

**YOUR SAY** 

 **WIRRAL**



**Bromborough and Eastham  
Area Forum**

**Papers for the forum meeting**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

**South Wirral High School  
Plymyard Avenue  
Eastham  
CH62 8EH**

**7.00pm - 9.00pm**

# **Bromborough and Eastham**

## **Area Forum**

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

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

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**Area Co-ordinator**

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## Introduction: Membership of the area forum

Area Forums involve your local ward councillors, Merseyside Police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services Representatives, along with your nominated Local Community Representatives and officers from various departments of the Council, who regularly attend to support the work of the forum.

### **Bromborough and Eastham Councillors all belong to the Liberal Democrat Party)**

**Councillor Tom Harney (Chair)**

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**Louise Harland-Davies**

**Area Co-ordinator**  
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**Councillor Dave Mitchell**

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**Marjorie Hall**

**Community Representative**  
Eastham Ward  
Eastham Village Preservation Association

**Councillor Phil Gilchrist  
(Currently elected Mayor,  
undertaking civic duties for  
the next twelve months)**

Eastham Ward  
0151 334 1923  
philgilchrist@wirral.gov.uk

**Jeanette Smith**

**Community Representative**  
Eastham Ward

**Mark Anthony Craig**

**Community Representative**  
Bromborough Ward  
New Ferry Regeneration Action Group

**Councillor Steve Niblock**

Bromborough Ward  
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steveniblock@wirral.gov.uk

**Ann Brocksom**

**Community Representative**  
Bromborough Ward  
Port Sunlight Residents and Conservation Society

**Councillor Alan Taylor**

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**Inspector Andy McKeown**

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**Councillor Bob Moon**

Bromborough Ward  
0151 334 4796  
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**Merseyside Fire and Rescue**

**Bromborough Fire Station**  
0151 548 9258

**Marie Stacey**

**Lead Officer**

Children & Young People  
**Head of Learning & Achievement**

All Ward Councillors can be contacted by post or via their email. They represent all residents regardless of political persuasion. You can write to your local councillor at Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wirral, CH44 8ED  
Our website is [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)

## SECTION ONE

### Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising Minutes - Area Forum (Bromborough and Eastham) - 26 February 2007

Present	
Chair	T Harney
Ward Councillor	PN Gilchrist , GD Mitchell , RK Moon , SAM Niblock , A Taylor
Community Representatives	MA Craig (Bromborough Community Representative) , Mrs M Hall (Eastham Community Representative) , Ms J Smith (Eastham Community Representative)
Lead Officers	David Smith (Deputy Director of Finance)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Louise Harland-Davies
Primary Care Trust	Jane Harvey (Director of Public Health, Birkenhead. & Wallasey. PCT)
Merseyside Police	PC C Anderson , PC G Jones , Sgt. Mark Whale
Council Officers	Geoff Bell (Assistant Director, Traffic Management) , Phil Miner (Street Scene Area Manager)

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#### Minute 1 - Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Cllr Tom Harney welcomed area forum members and 35 members of the public to the meeting. Apologies were received from Annette Roberts and Ann Brocksom.

#### Minute 2 - Minutes and matters arising from previous October Forum

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

Cllr Niblock asked if any progress had been made regarding the Out of Hours Surgery. Jane Harvey said things haven't moved on however a feasibility study is taking place at present.

#### Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinator's Report

Louise Harland-Davies presented the Area Co-ordinator's report. She highlighted that the problem of Biffa employees parking at Port Causeway was now resolved as 158 parking spaces have been made available for staff which should alleviate parking problems. She also congratulated Bromborough Fire Station for their award for the Dig-it project and made the

forum aware of the B&Q funding awards available for volunteer groups.

Information was given about home composting, WRAP's website for a reduced cost home composting bin is [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org).

She then briefly ran through the report highlighting areas of particular relevance and interest to the Forum including:

- Primary Care Trust Report: which contained details of medical centres, surgeries and pharmacies for the local area. (Details for New Ferry hadn't been included however will be updated in next report)
- Local Area Plan: Thanked the people who took part, the process is due to start again soon.
- Community Initiative Funding: a new round of funding will be available from April/May.

A query was raised regarding the Integrated Transport Block in the report which Geoff Bell would explain later on in the meeting.

Louise invited questions from the floor and as no issues raised, concluded her report.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Louise be thanked for her report.

#### **Minute 4 - Public Question Time**

Questions sent in advance.

Margaret Dodd: raised concerns about speeding traffic on Shorefields and New Ferry Road, her car was written off by a joy rider. What will be done about this? Can traffic calming measures be introduced? A petition has been raised.

Geoff Bell: Traffic management assured members of the public the issue of speeding traffic is being taken seriously, there are lots of issues raised regarding this. Members will be given the opportunity to debate this issue at the next committee meeting around April/May. He will take the question back and look at traffic accident reports and liaise with Police. If members of the public require further information or feedback then he asked them to leave names and addresses and will report back directly to them.

Mark Craig: NFRAG (New Ferry Regeneration Action Group) representative for Bromborough ward raised the fact that a New Ferry regeneration action plan from 7 years ago highlighted New Ferry Road as a danger area and this issue crops up regularly. Traffic calming was not considered at that time because the road is also a bus route.

Geoff Bell: He will take comments on board.

Member of public also asked for traffic calming measures on the road at the back of Grove Street Primary School.

Graham Davies: raised the issue of Dawpool Drive that the road surface is very poor and deteriorating. Road listed for traffic calming so asked wouldn't it be better to re-surface the road first.

Phil Miner: The road is not yet in need of re-surfacing, the main surface is concrete slabs which are in good condition and are a stable foundation. Calming measures will be fine tied into the concrete foundations.

Mark Craig: Sefton Road – ongoing problem regarding car parking (PCT building at health centre). The state of road is appalling. Staff and visitors to health centre/pharmacies park on kerbs resulting in mud and puddles. This did not appear to be considered when PCT building health centre.

Local residents are concerned about access for emergency vehicles and confirmed the poor state of road and parking in Sefton Road. Damage is being done to resident's property by cars trying to turn around. They felt that the waste ground at the end of Sefton Road would make an ideal car park.

A. Waller : There had been a car count in Jan 2006, can they have another one now work at health centre finished?

He had counted 51 poor patches on road surface and 508 cars passed when there are only 25 houses! The surgery has expanded but they have not increased car parking to match.

Local resident: Emergency vehicles would find it hard to pass. The parking issue is all day, unlike the school run which is for a limited period.

Geoff Bell will take the issues on board. There are guidelines on parking standards when developing building which the PCT would have had to comply with. Committee report went in March, this may throw some light on things.

Jane Harvey: will take issues about parking back to PCT and feels there may be certain things they can do about staff parking.

Member of the public highlighted that footballers have taken to parking in the middle of the park.

Cllr Niblock: Nina Birt promised an update on the parking situation at Health Centre – this was promised for tonight.

Member of the public raised the issue of cars being abandoned with a couple of month's tax on and some of these are in poor condition.

Cllr Gilchrist responded that the council has gone out to contract for contractors to remove abandoned cars.

Glen Jones responded that cars can be removed even if they are taxed and insured. If any abandoned cars are discovered, it has been advised to give details to the police.

Member of the public: every Sunday afternoon a person has been seen driving motorbike on the park, there has been no response from police. Can police attend please?

Mark Craig: Large number of extra cars 30-40 along Sefton Road. Although standards are met, they are inadequate. Narrow sections of road are much narrower than a normal street which adds to the problem.

Mark Craig: Asked about the progress of the Home Zone initiative at Winstanley Road area, things have gone quiet. What is holding things up?

Phil Miner responded they are still awaiting costs for diversions underground, particularly Manweb. He assured the Forum that the money is still safe for the project.

Member of the public: Is there a deadline for the utilities to respond? Phil responded there isn't however will update the Forum when progress is made.

Member of the public: Gridlock at school times at Iceland, people pull in causing chaos. Could other roads around the area be opened up to give a better flow of traffic?

Phil Miner: Traffic Wardens could enforce, but when people see them coming they drive off.

People should use the car park by the school. Heavy traffic flow on A41 affects this at certain times.

Member of the public: Iceland wagons sometimes contribute to the problem.

Mark Craig – parking on double yellows and in the precinct has been a longstanding problem. Traffic wardens attend from time to time but cannot be there all the time.

Member of public: the new railings by Iceland have caused a blind spot due to placing of railings.

Phil Miner: This is being investigated.

Marjorie Hall asked who is responsible for war memorial – Phil Miner will find out for her.

Marjorie Hall: what is the cost of a speed camera to be placed in Eastham?

Geoff Bell responded it's not just about cost, but also legislation to take into account. Usually where regular accidents have occurred, this is where cameras can be sited.

Marjorie Hall: Is there a possibility of having cameras on New Ferry Road? Police responded they are targeting New Ferry Road for speeding.

Members of public raised issue of bollards outside New Ferry Village Hall – Phil Miner is looking into this and has responded by letter – action will be taken. Bollard has been purchased – Dept of Regeneration are dealing with it and bollard will be put in.

Member of public: Wanted to highlight shabby benches in New Ferry. Could they be cleaned?

Nick Kearns: Re-iterated parking issues in Sefton Road. When will there be results or feedback? Geoff Bell and Jane Harvey will bring feedback to the next meeting. About 400 locations on Wirral have severe parking problems.

Member of public: People still drive through New Ferry precinct. Can a warden go and spend the day there in order to have a blitz on the area.

Phil Miner responded that at certain times of the day the road can be accessed by vehicles. It is a Police matter – traffic wardens cannot address this. Police agreed to try to send a patrol to the area.

Nick Kearns: the issue of dog fouling, there needs to be dog warden in New Ferry Park. Some bins which were used for dog muck have been removed from the park so requested could these be re-instated.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that;

(i) Geoff Bell and Jane Harvey to monitor and report on situation at Sefton Road regarding parking problems for local residents.

(ii) Geoff Bell to liaise with police regarding Shorefields and New Ferry Road.

(iii) Phil Miner to respond to Marjorie Hall regarding ownership of war memorials.

#### **Minute 5 - Presentation on recycling facilities on Wirral**

Cllr Harney then introduced Tara Dumas, Waste and Environment Manager who gave a presentation on recycling. This covered the changes, the reason for changes, how the public can play their part and what happens to recycled waste. Tara then addressed frequently asked questions on the new recycling scheme including the issue of space.

She advised that the new programme will be rolled out by end of March and the first collection on the scheme will be 23rd April. A guide to recycling will be issued with each grey bin to



provide the public with further information and roadshows will be visiting local areas over the next couple of months. Four posts have been created for Contamination Officers who will visit each ward to advise on what can and cannot go into recycling. Further information can be obtained by calling Streetscene.

Tara then invited questions from the floor;

Miss Marshall (Brookhurst Avenue) asked why only one half of her road has been issued with grey bins. Tara will take her details and check on the situation.

Marion Sloan (Egerton Road): Raised the point that she has a small garden area in her back yard however hasn't been issued with a brown bin. Can she request one? Tara responded that only houses known to have gardens have been issued with brown bins but they can look at individual cases so will take her details and respond.

Cllr Gilchrist expressed concerns that Streetscene may not be able to handle all the incoming inquiries this initiative may produce. Tara responded by referring members of the public to the online service available on the council website.

The Chair thanked Tara for an informative presentation along with members of the public who appreciated that Tara had been so clear and concise in answering their questions.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Tara Dumas be thanked for her presentation.

#### **Minute 6 - Streetscene update**

Geoff Bell from Technical Services referred to the Integrated Transport Block on pg 52 in the Area Co-ordinator's Report. The Area Forum needs to decide where and what the £16,500 will be spent on. He then distributed a spreadsheet amongst the audience and Forum members detailing various options.

The deadline for decisions was decided for the next Forum in July – which will give time for suggestions to come forward and be investigated. Any suggestions to be sent to Louise.

Cllr Taylor and NFRAG have campaigned for something to be done at the crossing at Boundary Road/Bebington Road and this is already on the proposed list of schemes.

Member of public: Could a sign saying "resident only" parking be erected in Sefton Road? Investigations are taking place across Wirral in relation to this. There has been a suggested charge of £100 per household with an additional charge for annual permits for this service.

Member of public: Leigh Road/Brownlow Road opposite Somerfield has access only which is not being enforced, can signs be displayed? Geoff Bell to check status regarding resident only parking/access only.

Nick Kearns: Could the pot of money potentially be used to alleviate the problems in Sefton Road? Geoff Bell responded that the funds are probably insufficient for this, it is best to consider other options first including working with the PCT.

Cultural services representative could attend the next Forum regarding the Sefton Road issue.

NFRAG putting together New Ferry Park Action Plan – liaising with cultural services over this. Can cultural services be at the next meeting?

#### **Minute 7 - Partner Updates**

Police

PC Anderson, PC Glen Jones and Sgt Whale introduced themselves to the Forum. As ward

managers they are already looking into traffic problems and confirmed that 3 Community Support Officers for each ward started this week.

Q - If you report something to the police can you get a crime/incident number?

A - The more calls you make will help highlight problem areas and generate hot spots, enabling the exploration of further support.

PC Jones stressed they have taken on board the comments made at the meeting this evening.

Cllr Mitchell asked if Community Support Officers have the same powers as traffic wardens? PC Jones responded that they have the same powers as traffic wardens to deal with stationary vehicles.

Margaret Dodd: Can patrols be increased as speeding traffic is frequent on New Ferry Road?  
A. The speed limit is being enforced, however it is difficult to use the radar at night.

Q - Do CSO's have set patrol? Does this encompass the park?

A - There are 3 for each ward and they are responsible for any area of the ward. They are on foot and will patrol the park.

Health.

Jane Harvey, Director of Public Health PCT, referred to P12 and P13 in the Area Co-ordinator's report, highlighting the Smoke free information and how this will be enforced. She stressed they do not want to take a heavy handed approach to the forthcoming legislation. Local businesses are being supported to help with the changes. PCT can offer help with smoking cessation.

Jane also explained there were leaflets distributed amongst the audience, detailing the electronic public health report. Her colleague, Hayley was happy to show a demonstration of the website, showing the report, which would be available at end of the meeting if required.

Cllr Moon: Cancer rates for Brom/East were 25-30% higher than average. This was acknowledged by PCT, but it was difficult to analyse this further as there are different forms of cancer and causes.

Jane Harvey will look at the statistics again and report back in particular for Bromborough/Eastham area. Jane can give a presentation at next meeting if required.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that the Police and Jane Harvey be thanked for their updates.

#### **Minute 8 - Any other business**

There was no other business so the Chair closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

#### **Minute 9 - Date of next meeting will be Wednesday 4 July 2007 – Venue is to be confirmed**

Cllr Harney stated the next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th July, the venue to be confirmed.

### **Matters arising from 26<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

**Sefton Road** :Technical services are currently liaising with Wirral Primary Care Trust and members of the public to address access and parking issues

**Shorefields and New Ferry Road:** Mark Smith, Technical Services currently liaising with Ben Chapman MP

**Out of hours service in the Bromborough and Eastham area :** Wirral Primary Care Trust representative to give update at the next forum Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July

**Home Zone, Winstanley Road and Salisbury Drive, New Ferry;** Technical services have confirmed that quotations have been received and a report will be submitted to Members in the next few months.

**Railings on New Chester Road:** Still being investigated

## SECTION TWO

### Safer & Stronger Communities

#### Unlicensed landlords urged to contact council

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

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

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

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

#### Recycling Champions walking the streets of Wirral

**WIRRAL Council has four new recycling champions to help residents really get to grips with what they can and can't recycle.**

David Green, Director of Technical Services said: 'Incorrect use, or contamination of recycling can cause a lot of problems. Heavy items like alloy wheels have been recovered from bins which could have caused serious damage to the materials recovery facility (MRF) if not spotted. We also have a problem if people dispose of plastic film and plastic bags with their waste paper - the companies that buy the waste paper for recycling don't want it as it's full of plastic and useless.'

Residents who use their recycling bin incorrectly receive a note with their bin from the collection crews, explaining why the bin was not emptied. This is followed up with a visit from one of Wirral's new officers to help the householder with their recycling.

Said David Green: 'We appreciate that this is a new process for people to understand and follow, our Recycling Champions are here to help and provide alternative solutions if residents cannot cope with managing their waste.' The officers are out and about in Wirral all week including Saturdays and all will be carrying official Council identification. Anyone who fails to produce official Council ID is not a bona fide representative. You should refuse to deal with them and report them to the police.

Any Wirral resident is also welcome to request a visit from a recycling champion if they are unsure about the new scheme, by calling Streetscene on 0151 606 2004.

## Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association

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

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



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

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

## Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Local Area Forum Update June / July 2007

**Service Plans** Each year each fire station produces a service plan setting key objectives for that station to focus its activities on during that financial year. The objectives are agreed and are set in line with the Integrated Risk Management Plan for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service which can be viewed on our website [merseyfire.gov.uk](http://merseyfire.gov.uk)

Key objectives for all Wirral stations include:

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

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

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

Station Contact Numbers Ask for the Watch Manager

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

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

Paul Gibson Wirral District Manager

**Wirral Joint Community Safety Team Area Forum  
Update June & July 07**

**All Wirral**

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

**Birkenhead and Tranmere** The much publicised 'talking CCTVs' are now being deployed starting with Charing Cross, Birkenhead.

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

**Healthier Communities & Older People**

**Wirral Hospital**   
NHS Trust

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

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

The first phase of this ongoing process came in February 2006 when we undertook a massive consultation programme in relation to our application for Foundation Trust Status "A Change for the Better". This consultation laid out our service plans for the next five years, which were then

published as a formal part of our application to become a Foundation Trust. We are now half way through our application to become a Foundation Trust and feel that this is the right time to again engage with the communities we serve.

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

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

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

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

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

**An NHS FT:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moving forward together - The Trust has engaged with the local community regarding its application to become a Foundation Trust but clearly this has to be an ongoing process. As we are now half way through our Foundation Trust application it seems appropriate to undertake further

engagement, which will then feed into and hopefully our ongoing strategy and the establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors. Over the coming months and at future meetings we will be talking in more detail about our plans.

## **Wirral headteacher leads the way for healthy schools**

### **A Wirral headteacher was keynote speaker at a regional conference on healthy schools.**

Pat Stewart OBE, headteacher at The Lyndale school in Eastham, spoke at the National Healthy Schools Programme Northern Conference in Leeds.

She talked about turning around a school using the principles of Healthy Schools.

Lyndale has recently won glowing praise from Ofsted achieving a Grade 1 in all areas of assessment and being judged as 'outstanding'.

Ms Stewart said: "The Healthy Schools themes and criteria are the building blocks that contribute to significant change in a school. We are delighted to be part of such an excellent initiative."

The purpose of the event is to inform teachers and other delegates of current priorities and to share effective practice through workshops and presentations as well as showcase support materials for schools

## **Technology to help vulnerable people in Wirral to live at home**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

## **Bidston boasts top wheelchair tennis talent**

### **The breeding ground for the next generation of Paralympians in wheelchair tennis is right here in Wirral.**

Wirral Tennis and Sports Centre currently has more wheelchair tennis players attending training sessions than any other sports centre in the country. And the quality of the facilities and coaching on offer at Bidston is attracting players from far and wide.

There are 15 adults and seven junior players regularly attending the Tennis Centre's sessions coming, not just from Wirral, but from elsewhere on Merseyside and even from Staffordshire and Derbyshire.

The centre currently has five players who have represented Great Britain in international competition, including the coach Mark Ecclestone, who won the silver medal in the Athens Paralympics in 2004, while another – Carl Hird – is in the GB Development Squad.

Three players – Debbie Thomas from Prenton, Jamie Burdekin and Anthony Cotterill – have just been selected for the British squad that will compete in the World Team Cup, the Davis Cup of wheelchair tennis, and all three will be attempting to qualify for the Paralympics in Beijing next year.

Coach Mark is justifiably proud of the achievements of his charges, saying: "Over the past month Carl, Jamie, Debbie and Anthony have all won tournaments in Sunderland, Glasgow, Preston and Florida respectively. Alex Kroll from Aintree also reached his first ever singles final last week in Glasgow.

"Because of the success of the programme we have players attend the sessions from all over the region, including Macclesfield, Congleton, Stockport, Stoke on Trent, Preston, Southport - we even have a junior player travel over from as far as Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire!"

One of the reasons why the sessions at Wirral Tennis and Sports Centre have proved so popular might be because of the 'outreach' work that Mark undertakes to promote the sport in the area.

He adds: "We have an agreement with the spinal injuries unit in Southport to bring patients over to look at the coaching and facilities and I have also done presentations at limb centres at Clatterbridge and Aintree Hospitals to show them what can be achieved."

## Children & Young People

### Wirral Youth Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts** Wirral Youth Theatre operates across the Borough to enable young people to access a wide range of performing arts related activities. Art forms such as drama, dance, music, technical theatre and new media are used to help young people to develop personally and socially as well as developing theatre and media related skills.

### **Bromborough and Eastham.**

**Bebington Youth Centre** The staff and young people have been involved in a campaign of fund raising and recruitment. Offering a range of interesting opportunities for young people including a computer room the Club has completed an interesting winter programme

**Bromborough Youth Club** Staffing issues have made the operation of Bromborough Youth club difficult over the past few months however a number of successful health related workshops have been delivered and plans are formed to secure HPYS status. Art and craft activities have engaged many of the young people.

**Eastham Youth Centre** Eastham continues to offer a broad based programme of activities chosen by the young people from the wider Youth Service curriculum. Cookery, entry into the Youth Federation Postal Quiz and a variety of health workshops have formed the core of the programme which always complimented by a numerous sporting and social activities.

**The South Wirral Young People's Project** The South Wirral Young People's Project continues to work with young people in a street-work context. Work is going well with the Dig It Project, a Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service/ Wirral Youth Service initiative, supported by elected members. It is hoped that the plants grown by the young people will soon be ready to sell, possibly at the New Ferry Farmers Market. At Delamere Community Centre, the dance project, undertaken in partnership with Wirral Youth Theatre, continues and work related to relationships, sex and alcohol has been initiated. The New Ferry group will be applying for funding to develop a board game, which looks at drug related issues, accesses the facilities of New Ferry Village Hall. Young people from the area attend a Friday night football session, run in conjunction with the police, at the Oval.

**Celebrations as Wirral school named in top 100 most improved**

**Pupils, staff, parents and Governors at Wallasey School are celebrating today after receiving a letter from Government putting them in the top 100 most improved schools in the entire country.**

The letter from Jim Knight MP came in response to the school's excellent Key Stage three test results.

Headteacher Phil Duffy said: "These results at Key Stage 3 show the fantastic work that goes on in the school by both students and staff. Together, working closely with parents, we can see at first hand the outcomes of real partnership. We are thrilled and delighted that the skills, talents and commitment of the whole school and community are recognised nationally and publicly by the minister for School Standards Jim Knight MP.

"We will continue to realise our missions of 'a caring and achieving community'.

Mr Knight MP says in his letter: "There is a lot to celebrate with these results as we know that young people who reach Level 5 at the end of Key Stage 3 are better prepared for their GCSEs and have better life chances, so pupils and teachers should be extremely proud of their performance."

The results at Wallasey show that over the period 2003-2006 they are among the top performing schools based on sustained improvement in the aggregate of pupils achieving Level 5+ in English, Maths and Science.

### **Wirral school children win recycling challenge**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Janice Hix, corporate partnerships manager with the Woodland Trust, said: "This is a very valuable contribution towards our goal. We're hoping to raise enough money through the Yellow Woods Challenge this year to plant and care for more than five hectares of native woodland – an area as big as 13 football pitches. "Woodland is the UK's richest wildlife habitat and offers benefits for the

environment, for people and for communities. Tree planting is really important as we are one of the least wooded countries in Europe.”

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

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

For more information about the local and national Yellow Woods Challenge competition, please visit [www.yellow-woods.co.uk](http://www.yellow-woods.co.uk)

## **Thousands of Pounds available for Wirral Teenagers**

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

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

Application forms are available from April 2 – and must be submitted by midday on June 25. Wirral’s new grant panel of young people aged 13-19 will decide which projects are successful.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **First school in Wirral to pioneer grey bin recycling**

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

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

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

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

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

Mr A Rumsby, Deputy Headmaster commented; "When I joined the college in September there was some recycling happening but the systems were not in place for it to be expanded. It took very little to spark the boys into action and the whole initiative is now being driven by our Eco Committee. They have been given the brief to investigate and promote recycling options within our community. They have just found a source for stationery manufactured from recycled materials; the possibilities for continual improvement seem to be endless!"

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

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

## **Authors vie for votes from young Wirral readers**



**Nearly 100 young people from 12 Wirral secondary schools were lucky enough to meet four of their favourite authors recently.**

Bernard Ashley, well-known for his novel 'Smokescreen', Sandra Glover (Spiked!), Paul Magrs (Exchange) and Theresa Breslin (Divided City) spent all day with the pupils at Bebington Civic Centre, talking to them as a group and on a one-to-one basis, as well as signing copies of their books.

The event was organised by Wirral Schools' Library Service as part of the "Paperback of the Year" award, a project aimed at promoting reading which has run annually in Wirral since 1995.

Every year, 20 of the newest and best paperbacks written for teenagers are sent to participating schools. In each school over the next few months the books are read and a shortlist of favourites produced - after much discussion and debate.

Four of the authors nominated have, for the last few years, been invited to talk to the pupils explaining how they write and where they get their ideas from, and this year the libraries were delighted that those four authors were all able to come along to Bebington this year to meet their readers.

In July, representatives from each school will attend a final judging meeting to choose an overall winner.

One of the pupils who took part this year said: "It's excellent because I got to read loads of different books. I can't wait for the next one!"

Sue Powell, Head of Libraries and Halls at Wirral Council, said: "The Paperback of the Year award is a brilliant way to get pupils, as well as librarians and teachers, to discover new authors and different genres from the diverse and stimulating selection. It is an excellent way of promoting reading for pleasure

### **Space-themed reading project ready for lift-off**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Economic Development and Enterprise**

**Fairtrade Guide available**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

## **New Services at your local One Stop Shops**

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

### **Licensing**

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

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

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

### **Council job vacancies**

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

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

### **Streetscene**

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

- Removal of any fly tipping
- To go on the Help List for bin collection
- Help following a missed bin collection

- Street cleaning
- A replacement bin following damage etc

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

### **Tourism**

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

### **Pest Control**

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

### **New Advice Surgeries**

#### **Bebington One Stop Shop**

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

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

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

#### **Eastham One Stop Shop**

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

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

For details of where your nearest One Stop Shop is please contact 0151 606 2000 or go to [http://www.wirral.gov.uk/fn/one\\_stop\\_shops.htm](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/fn/one_stop_shops.htm)

## SECTION THREE

### Bromborough and Eastham Area Forum Funding Progress Report *(previously awarded monies)*

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Wirral Women & Childrens Aid	To help run the youth club for the next 12	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	<p>The children who attend our weekly run youth club have all experienced / witnessed domestic abuse. Most of them have lived in the refuge for part of their young lives.</p> <p>The youth club provides weekly activities for them, enabling them to be children and giving them, and their mums, respite for a short period of time on an ongoing basis.</p>
Fire Support Network	To provide an after-fire care service in Wirral.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £209.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	<p>The funding received from the forums was extremely appreciated as it helped the project to continue whilst additional funding was being sought. The after fire care project has taken off considerably since 2006, and has been funded for the next five years from the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>We have helped victims of fire who found the project most helpful at a very difficult time in their lives.</p>
Wirral Holistic Care Services	To replace patio area and provide wheelchair access and handrails.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The patio are has been completely renovated, re-paved and made safe. Patients and volunteers are now able to make use of the lovely garden at the charity's premises with the help of your funding.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Christ Church Birkenhead	To contribute towards refurbishment works to the kitchen.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We have worked almost every Wednesday evening and Saturday from July to January renovating the kitchen and have finally got our certificates both for the installation work and for Health and Hygiene so that we could actually use the kitchen. We look forward to offering our regular Sunday lunches again, and introducing Saturday breakfasts.
Prenton Tenants and Residents Association	To purchase four computers, two playstation 2 consoles, various board games, garden equipment and to install CCTV in order to set up a centre for youngsters in the Prenton area.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £2,300.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund and £1,200.00 from Community Safety Fund on condition that advice is taken from Ian Lowrie (tel: 0151 606 5493) from the Community Safety Team with	The computers, playstations and games have been purchased and the club is going very well and the youngsters are enjoying it.
64th Birkenhead Sea Scout Group	To contribute towards cost of re-roofing single storey extension to the group Headquarters.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £700.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The project has now been completed, many thanks.
Tall Ships Youth Trust - Merseyside and Deeside Branch	To contribute towards the cost of sending over 100 young people from Merseyside (aged 16-25) annually on voyages.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We have sponsored two young people from the forum area on voyages in July and September 06, and three young people on the Young Explorer voyage for 14 – 15 year olds in February 2007.

## SECTION FOUR

### Local area plan update

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

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

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

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

- Introduction
- Statistical Information
- Local priority action plan

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

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

**Local priority action plan** As part of the review of the existing area plans, each area coordinator will address the issues which feature in the local issues section of each plan and identify outstanding issues. These issues will transfer into the refreshed area plans to ensure they remain a key focus for the area forum. The owner of each action will be a named partner who will have responsibility to tackle this issue.

Issues that have been resolved will not be taken forward into refreshed area plans. This will ensure that there is a clear focus on the key outstanding priorities and issues that are identified at a local level for each area forum. As new priorities are identified, they will also form part of the local priority action plan to be addressed at each area forums and progressed through the responsible partner.

## Streetscene & Waste Update: Area Forum Report - May 2007

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

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

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

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

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

The proposed speed reductions are as follows:

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

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

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

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

No charges will be incurred by residents within existing zones.

The seven pilot areas are:

- **Atherton Street area, New Brighton** – near to New Brighton train station and a small number of businesses.
- **Alexandra Road area, West Kirby** – Near to boating lake, beach, shops and Coronation Gardens.

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

**Road Safety Campaigns - Young pedestrians, young drivers and young passengers** Wirral Road Safety Partnership (Wirral Council & Merseyside Police) commissioned a radio advertisement campaign aimed at teenagers and young people. A series of three hard-hitting adverts were aired daily on Radio City 96.7 throughout March and April, urging young people to belt up when in car, and to take care as a pedestrian.

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

**Port Sunlight/Clatterbridge Cycle Route** Wirral Council is committed to promoting cycling as a healthy, sustainable mode of transport. The cycle route between Port Sunlight Railway Station and Clatterbridge Hospital is nearing completion and will increase road safety for cyclists who currently experience difficulties on main roads and at junctions. It will also encourage workers, visitors and residents of the area to take up cycling as a form of transport. To benefit pedestrians and cyclists, three toucan crossings have been installed in Brimstage Road, Church Road and Bromborough Road to enable them to cross the road safely.

The route will also enable thousands of local schoolchildren to get out on their bikes and into the fresh air by providing safe routes for them to cycle.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Cigarette / Smoking-related Litter** Wirral Council are aware that when Wirral goes 'smokefree' on July 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a backlash of cigarette litter.

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

To deter Wirral residents from committing the offence, we are warning them of the £75 fine. We are heading up an extensive advertising campaign, including adverts on billboards, bus stops, phone boxes and bus rears. Will also be hosting events to give away portable ashtrays (Stubbi pouches) and communicate the fact that people will be given £75 fines if they are caught dropping a cigarette stub, or any form of litter.

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

**Footway works completed**

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

**Future footway works planned**

Wakefield Drive, Leasowe	Devonshire Road, West Kirby
Caldwell Drive, Upton	Bassenthwaite Avene, Claughton



Burlingham Avenue, West Kirby (part)	Upton Road (part) Claughton
The Laund, Wallasey	Nursury Close, Oxton
Derwent Drive, Liscard	Grafton Street (part) Birkenhead
Dalmorton Road (part) New Brighton	Well Lane, Bebington
Croxteth Avenue, Liscard	Fieldway, Bebington
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard	

### **Carriageway resurfacing completed**

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

### **Carriageway resurfacing planned**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK(CAPITALPROGRAMME) 2007/8 UPDATE**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES TO STREETSCENE & TRANSPORT SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –23 MAY 2007**

#### **Update on Integrated Transport Block**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **SECTION SIX**

### **Equality and Diversity**

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

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

There are 6 strands/pillars of the Equality Standard:

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

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

[http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO\\_Policy.htm](http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm)

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

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

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

### **Useful groups/contacts**

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

For further information please contact Clint on 0151 650 5428

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

For further information please contact Margaret on 0151 327 5508

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

**Maxine Joynson Wirral Council Support Officer, Tel: 0151 691 8266,  
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