show, including an X factor competition for young people (12-13 July)
- Tall Ships, including a parade of sail (21 July)
- Wirral Food & Drink Festival (30-31 August)
- World Fire Fighter Games (end August)

- International Guitar Festival of Great Britain (7-23 November).

Links to Capital of Culture include:

- various schools taking part in pan-Merseyside projects including a performance of 'Adiemus' in Liverpool Cathedral,
- Pacific Road hosting prestigious 'Into The Big Hill' – one of the 'top 8' 08 premieres. Wirral is the only borough outside Liverpool hosting this premiere
- providing extra publicity through 08 Yearbook, website and quarterly guides
- go Superlambanana opportunities, with Wirral having its own Superlambanana.

The community can become more involved and receive free PR for events. For more details on this please apply for a resource pack (a free 'How To' pack with information on funding, health & safety, publicity etc.) Small grants are also available to voluntary and community groups, 33 Community Grants have been given to local initiatives which celebrate and enhance Wirral's culture and uniqueness. These have included comedy workshops in Birkenhead, Wirral-wide photography project, craft event for carers, amateur opera in Rock Ferry and an exhibition in Birkenhead Park.

Other cultural highlights include:

- Art/Exhibitions, Williamson Art Gallery & Museum hosts series of fascinating displays
- Theatre, Pacific Road offers everything from American wrestling to Basil Brush and there are great line-ups at the Gladstone Theatre & Little Theatre too!
- Music, including Into the Cool jazz festival, Folk on the Coast, brass bands and choral concerts
- Sports, Aikido Festival, Festival of Golf, Wilson Trophy, World Firefighter Games, Merseyside Rugby Sevens.
- Film, Wirral Schools Film Festival with special guest Lord David Putnam. Wirral's International Film festival is proposed for later in the year.

Please get involved / encourage other to get involved by:

- organising an event or activity celebrating Wirral's culture or heritage during 2008
- sign up to receive our monthly eBulletin, support local events and encourage other people and organisations to join in too!
- badge your event with the Culture for All logo
- tell us what you're doing so we can publicise your events and activities.

A guide is available containing all events and is available at all local libraries. A further copy will be published in July, if you know of any events that could be included in this please contact Clare Naylor - 0151 691 8255 / clarenaylor@wirral.gov.uk.

The Chair thanked Emma for her presentation and the following question / issues were raised:

Q. Is Bidston Hill / Observatory being publicised?

A. Yes, we are working with the capital of culture on a heritage open day.

Q. Why don't we have one of our ships at Woodside instead of a U Boat?

A. We recognise that this is a sensitive subject, however the £3.5m visitors centre was provided by Merseytravel, following on from the success of the Spaceport. Any tourist attraction is a good thing.

Q. Why was the tourist information centre at Woodside closed, as feel that this stops / discourages visitors to the borough?

A. The tourist information centre was not being used, but we are in discussion with Merseytravel to include information in the new visitor attraction. There will also be information points for visitors at the Pyramids and across the Merseytravel network within the next few weeks. We are also planning to place information at the Liverpool and Chester tourist information centres.

Q. Is there any money available for people who wish to run an event?

A. There is no money in the kitty, but if you contact us we will look at the project and may be able to help you with it.

Q. Carers can be as young as six, and want to be offered facilities for them to relax and be looked after rather than being taught arts and crafts.

A. The project came through WIRED from carers who wanted to be involved in the capital of culture.

A member of the public added that the carers group at the Lauries runs a very successful book club. Councillor McLaughlin added that such activities are offered as well, not instead of, relaxation classes.

Q. How much of the income that comes into the Spaceport goes to Wirral / Merseytravel?

A. All of the income goes to Merseytravel, but it does bring people to Wirral.

David Ball added that it also supports the school's observatory.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Emma Degg be thanked for her presentation.

Minute 5 - Public question time

Minute Text :

Q. The Albany Bowling Club on Well Lane is the oldest in Wirral. Outline planning permission for the area surrounding the club was approved, but the club was not notified of this. Wish to be kept informed of what is happening re: this?

A. David Ball - please pass me your contact details at the end of the meeting and I will respond to you directly. Peter Exley asked to receive an update on this.

Q. The South End Social Bowling Club has now closed, so there is no green available - would like to know who the owners of this are and what is happening to it?

A. David Ball - please pass me your contact details at the end of the meeting and I will respond to you directly. Peter Exley asked to receive an update on this.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

(i) David Ball to look into and pass on information on the Albany Bowling Club and the South End Bowling Club.

Minute 6 - Area Forum Partner updates

Minute Text :

Police

Rachael Wilson informed the forum that she is the Acting Inspector for this area, covering for Inspector Mick Blease, who will be back on 18 February. Rachael talked through the update on page 30 of the Area Co-ordinators report, including:

- there has been an increase in high visibility policing in the town centre
- there has been a decrease in street drinkers in the town centre
- Bedford Road Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) - there has been an increase in cameras
- Leighton Road / Rodney Street ASB - a local action group has been set up, it meets monthly and all are welcome to attend.

The Chair thanked Rachael Wilson for her update and congratulated the team.

Jim Cadwallader thanked the Police for supporting the joint programme with young people and Mike Parkinson thanked them for the follow up he received when he recently reported a crime.

Rachael informed the forum that Citizen Focus is a new initiative under which a selection of victims are called to see how their case is being dealt with and give feedback.

Community Safety

Ian Lowrie informed the forum that he now has responsibility for race / hate / diversity crimes and thanked Rachael Wilson and Mick Blease for working with him on this.

Questionnaires to find out what your concerns are re: crime reduction on the Wirral are available at the meeting, please let us have your views by completing and handing back the questionnaire at the end of the meeting.

Ian talked through the update on page 26 of the Area Co-ordinators report, including:

- Respect Wirral, a week long event tackling ASB.
- Respect Bus, tackling ASB in the area and providing support for problematic families, working closely with counselling services. This was included as part of a visit by the Home Secretary last month.
- Working with Registered Social Landlords tackling problem neighbours.
- Stealth vehicles, there have been recent successes in Wallasey where perpetrators have been sprayed with smartwater and tracked to their home address when trying to break in / steal from cars.
- CCTV cameras in hotspot areas, there have been good results on the Woodchurch Estate.
- Remote alarms, neighbourhood inspectors can issue alarms to people to try and prevent them becoming repeat victims.
- Smartwater property marking schools programme, this is coming to the end and has been rolled out to most of the schools. All school property is marked and torches can detect this equipment.

The Chair thanked Ian for his update.

Fire & Rescue

Ben Ryder talked through the update on page 28 of the Area Co-ordinators report, including:

- Working with schools, fire liaison officers have been working with schools to try and drive down ASB against fire fighters.
- Fire Fit Kids, an initiative where fire fighters go to schools to give fitness advice.
- The implementation of the Hazardous Materials Incident Response Pump at Bromborough Fire Station took place on 1 February 2008, following fire fighters going to Washington to receive specialist training, and we are now leaders in dealing with hazardous waste.
- We have one of the best search and rescue teams in Europe.

Ben informed the forum that will bring front line crews to future meetings.

The Chair thanked Ben for his update and the following were raised:

Jim Cadwallader welcomed the fitness initiatives and invited Ben to try out Japanese Drums. Ben thanked Jim for the invite.

Councillor Meaden welcomed the fire safety initiative, three years ago she received a fire check at her home and has received a further visit to make sure everything is still ok. Ben confirmed that when alarms are fitted the information is recorded on a database which is monitored and re-visits are depending on risk of fire. Batteries cannot be taken out of new smoke alarms and last about 10 years. If anyone has any problems with their smoke alarms please contact the Fire service and we will fix these.

Councillor McLaughlin added that Wirral's Fire Service is an example of good practice. Ben confirmed that front line crews will go out and engage with groups of people to discuss issues affecting them and aim prevent incidents.

Q. If you live in a rented flat who is responsible for carrying out home fire safety checks, the Fire Service or the landlord?

A. Ben confirmed that everyone is entitled to a free safety check from the Fire Service and that an appointment can be made by calling the freephone number 0800 731 5958.

Q. Who is responsible for the removal of hazardous waste, as an engineer from a private company left a dangerous piece from a microwave following a maintenance repair? And are the Fire Service working with such companies to stop this?

A. Suggest that you ring the fire crews who may be able to advise on the best course of action, but the responsibility for this lies with the private contractor.

NHS Trust

Len Richards informed the forum that directors of the trust will be attending all forums to find out what is important to you, get views on what patients want and think of the services provided, and give updates on what we are doing. The foundation trust is now about seven months old and has over 5,000 public members and 5,000 staff members. Governors have been elected from these members and we engage with them when planning our services, there are three governors for this forum area.

Information on how to become a member and what we are doing was available at the meeting, along with an update on page 32 of the Area Co-ordinators report.

The rate of MRSA is small and reducing due to the work around cleanliness practices, and we are aiming to get this down to zero. There are no incidences of this at Clatterbridge or at the Women's unit at Arrowe Park site.

Waiting lists from GPs to specialists is much improved and we are working on all targets and hope to make further progress over the rest of this year. We also provide specialist services e.g. urology cancer, macular type problems and will continue to develop these.

The Chair thanked Len Richards for this update and following questions / issues were raised:

Q. Are there any governors at this meeting?

A. Yes, Hugh Langford and Gaynor Hilliard.

Q. What research is the university doing on celiac disease?

A. The teaching accreditation is for teaching rather than research. We have a lot of junior doctors, as part of the Liverpool medical school, and will teach them how to spot this.

Q. I have been diagnosed with aspergers syndrome and am slightly autistic. When being treated at Arrowe Park staff have discussed me, within my hearing, describing me as difficult to communicate with. Staff need to be informed that this is not the case. Merseycare have an aspergers group, but wont offer me any support as live on Wirral.

A. Tina Long - apologised for service provided whilst at Arrowe Park, we need to make sure that our staff are aware of and take an holistic approach, and have a whole programme in the hospital aimed at tackling this. We are also aware that there are a number of specialist services not available on Wirral and are working on this.

Councillor Meaden congratulated the hospital on its baby care service.

Q. Why are patients kept waiting 3+ hours to see a specialist, or a student?

A. This is an issue that we are going to look at next year, we are focussing on the whole patient experience and are being assisted on this by the new governors.

Primary Care Trust

Tina Long informed the forum that the trust has two roles, to provide health services and to make sure that have the services needed in place. We have been developing a commissioning strategy for the next five years and identifying priorities for additional services to invest in and develop, on top of core services. The priorities over the next five years are to:

- improve health inequalities
- provide minor services more locally
- improve access to mental health and specialist services
- develop services for older people
- reduce the scale of alcohol misuse and alcohol related conditions

- work with the Council to improve our services for children and young people
- modernise community based services

We want to work with people and community groups to see if you agree with our priorities. Leaflets are available, events are taking place and focus groups have been arranged to enable everyone to get involved, ask for more information and feed in your views.

The Chair thanked Tina Long for her update and the following questions / issues were raised:

Q. What is being done about the smoking ban, as people still smoke outside the hospital doors? A. Len Richards, the no smoking policy covers the hospital and grounds and the security are trying to police / enforce this.

Councillor Meaden added that the enforcement works at Clatterbridge but not at Arrowe Park.

Q. People also smoke in the doorways of public houses, is this illegal?

A. It is against the law to smoke in doorways as it is considered to be an enclosed place. Environmental Health are aware of this problem and are trying to address it.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Inspector Rachael Wilson, Ian Lowrie, Ben Ryder, Len Richards and Tina Long be thanked for their updates.

Minute 7 - Future meetings/presentations - June 2008, Birkenhead Town Hall

Minute Text :

The next meeting will be held on 3 June 2008 at Birkenhead Town Hall, no presentations have been set for the meeting.

Minute 8 - Any Other Business

Minute Text :

A member of the public mentioned that, at the last meeting, there was no recognition that members of the public attended and felt that this was not a good message.

The Chair informed the forum that the minutes of all of the forum meetings includes details of public attendance and that 21 members of the public attended the last meeting and this was noted on page 4 of the Area Co-ordinators report.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Matters arising

Adam King to discuss issue of locked gate on inner ring road with the bowls forum

This issue at the meeting of the Bowls Forum on Tuesday 26th February following the area forum on Monday 4th February.

The clubs' representatives at the Forum felt that allowing people cutting through the bowling greens, especially those with dogs, results in more problems, and so they wished to continue having the gate in question left closed. The gate is however usually unlocked Monday to Friday when the greenkeeper is on site carrying out maintenance.

In addition, each of the bowls clubs have been issued with a set of keys, and if they need access they can unlock the gate when the greenkeeper is not on site.

David Ball to report back to the June 2008 area forum on developments re: Grange Road Shopping Centre and Peel Holdings waterfront / town centre plans.

Planning Permission has been granted for the Europa Boulevard proposal, which includes offices, a hotel and a casino. The developer is now finalising details with the end users and will hopefully commence development soon.

The food superstore has Planning permission and the developer is finalising details with the end user. Some enabling work has commenced and we hope that the store will be ready for opening around October 2009.

Improvements for Grange Road are still being explored. The Area Forum will report any updates at future forums.

David Ball to look into and pass on information on the Albany Bowling Club and the South End Bowling Club.

The bowling clubs have decided to accept planning permission on the land surrounding the club and no longer need information on the proposal.

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 Sustainable Communities Strategy themes *strong local economy, sustainable appropriate housing, life chances for children and young people, health and well being and living and working environment.*

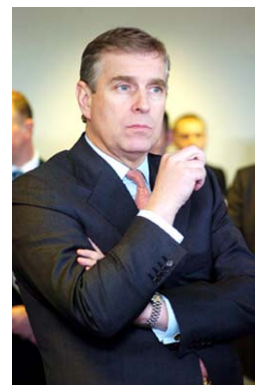
Strong Local Economy

Prince Andrew has unveiled a £1.75 million state-of-the-art maritime training centre in Birkenhead.

The Duke of York, who served for 22 years with the Royal Navy, also revealed the new name for the Laird Foundation in Birkenhead, which merged with Mersey Maritime last year and is now known as Maritime and Engineering College North West.

Based at Maritime and Engineering College North West in Monks Ferry, the Quay Skills training programme uses virtual reality technology from the filming and gaming industries to create virtual ports, where port workers can learn to drive forklift trucks, cranes and other equipment.

The training focuses on port operations and international trade and logistics.



After a tour of the college and demonstration of the virtual reality facility, the prince unveiled a plaque with the college's new name and said: "This part of the world has obviously got huge potential for growth in the maritime sector and it's really good to see that you've actually put your minds to it locally and you're driving this maritime heritage forward in a way that's going to give these young people a future.

The college represents more than 1,000 maritime businesses on Merseyside, providing more than 26,000 jobs in the city-region and contributing £2.5billion to the local economy each year.

In order to develop Quay Skills, Mersey Maritime, with the support of Wirral council received £656,000 from the Single Regeneration Budget, funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency and £656,000 European funding from Merseyside's Objective One programme.

A further £450,000 investment came from the private sector.

[Article and picture by Wirral Globe]

Sustainable Appropriate Housing

Affordable Renovated Houses For Sale **Wirral Council's new improved HOUSED scheme**

As part of Wirral Council's Empty Property Strategy the Empty Property Team have established a scheme called HOUSED (Home Ownership Using Sustainable Empty Dwellings). The scheme enables those wishing to own their home, the opportunity to purchase a property that has been refurbished to extremely high standards at an affordable price.

There are currently five properties under refurbishment that will be ready for sale in May. All of the properties in the scheme are fully refurbished to Decent Homes standard with new kitchens and bathrooms. They also have a full Gas Central Heating system, new UPVC double glazed windows and doors, electrics and plumbing.

The available properties are in the Birkenhead/Rock Ferry/Tranmere areas, prices range from £75,000-£85,000 although a 10% grant may be available reducing these costs to £67,500-£76,500.

We are also able to offer the free service of a Home Ownership Advisory Officer and a grant of up to £2,000 to help with reasonable costs such as Legal & IFA Fees and Removal Costs.

If you are unsuccessful with this phase of properties, your details can be kept on file as there will be more properties available in the next phase.

For more information call Michelle Griffiths on the Empty Property Hotline, 0151 691 8005 or log onto www.wirral.gov.uk/he/housing/PSHR/housed. You can also email us at emptyproperties@wirral.gov.uk.

Life Chances for Children and Young People

Wirral given green light to offer new diplomas

Wirral has been given the go-ahead to offer Diplomas, a new qualification for 14-19 year olds.

Developed in partnership with universities and employers, the Diploma combines theoretical and practical study, providing a different style of learning that will offer young people an alternative route into higher education, apprenticeships or employment with training.

From September 2009, eight diplomas will initially be offered: Construction and the Built Environment, Creative and Media, Society, Health and Development, Engineering, Hospitality and Catering, Hair and Beauty, Business and Administration and Information Technology. By 2013 a total of 17 diplomas will be available for all Wirral's learners.

Students studying the diploma will continue to be based at their school or college but will have opportunities for hands-on experiences in a work related environment. This could be with a local employer, university or college or training provider.

The Diploma represents a huge opportunity for Wirral students of all abilities to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes to succeed in work and life in the twentieth first century. Information about these new qualifications will be available next term from schools and colleges in the consortium, Connexions and i-choosewirral.org.uk

For further information ring Barbara Mervyn, 14-19 Curriculum Manager, Wirral Council, 0151 346 6749.

Young people's achievements celebrated

The achievements of 13 young people have been celebrated at an event facilitated by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

The celebration evening took place for a determined group of young people from across the borough to commend their participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme as part of their silver award.



Caroline Laing, Manager of Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, who hosted the evening said: "We too often hear about the negative behaviour that a small minority of young people engage in. This event was a chance to celebrate the achievement of a group of committed young people and the positive contribution they have made."

The programme was co-ordinated by Jo-Anne Seddon, an Advocate from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service seconded to Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and conducted in her own time as a volunteer. The 26-week programme saw the young people study first aid, undertake search and rescue exercises, use personal protective equipment used by fire crews and spend time with a number of services such as Response, Merseyside Police (Mounted Section), Forum Housing, HMP Walton and Marine Rescue

Youth Service Update

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Response

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

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes

within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

International Work

Each year the Youth Service runs a comprehensive programme of International Youth Exchanges. Young people from Wirral take part in a number of international opportunities including, Hong Kong and 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 main three sessions a week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 7.00pm – 10.00pm. In addition the Trustees run additional weekly sessions for younger children, called the Bantams at teatimes on Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays. 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. As well the normal activity the Beaconsfield Youth Club whose funding has ran out is now merged into the Viking Youth Club

Birkenhead Youth Action Project supported by Tranmere Together and Tranmere Alliance, has successfully reduced incidents of anti social behaviour in the vicinity of Bedford Rd. Young people from this area identified a need for them to have greater access to local facilities and funding was obtained to light and make a football cage available for use during dark nights. A group of young people from Rock Ferry are involved in a Bikes for Africa project. A group from the Woodlands Estate have undertaken a first aid course 'Save a Friend.'

Safer Communities

Bring Accidents Down 2 Zer0



'Bring accidents down 2 zero' is a new scheme that aims to reduce the speed of traffic in your area, without the need for traffic calming measures such as speed bumps and chicanes.

Driving at 20 miles per hour through residential areas makes you 80% less likely to have an accident than if you drive at 40mph, and 40% less than if you drive at 30mph.

Through the use of 20 mph signs, erected on lamp posts at the roadside, drivers will be aware of the advisory 20 mph speed limit and will be encouraged to reduce their speed, though no legal enforcement will be in place.

Which areas are involved?

There are seven areas across Wirral in which we are trialling the scheme. These areas include Oxtton, West Kirby, Liscard/New Brighton, Greasby, Meols, New Ferry and Bromborough

Will the Police be issuing fines for people driving at over 20 mph?

No, the Police will not be issuing speeding fines, as these 20 mph signs are advisory, not a legal requirement. However, Community Speedwatch members will be on duty across Wirral using radar guns to gauge traffic speeds. Anyone driving at unacceptable speeds will have their registration noted down and forwarded to Merseyside Police who may take action.

What can I do to help promote the scheme?

If you wish to raise awareness of the scheme in your area, then feel free to download a copy of the poster and leaflet to display in your window, or local shop window etc. The more local people that are aware of the scheme the better, as everyone will watch their speed in your area.

How do I get a 'Bring accidents down 2 zero' scheme in my area?

You could apply via your local councillor, or you could contact us via the contact details below.

How do I give Wirral Council some feedback about the scheme?

You can send an email to streetscene@wirral.gov.uk , call us on 0151 606 2004 or write to Road Safety Team, Cheshire Lines Building, Canning Street, Birkenhead CH44 8ED.

Wirral Council signs up to Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

Wirral Council has thrown its support behind a borough-wide strategy to reduce the harm caused by alcohol.

It aims to tackle misuse of alcohol by young people, to improve the treatment for people experiencing problems with alcohol and to address the related social problems of antisocial behaviour, crime and domestic violence.

John Webb, Wirral Council's Director of Adult Social Services said: "We recognise that alcohol plays an important part in the local economy and for the majority of people who drink sensibly, it is an enjoyable part of their social lives.

"However, we are also aware of the significant harm that alcohol misuse causes to the health of people and the well-being of communities in the borough, and we are concerned that, for an increasing number of people, the effects of alcohol misuse are presenting serious and in many instances, life-threatening dangers."

Marie Armitage, Wirral's Joint Director of Public Health added: "I would like to formally welcome Wirral Council's decision to offer their support to this important strategy. I firmly believe that, by effectively tackling alcohol misuse, we will support local people to lead safer, healthier and more fulfilled lives."

Wirral's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy sets out a number of targets including;

- Improving access to alcohol interventions and specialist alcohol programmes
- Reducing the number of people who abuse alcohol being denied immediate access to appropriate specialist treatment
- Increasing the number of people who abuse alcohol successfully completing their treatment programme
- Reducing admission and re-admission rates amongst those presenting at Wirral Hospital Trust, with alcohol specific and related conditions
- Reducing the length of stay within Wirral Hospital Trust for patients admitted with alcohol specific and related conditions
- Increasing the number of people who abuse alcohol taking advantage of support services and entering into education, training and employment
- Increasing the number of people reporting a reduction in their drinking levels
- Increasing the numbers of people receiving aftercare following treatment for alcohol misuse

Summary for Area Forums: ASB (Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team)
January 2008 – May 2008

In addition to ongoing enforcement action against the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, specific activity has included:

□ **Ice Cream Engagement Project (launched April 2008)**

This innovative project is funded initially by Wirral Drug & Alcohol Action Team. It involves the use of a decommissioned ice cream van staffed with workers from Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's Youth Respect Team, including a specialist alcohol misuse worker. The purpose of the project is to provide alcohol misuse awareness to young people and the project is touring Wirral twice a week, targeting both hot-spot locations of anti-social behaviour and areas where young people congregate. The project is being sponsored this financial year by Beechwood & Ballantyne Community Housing Association.

□ **Anti-Social Behaviour Advice Surgeries (launched May 2008)**

A six-month programme of advice surgeries for residents in the private sector suffering with anti-social behaviour has been launched by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team. This will see the Team's Respect Bus taken into communities and staffed with Enforcement Officers who can take complaints directly from the public and provide comprehensive advice. The full timetable can be found at: http://www.wirral.gov.uk/News/Archive/200804/news_0000601.html

□ **Deployment of the Community Mobile Police Station (May 2008).**

The unit, a partnership between Wirral Council and Merseyside Police, managed by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, has been re-located to Poulton, on the corner of Sherlock Lane and Clayton Lane. This part of the Poulton area has been identified as a 'hot-spot' for anti-social and criminal behaviour and the unit will be located within the area, as a central hub, for tackling crime and disorder within the neighbourhood until the end of the school summer holidays.



New Neighbourhood Action Group commences

The first Birkenhead Ward Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) was conducted on the 6th May 2008, after it was established that the regular NAG was predominantly based on the Tranmere and Rock Ferry areas.

The meeting was well attended including two of the three local councillors and representation was widespread.

During the meeting the following priorities were agreed:

Anti Social Behaviour connected to street drinking in the area of Borough Road Birkenhead. It appears that the efforts made to rid the town centre of street drinkers have produced a bubble effect. The ward team will now adopt the same robust approach that has been successful in the town centre of Birkenhead.

Illegal Drug Activity in the area of the Woodlands. Several residents provided anecdotal evidence of drug dealing taking place during the day. The ward team will look to utilise the expertise of others within the Wirral Police Team including Field Intelligence Development Officers and operation hawk. There will be a drive to encourage community intelligence. Once a clear picture has been built then officers from Operation Hawk will be utilised to enforce the law.

Car Parking and Speeding in the vicinity of Kingsland Road. There was information supplied to the group that vehicles when dropping off and collecting at schools in the vicinity of Kingsland Road blocking drives and double parking. There is also issues connected with speeding in the same location.

The ward team will commence with an initial period of education and followed by enforcement.

Neighbourhood Action Groups are held periodically and feature representation from amongst local residents, community groups, Councillors, Neighbourhood Management bodies and other agencies including Merseyside Police.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service



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

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

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

Merseyside has become the first fire and rescue service in the country to receive a Beacon award for its role in improving public health – and in doing so has become the first fire service to win three Beacon awards. The Fire Service was one of only six authorities across the UK to receive Beacon Status for Reducing Health Inequalities. It has previously been awarded Beacon Status for its Services for Older People and Children At Risk – Early Intervention.

Furthermore, young people from the Wirral are currently undertaking a 12 week Beacon Course. The use of the fire service as a vehicle to reduce and prevent fire and anti social behaviour and to engage with young people in our local communities has been recognised as a valuable contributor both locally and nationally and is one of a number of multi partnership initiatives that Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service is facilitating as part of its contribution to community safety.

The Fire and Rescue Service also received further recognition for making a significant contribution outside its core role and consistently showing excellence and innovation.

The health award means fire services and other agencies from all over the world, concerned with the health agenda will come to Merseyside to learn more about MFRS' successful health programme, which include

Fire Fit Kids - Firefighters deliver fun, high energy physical activity programmes to school pupils, with a particular emphasis on encouraging the participation of those pupils who traditionally shy away from competitive sports. This will hopefully be introduced into schools on Wirral later this year.

Heartbeat Gyms: Outreach gyms in Community Fire Stations across Wirral help promote rehabilitation and health promotion needs of people with cardiac problems.
Start Right: Aims to reduce childhood obesity and encourage healthy lifestyle in children aged 5-8 and their parents, using firefighters as positive role models.
Market garden: Use of land at Bromborough Community Fire Station for local youngsters to grow fruit and vegetables and then use them in healthy recipes.

Community engagement remains the cornerstone of our proactive activity, in particular the delivery of the Home Fire Safety Checks and the provision of free smoke detectors were necessary. We continue to improve our effectiveness by utilising intelligence led targeting of HFSCs. We are currently developing household specific dwelling fire prediction software to assist in the process.

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

With the onset of the finer weather and the large areas of green belt land on the Wirral we are in the process of implementing a collaborative grass fire strategy which will help reduce the risk of fires and also assist in how better to deal with these incidents.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service is extremely proud to be hosting the 10th World Firefighters Games as its contribution towards the city's European Capital of Culture celebrations. The Games take place between August 24 and September 2, 2008, with the new waterfront Echo Arena being transformed into the 'Official Games Village' for the duration of the 10 days.

Find out more about the World Firefighters Games 2008 by visiting www.wfg08.com

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

Community Fire Stations

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

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

Health and Well Being

Wirral University Teaching Hospital 

NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Controlling Infection.....**

- Our Elective Surgical Unit at Clatterbridge remains MRSA bloodstream infection free – this Unit can undertake most planned surgical procedures including joint replacements.
- Our Women's Services Unit at Arrowe Park is also MRSA bloodstream infection free
- The annual incidence of MRSA bloodstream infections across the Trust has reduced from 35 in 2006/07 to 26 in 2007/08 – a 26% reduction.
- Reducing the incidence of MRSA and Clostridium difficile is a very high priority for the Trust and staff are implementing a comprehensive action plan to achieve this.
- In partnership with local GPs, our staff are working towards a more prudent use of broad spectrum antibiotics that, if over-used, can make C.difficile infection more likely to develop.

- **Waiting for Treatment.....**

- Currently, no patient waits longer than 5 weeks for an outpatient appointment when referred by a GP for a specialist opinion and many waits are much shorter than this
- Many patients referred for most orthopaedic and gynaecology outpatient appointments will wait only 2 weeks
- Currently, most patients will wait no longer than 10 weeks for their operation once they have been 'listed' by a consultant.
- Patients with suspected or confirmed cancers are referred, diagnosed and treated well within national target
- Waiting times for new referrals to the Audiology service have reached an all time low of 6 weeks thanks to the hard work of the staff in that department.

- **Improving Our Standards.....**

- Our Women's Services achieved a 'hat-trick of excellence' when they were recently awarded CNST Level 3 accreditation. Of the 156 Maternity Units in the country, only 17 others have achieved Level 3 and our Unit is the only one to have achieved 100% in every standard at every level.

Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) Level 3 is evidence that our maternity services are extremely safe, well-managed and overall 'first-class'. This follows the Unit's score of 'best performing' in the Healthcare

Commission's Maternity Services Review and being named 'best in the region' in a national survey of new mothers and mothers-to-be at the end of 2007

- For the second year running we have been named as one of the country's Top 40 performing hospitals by an independent benchmarking company that compares our performance in 20 key areas – including infection rates, mortality rates and waiting times – against other, similar hospitals.
- In the 2006/07 Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check we scored 'good' for our use of resources and 'good' for the quality of our services
- An external assessment of our standards by the Patient Environment Action Team resulted in the following scores being awarded to the Trust for 2007 -

	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Privacy & Dignity</i>
<i>Arrowe Park</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>4 (Good)</i>	<i>5 (Excellent)</i>
<i>Clatterbridge</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>4 (Good)</i>	<i>4 (Good)</i>

- **Improving Our Facilities.....**

In this financial year, 2008/09, around £10million will be spent on capital schemes to improve our facilities and update the services we provide – schemes will include:

- £3.1m to upgrade our IT systems
- £900k to provide parents' accommodation at Arrowe Park Hospital
- £500k to replace medical equipment
- £1.3m to upgrade surgical wards
- £290k to improve car park Infrastructure
- £400k to improve & standardise ward storage facilities
- £100k to improve disability access
- £780k for environmental/energy usage improvements
- £250k to improve privacy & dignity at ward level

- **Providing New Services.....**

- The Trust is now designated as a centre for providing drug therapy for age-related Macular Degeneration. This is a new, local service for the benefit of Wirral residents.
- The Trust is a designated Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery
- We are the only NHS organisation in Merseyside and Cheshire to offer a new laser technique – the *greenlight laser* – that is transforming the treatment of prostate conditions
- We will soon be bringing our Rheumatology services closer to where people live and work with the appointment of an additional Consultant Rheumatologist – clinics will soon be up and running at St Catherine's Community Hospital and Victoria Central Hospital as well as Arrowe Park & Clatterbridge Hospitals.

- **Easy to Use Website.....**

- Our new-look, easy access website can provide lots of useful information for patients, the public, staff and GPs about the Trust and its services go to www.whnt.nhs.uk
- The website is speech enabled for browsers with sight related problems
- The new, easy click, 'email a patient' facility has been very well received by patients and their relatives

- **Come and Join Us!**

- As a Foundation Trust we are keen to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have more than 5,500 Public Members and are keen to recruit more. Public Members can get involved as much or as little as they like – from just receiving ‘Public Membership News’, our regular newsletter, to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. To join, simply complete and return the attached Membership Application Form or join on-line @ www.whnt.nhs.uk
- During June and July the Trust is holding elections for Public Governors to represent the Public Members of the following Wirral areas - Bidston, Bromborough & Eastham, Claughton, Liscard, Tranmere, New Brighton & Wallasey and West Wirral. The results will be announced after 10th July.

LINK

WIRRAL LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK



WHAT WILL WIRRAL LINK DO?

- Give everyone a chance to say what they think about **their local health and social care services** – what is working well and what is not so good.
- Give people the chance to check how care services are planned and run
- Feedback what people have said about services so that things can change for the better.
- Operate independently but in partnership with statutory organisations such as the National Health Service and Local Authority.

WHAT POWERS WILL THE WIRRAL LINK HAVE?

- Make reports and recommendations and request information, and get a reply within a set amount of time.
- Where appropriate, enter, view and monitor certain services to see what they do.
- Tell elected politicians on the Wirral Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) what they have found and get a response.

WHO CAN BE A PART OF LINK?

- Anyone can be a part of a Wirral LINK but there will be different levels of activity, involvement and membership.
- The LINK will be representative of everyone in the community, this means all of the different groups, and types of people that make up the local population.
- The LINK should also be able to give people who do not usually have a say to give their views.
- LINKs Members will include:
 - Individuals
 - Service User Led Groups
 - Local Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations

BUT...you do not have to be a member of a LINK to get involved and have your say.

There is lot of work to do however, we have an enthusiastic and dedicated team working within our Community Engagement Team:

**Please contact Karen Prior and Lynda Denman,
LINK Support Workers
on 0151 645 4038
Email: wirrallink@vcawirral.org.uk**

Living and Working Environment

Wirral top of recycling table!

Wirral Council has emerged as top of the recycling table in Merseyside. Figures recently released by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority show that Wirral recycled 31.68% of its household waste between April 2007 and December 2007, putting the borough ahead of the region's four other authorities.

Wirral's success comes after the implementation of grey recycling bins and an alternate weekly collection, as part of a new waste contract with Biffa. The new figure of 31.68% compares to the previous year's figure of 13.5% of household waste being recycled.



Wirral receives tourism boost

Three of Wirral's visitor attractions have received a ringing endorsement from coach operators from around the UK.

Representatives from over fifty UK tour operators visited a number of attractions in Merseyside including The Lady Lever Art Gallery, Sunlight Vision Museum in Port Sunlight and Ness Gardens.

The tour was organised by the Mersey Partnership and Northumberland-based Steve Reed Tourism in Partnership with Wirral Council's Tourism Team. The idea behind the tour was to attract more business to Wirral and exploit the massive tourism potential in the Borough.

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Equality and Diversity

Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG)

Jacqui Cross started working for the council six months ago as the Corporate Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator.

Jacqui's job is to co-ordinate numerous activities across the whole council in order for us to reach level three of the equality standard for local government.

Each and every one of us (council employees and residents) has a role to play in ensuring services are appropriate for people who need to use them, and for all residents to feel they are able to access job opportunities here at the council.

Why is this so important? Wirral is a great place to live and work for most people. However, because some people are different from that majority for example they may be older than you, have a different sexual orientation than yours, they may follow a different religion than you, or be disabled, have a different ethnic background, or wish to become a different gender than they were assigned at birth, we want to play our part in making Wirral a great place to be for everyone.

No one wants to face or fear discrimination, so it is crucial that we promote equal chances for all and take pride in making the positive changes that will need to happen.

Over the coming year everyone will be encouraged to take part in one or more of the following activities (to name but a few):

- Participating in one of the council's equality consultation events
- Taking part in completing equality impact assessments
- Completing questionnaires in order for us to develop an equality profile of those who use our services
- Visiting the equality and diversity section of the council's website
- Reading a copy of our 6-monthly newsletter Equality Watch (first issue late summer 2008)
- Helping us to assess the accessibility of our buildings

Finally a big thank you to everyone who has helped us in the last six months to speed up the momentum of activities.

For more information please contact Jacqui on 0151 691 8064 or jacquicross@wirral.gov.uk

Equality profiles

Sexual Orientation issues – profile of Wirral LGBT forum

What is the LGB&T Forum?

The Wirral LGB&T Forum was set up with the help of the Wirral Voluntary & Community Sector Network (The Network) for members of the LGB&T community who live and work on the Wirral.

Its purpose is to give these members a voice in the decision making process that affects Wirral, to sign post members to services that can help with particular issues and to provide social networking opportunities.

The Forum has been established to help any one of any Age, Culture, Faith or Disability.

Our Website: <http://www.everyoneweb.com/wirralgbtforum>
Or email wirralgbt_forum@yahoo.co.uk

Disability issues – profile of Wirral Carers / WIRED

Do you look after someone? Does someone depend on you? Is your caring role too much at times?

If you answered yes to any of these questions then you are one of Wirral's 37,500 carers.

A carer is someone who looks after a family member, partner or friend in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability. This can be a mother, father, brother, husband, child or even a friend or neighbour.

At Wired we may be able to support you with your caring responsibilities by offering advice, help and even someone to talk to when things are getting too much for you. In a recent national survey nearly 90% of the people said that caring had an impact on their health. Many carers were affected by stress, anxiety, depression or loss of sleep.

We now have over 470 carers registered with us who receive quarterly news letters which include information about changes to services, invitations to carers' events and activities such as the carers' art classes, pamper days and even samba drumming.



We have a carers counselling service which gives you the opportunity to talk to someone about any issues you have without feeling guilty or judged. Our counsellors are



experienced at listening, are unpaid and offer their services voluntarily.

If you would like to join the carers register or talk to someone about anything relating to your caring responsibilities then please call the Carers Team on the **Carers Helpline** on **0151 670 0777** between the hours of 9am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday or you could log onto www.wirralcarers.co.uk and email us. On the website you will find lots of helpful information and links to other organisations who may be able to help you.

Sexual Health - Terrence Higgins Trust on the Wirral

On 22 February 2008, Terrence Higgins Trust officially opened its new centre in Birkenhead. Attended by Claire Sweeney, the Mayor of Wirral, Cllr Phil Gilchrist and Chairman of Wirral PCT, Frances Street, as well as over 50 representatives of other agencies on the Wirral, the opening was a great success.

Terrence Higgins Trust was established in 1982 in response to the death of Terry Higgins. Terry was one of the first people in the UK to die of HIV related illness. Terry's friends wanted to do something that would highlight the situation both politically and socially with a view to stopping other people going through what Terry went through.

25 years later, and Terrence Higgins Trust is now the largest HIV and sexual health charity in Europe with over 30 offices across England, Wales and Scotland. Whilst we still provide many of our services primarily for people infected or affected by HIV,

we increasingly provide other sexual health services such as, in some areas, screening for sexually transmitted infections.

Across the board, one of the biggest barriers that exists to the maintenance of good sexual health in the UK is the stigma and discrimination associated with sexual ill health. This is particularly pronounced for people living with HIV.

On the Wirral, we will be providing services with a strong emphasis on sexual health promotion as well as harm reduction. We will continue to provide services for communities that are under-represented in many ways, such as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

However, our services are for anyone, and thus individuals or professionals with queries or concerns about sexual health can contact us for support and information. Our services will include:

- Outreach
- Face to face
- Targeted group work
- Capacity building with communities
- Safer sex information and advice
- Safer sex campaign and other resource distribution
- Training and education
- Counselling

Some of these services are currently in place whilst others will be developed and rolled out throughout 2008/9.

For more information contact: Terrence Higgins Trust, 5 Bridge Street, Birkenhead, CH41 1AS, Tel: 0151 666 9890, Email: info.wirral@tth.org.uk, Web: www.tth.org.uk

Age Issues – profile of Age Concern

Age Concern Wirral exists to promote the well being of older people in the whole of the borough of Wirral helping to make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.

We believe that each person has a right to a life, which maintains their personal independence, safeguards their privacy, offers genuine and informed choices, and provides opportunity for them to enjoy and contribute to the community as fully as possible, and meet their social, spiritual, cultural and individual needs.

You can contact Age Concern at the following venues:

Head Office, 42-44 Market Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 5BT 0151 666 2220

Active Age Centre, Whetstone Lane, Birkenhead, CH41 2QS, 0151 647 3537

The Lauries Centre, Unit 2, 142 Claughton Road, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 6EY, 0151 649 1760

Devonshire Resource Centre, 141 Park Road North, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 0DD, 0151 653 4404

Please visit the following website to find out more about Age Concern
www.ageconcernwirral.org

Gender Issues – profile of TransWirral

TransWirral is an education, advocacy, campaigning and support organisation for all transsexual/intersex people (including teens) who reside in the north west of England.

Transsexualism is a gender identity disorder in which there is strong and on-going cross-gender identification, i.e. a desire to live and be accepted as a member of the opposite sex. There is a persistent discomfort with his or her anatomical sex and a sense of inappropriateness in the gender role of that sex. There is a wish to have hormonal treatment and surgery to make one's body as congruent as possible with one's psychological sex.

TransWirral provides a supportive environment for transsexual/intersex individuals, helping them overcome their sense of isolation and providing educational and social opportunities.

Meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of each month between 1 – 3pm. Trans people are encouraged to bring along family members and friends who themselves may need help and advice.

For more information please email robyn@transwirral.zzn.com or penny@transwirral.zzn.com or visit www.transwirral.btik.com
Helplines: 07833 385126 or 07961 828471

Race Issues – profile of Wirral Change

Wirral Change provides support for members of the Black Racial Minority community who have multiple barriers to employment which are further compounded by issues relating to language, culture, unrecognised qualifications and a lack of recent or local work experience. Specialist guidance workers engage and support customers to access employment opportunities and support participants to overcome multiple barriers to employment.

For further information contact Clint Agard, Wirral Change on 0151 650 5428 or email clint.wirralchange@yahoo.co.uk

Section Three

Funding

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

Its up to you!

Wirral has been named as a government pilot area for Participatory Budgeting.

Participatory budgeting (PB) engages with local people to take decisions on the spending priorities for a part of the local authority budget in their local area for activities such as local environmental issues, community facilities, road safety measures or local crime initiatives.

PB must be conducted on an inclusive basis and can help bring about a change in the relationship between communities, elected councillors and local authorities.

In order to move this work forward we took the advice of the Participatory Budget Unit in order for trials to take place.

After discussions with the unit we have earmarked 3 area forums: Bidston and Claughton, Oxtun and Prenton and West Wirral. The pilot will provide us with a new and innovative way of allocating community initiatives fund in these three areas.

The most significant change will be in the replacement of panel decisions with all projects voting on who should be allocated funds.

Applications for funding will remain the same; however the consideration of bids will be determined by PB sessions. Applicants will be requested to attend the session in their area, and in a 2-3 minutes statement why they should be funded. Attendance is compulsory. Each presentation will be scored out of ten by the other applicants and when scores are added together the top ranking projects will receive funding. Further details and information about the sessions will be sent out to the applicants who submit eligible bids

FREE FUNDING INFORMATION 4 YOU

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

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

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

Step One

Go to www.wirral.gov.uk

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

Step Two

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

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

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

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

www.mfip.org.uk

Area Forum Funding Progress Report - Birkenhead and Tranmere / Rock Ferry

(previously awarded monies - to 2006/2007)

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Kings Church Parent and Toddler Group	To purchase upgrade the furniture and equipment for our crèche facility.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,150.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding has enabled us to extend and upgrade our facilities. The group provides for local parents and toddlers. It is a place where parents can meet, socialise and find support in common problems concerning their children's development. It also provides a place where children can play safely and interact in preparation for starting nursery / reception.
Argyle Music Hall	To provide entertainment for older people and those who have an interest in music hall (hire of venue, payment of artistes and musicians, advertising costs).	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £200.00 towards this, specifically towards the artistes costs for the project, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We were delighted to receive this funding and have put on a Grey Factor Talent Competition on 3rd October 2007 and music hall events on 3rd December 2007 and 3rd March 2008. The next event is due to take place on 23rd June 2008.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Wirral Premier Table Tennis Club	To enable several young players within the club to gain the necessary qualifications to start a beginners club and to purchase new equipment.	<p>Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £328.00 towards this, specifically to cover costs of bats and balls, from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>Panel advised the applicant to apply to the Bromborough and Eastham Area Forum in future.</p>	Thank you for your support, it was greatly appreciated. We have purchased bats and balls and now have three qualified coaches within the club who are in contact with the sports co-ordinator for Wirral and they are working together to promote our table tennis club.
Birkenhead Park Crown Green Bowls Forum	To organise a summer school for young people to introduce them to the sport of crown green bowls.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £100.00, specifically to cover equipment costs, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	As part of Birkenhead Park children and young people's activity week woods-4-fun was run for children aged 6 - 16 on five consecutive mornings. 118 children were involved and all expressed a wish to be able to play again. This has enabled us to expand the interest of the younger generation and quite a few clubs now have junior sections.
Byrne Avenue Recreational Trust	To extend opening times on Friday and Saturday evenings to provide youth engagement opportunities.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	The project has provided a popular diversionary activity giving 25 young people an opportunity to make a positive contribution to the community by engaging in positive activities and providing valuable information on young peoples requirements.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Parkside United JFC	To purchase track suits.	<p>Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £340.00, specifically for tracksuits, from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>Panel advised applicant to also apply to the Bidston and Claughton Area Forum in future.</p>	The tracksuits were purchased, printed with the club name and issued to all the boys within the team.
Maritime Housing Association In Partnership	To contribute towards running a family matters programme and family matters day.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £100.00, specifically for bouncy castles, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding was put towards a Childrens Day, in the Birkenhead - Exmouth, Craven, Conway, Paterson area, during 2007. Over 400 residents (including approximately 250 children) attended and enabled us to start what we hope will be a year long Family Matters Programme.

Area Forum Funding Progress Report

Birkenhead and Tranmere / Rock Ferry

previously awarded monies - 2007/08 onwards

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
League of the Good Samaritans	To cover the first years insurance for a minibus being purchased by the league.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £800.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding paid for the major part of the first year's mini-bus insurance. This has enabled the group to be assured of the financial viability of the project. The mini-bus has been used by the Tranmere Lunch Club, Tranmere Methodist service, Charing Cross Church Youth Club, Viking Youth Club, Tranmere Alliance and a healthy walking group organised by Together and Tranmere Community Wardens.
Childcare and Training Scheme (CATS)	To contribute towards transport costs for affordable days out for the community.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Safety Fund.	Thanks to the funding we were able to arrange a day out for 15 families to the Camelot Theme Park in October 2007.

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Tranmere Alliance	To cover cost of administering the Prohelp service for local community groups and voluntary organisations.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £800.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	<p>Prohelp is a service which provides professional services, such as accountancy and surveying, free of charge to voluntary and community sector organisations.</p> <p>Prohelp has helped two local allotment groups with plans; one bisexual, gay & lesbian group, one local cricket club with a new build and one local charity that works with the local community.</p>
Rock Ferry Primary School and Childrens Centre	To contribute towards the refurbishment of the playground.	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.	All of the resources have been delivered and we are now planning where to put all of the signs to maximise learning capability and enhance the learning journey.

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="801 212 1532 312">1. New Brighton / Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £300.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund. <li data-bbox="801 360 1532 576">2. Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch - Panel considered this to be a good project but did not support this, due to the number of excellent bids received in this round exceeding the funding available, and have agreed to support the smaller groups in the area. <li data-bbox="801 624 1532 799">3. East Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project due to the service and support offered to all women and their children across Wirral. Agreed to award £300.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund. <li data-bbox="801 847 1532 1023">4. Bebington / Clatterbridge - Panel appreciates the work that the organisation does for Wirral, but did not fund this as wished to support the smaller groups within the area that have not previously received funding. <li data-bbox="801 1070 1532 1174">5. Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund. <li data-bbox="801 1222 1532 1394">6. Bromborough / Eastham - Panel considered this to be a good project, but feel that this does not fit the criteria for funding (e.g. Christmas parties) and could not see how children from the forum area would benefit directly from this. 	The youth club continues to expand, and we provide ongoing weekly support and activities for our children who have all witnessed / experienced domestic abuse. The club gives the children time to be "children" and to realise that there are others in the same situation. The club provides respite for both mums and children. We try to take the children out at least once a month to experience some of the things that so many take for granted.

Organisation

Project Details

Decision

Progress Report

7. Leasowe, Moreton & Saughall Massie - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £300.00 from the Community Safety Fund.

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Families need Fathers (FNF) - Wirral	To maintain and run the existing office and voluntary services, providing help and support to families.	<p>1. Bidston & Claughton - Panel considered the work carried out by FNF to be important, but felt that this did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications received in this round. Panel requested that the applicant submit a bid in the next round of funding that sets out specific details of what the funding is required for.</p> <p>2. New Brighton / Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project but did not support this as it does not fit into the priorities of the funding.</p> <p>3. - Heswall / Pensby & Thingwall - Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.</p> <p>4. Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch - Panel considered the work carried out by FNF to be important, but felt that this did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications received in this round. Panel requested that the applicant submit a bid in the next round of funding that sets out specific details of what the funding is required for.</p> <p>5. East Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project, and supported the work carried out in supporting fathers and their children. Agreed to award £700.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund, even though this is already an existing service, with this being their first application for funding.</p>	<p>Since the award the demand for our services has grown even beyond our own forecasts. Media interest has increased, with interviews on Radio Merseyside, Talk City, Radio 5 Live and a planned TV debate in one weeks time. We have been able to establish partnerships with a number of organisations, principally Advocacy in Wirral.</p> <p>We are the only organisation locally able to assist with parents forced to represent themselves in court, and are running courses to assist parents to understand court procedures. The increase in attendance shows the need for the service we provide. Numerous parents on Wirral are having their anxieties lessened by our wealth of knowledge and improved access to key players in the arena of family justice.</p> <p>The funding has allowed us to have land line facilities installed where messages can be left and problems addressed. The office has become a focal point for the parents of Wirral who are suffering distress after relationship breakdown.</p>

6. Bebington / Clatterbridge - Panel did not support this application as felt that this did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications. Panel requested that the applicant be informed to re-apply in the next round with a project to specifically help the fathers and their children.

7. Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £400.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.

8. West Wirral - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £250.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.

9. Bromborough / Eastham - Panel considered this to be a worthwhile project and agreed to award £700.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.

10. Oxton / Prenton - Panel considered this to be a worthwhile project and agreed to award £700.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.

11. Leasowe, Moreton & Saughall Massie - Panel considered this to be a good project, but felt that this did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
The Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (RASA)	To provide new furniture for the counselling rooms in the safe house.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="801 212 1525 352">1. Bidston & Claughton - Panel considered this to be a good project, but felt that this did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications received in this round. <li data-bbox="801 395 1525 504">2. New Brighton / Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project but did not support this as it does not fit into the priorities of community funding. <li data-bbox="801 547 1525 687">3. Heswall / Pensby & Thingwall - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £200.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund. <li data-bbox="801 730 1525 871">4. East Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project, but felt that this did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications received in this round. <li data-bbox="801 914 1525 1096">5. Bebington / Clatterbridge - Panel appreciates the work that the organisation does for Wirral, but did not fund this as wished to support the smaller groups within the area that have not previously received funding. <li data-bbox="801 1139 1525 1279">6. Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund. <li data-bbox="801 1323 1525 1430">7. West Wirral - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £200.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund. 	All hard and soft furnishings have been purchased and installed. All counselling rooms are now well and subtly lit and have colourful and friendly furnishings. Women and girls visiting the centre for support for counselling now receive such help in a comfortable homely environment, conducive to healing and regaining calm.

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
		<p>8. Bromborough / Eastham - Panel considered this to be a good project, but felt that this service should be supported by other agencies.</p> <p>9. Oxton / Prenton - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p>	
Wirral Tuesday Club	To help cover the costs associated with running the club, including transport costs, hall hire, presents and trips.	<p>1. Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch - Panel wished to fully support this project but, due to the number of excellent bids received in this round exceeding the funding available, have agreed contribute £1,450.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>2. Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry - 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.</p> <p>3. Oxton / Prenton - Panel considered this to be a worthwhile project and agreed to contribute £1,000.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund, on condition that it is used more for running costs rather than for presents.</p>	The club continue to meet every Tuesday at the Lauries Centre. Membership is increasing, with an average attendance of 22. Thanks to your generous grants we can plan additional events with confidence. Our club enables less able members to meet in a safe enjoyable surrounding for 50 weeks each year. We also give parents and carers a little respite.

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Sundowns	To provide a two-day conference on challenge behaviour in November 2007.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="801 212 1525 352">1. Bidston & Claughton - Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as would rather support a project that would benefit the service users. <li data-bbox="801 395 1525 504">2. New Brighton / Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project but did not support this as felt that this was not an appropriate source of funding. <li data-bbox="801 547 1525 687">3. Heswall / Pensby & Thingwall - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £250.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund. <li data-bbox="801 730 1525 948">4. Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch - Panel considered this to be a good project but did not support this, due to the number of excellent bids received in this round exceeding the funding available, and have agreed to support the smaller groups in the area. <li data-bbox="801 991 1525 1131">5. East Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project, but felt that this did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications received in this round. <li data-bbox="801 1174 1525 1356">6. Bebington / Clatterbridge - Panel appreciates the work that the organisation does for Wirral, but did not fund this as wished to support the smaller groups within the area that have not previously received funding. <li data-bbox="801 1399 1525 1430">7. Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry - Panel 	<p>The workshops took place in November 2007, they were well attended and feedback was very positive. 15 professionals, mostly from Wirral schools, attended the conference on 23rd, although they all had pupils who had Downs Syndrome, they also taught children with other special needs. This meant that the information learned regarding challenging behaviour could be adapted to many other pupils and passed onto other teaching staff. 24 family members attended the workshop on 24th, these families were then able to use the information gathered to address challenging behaviour and share this information with other family members, enabling their children to lead more fruitful lives within society. This workshop will have ongoing positive effects across Wirral for many years to come.</p>

considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.

8. Oxton / Prenton - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute the remaining balance of £250.00 required for this from the Community Initiatives Fund.

9. Bromborough / Eastham - Panel considered this to be a good project, but felt that the professional services should pay to attend the conference.

10. West Wirral - Panel considered this to be a good project and would have funded this, however the total cost of the project has already been awarded from other area forums. The panel requested that the applicant be informed that they would welcome a further application from the group in 2008/09.

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Wirral Community Pipe Band	To purchase two bass drums and cases.	<p>1. New Brighton / Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project, and agreed to award £105.12 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>2. Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch - Panel wished to congratulate the band on their application, particularly the even breakdown of numbers benefiting / amount requested from each forum. Panel considered that the purchasing of this musical equipment will benefit all who attend the group and agreed to award £175.20 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>3. Bebington / Clatterbridge - Panel considered this to be a good project that would benefit other areas of Wirral as well as the forum area, and agreed to award £35.04 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>4. Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £70.08 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>5. West Wirral - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £100.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>6. Oxton / Prenton - Panel considered this to be a worthwhile project and agreed to award £70.08 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>7. Leasowe, Moreton & Saughall Massie - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £350.40 from the Community Initiatives</p>	<p>The equipment has been purchased and has provided the band with the opportunity and tools to flourish and attract new members. Highlights of the year include one of the members playing at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and then the Kremlin Zoria Tattoo in Russia. The whole band were worthy ambassadors for Wirral when they were asked to take part in the Liverpool 800th Birthday Parade.</p> <p>The band continues to perform for local charities and worthy causes. Local Wirral adults and children are being taught to play pipes and drums free of charge. Discipline, community friendship and fun are achieved by its members who go on to give pleasure to others with their new found skills.</p>

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
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.	<p data-bbox="801 201 891 226">Fund.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="801 284 1525 389">1. New Brighton / Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project, and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund. <li data-bbox="801 434 1525 577">2. Bebington / Clatterbridge - Panel fully support the service provided by the society and agreed to award £988.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund for this excellent project. <li data-bbox="801 622 1525 766">3. Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £640.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund. <li data-bbox="801 810 1525 909">4. West Wirral - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund. 	<p data-bbox="1570 277 2092 606">Since the start of our outreach project we have made good progress in achieving our aims of: Providing a community outreach / information service; establishing outreach stations to visit on a monthly basis; increasing awareness of our service; improving access to services and support.</p> <p data-bbox="1570 651 2092 868">We have had positive outcomes demonstrated by increased referrals to our services, increased numbers of visually impaired people on our database and more community groups aware of services available.</p>