

Bromborough and Eastham

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

Tuesday 23rd October 2007

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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)

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(Currently elected Mayor,
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Jeanette Smith

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Children & Young People
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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

Section One

Minutes from last meeting and any matters arising from last forum

Minutes - Area Forum (Bromborough and Eastham) - 4 July 2007

Present	
Chair	T Harney
Ward Councillors	GD Mitchell , SAM Niblock , A Taylor
Community Representatives	Mark Craig , Mrs M Hall (Eastham Community Representative) , Ms J Smith (Eastham Community Representative)
Lead Officer	John Carruthers, Department of Finance
Area Service Co-ordinator	Louise Harland-Davies
Street Scene Manager	Phil Miner
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Marie Armitage , Glenn Coleman
Merseyside Police	Inspector Andy McKeown
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Myles Platt
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Lynn Benstead
Council Officers	Jim Thompson (Community Safety Team)

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Wirral Primary Care Trust

Minute 9 - Any other business

Minute 10 - Date of next meeting Tuesday 23rd October 2007 venue to be confirmed

Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair, Councillor Harney welcomed area forum members and 18 members of the public to the meeting in Eastham. Apologies were received from Councillor PN Gilchrist, Councillor RK Moon, David Smith, Marie Stacey and Geoff Bell.

Minute 2 - Minutes and matters arising from previous February forum

The minutes were approved as a true record.

Matters arising:

Sefton Road – Car Parking near Health Centre: It was understood that the PCT were prepared to fund some parking restrictions in Sefton Road. An update will be given at the next meeting.

Out-of-hours medical facilities at Clatterbridge Hospital: Glen Coleman reported that the PCT is developing a business case to develop services on the Clatterbridge site. He was confident that some progress would be made on the proposal for out-of-hours medical provision in the next couple of months.

Home Zone Initiative in Winstanley Road: Quotations have been received from MANWEB and from Technical Services Department. A report will be submitted to Elected Members in the next few months.

Shorefield Road/Mayfield Road, New Ferry: A public consultation was recently carried out in order to establish a site for the proposed play area however local residents can't agree on an area so no progress has been made.

Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinators Report • Area Forum Plan

The Area Co-ordinator, Louise Harland-Davies, highlighted the following issues –

Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association are holding an anti-social behaviour conference at Tranmere Rovers Football Club in September. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Association on 0151 666 1770 or email wirralfed@hotmail.com.

Community Initiatives Funding: The closing date has passed for bids from this year's allocation. Progress reports from organisations awarded grants from last year's allocation are shown pages 27/28 of the report.

An update on Streetscene and Waste Update is on pages 30/34.

Integrated Transport Block: The area forum has received 1/11th of the Integrated

Transport Block allocation to fund schemes identified by the forum.

The Area Co-ordinator invited information on any roads where there may be an issue. She would put forward the proposals received and distribute a list at the next meeting. Two requests have already been received and these will be included in the list. The Area Co-ordinator's email address is louiseharlanddavies@wirral.gov.uk.

Councillor Niblock raised an issue concerning signage and other traffic measures. His understanding was that Geoff Bell would indicate which measures will work and will be taken forward. He was aware that the funding has to be spent by March 2008, but because the Area Forum would not meet again until the Autumn, there would be no opportunity to approve schemes in sufficient time to achieve that; leading to the possibility that the money would be withdrawn. There was an urgent need for the Area Forum to consider the schemes it wishes to progress.

Area Forum Plan: The purpose of the area plan is to identify local issues, priorities and needs and to support and guide forums in working towards addressing these throughout the year. The area plan gives an understanding of the local area in which residents live and statistical information about the needs of the local population. It identifies local issues that have been raised through the forums and contributes towards achieving local area agreement priorities and outcomes.

Area plans will develop and evolve over time as issues are addressed and new priorities emerge. Work has been completed on refreshing and updating the plan for this Area Forum. An update will be given at each area forum meeting and issues highlighted will be incorporated into the plan. Limited copies of the area plan for Bromborough and Eastham Wards were available at the meeting. The document will be available shortly on the Internet.

A member of the public suggested that copies of the plan are made available in each local library.

The Chair commented that the plan is in two parts. The first part contains factual information about the area that does not change, and it would be appropriate for Libraries to hold copies of this part of the plan. The second part sets out priorities and does change as issues are addressed and new priorities are identified.

He asked the Area Co-ordinator to liaise with Wirral Library Service on the best means of publicising the plan. (www.wirral.gov.uk)

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for her report.

Minute 4 - Future Activities

The Chair advised the Council's policy is that each Area Forum meets three times a year and as this area forum covers the three areas, Bromborough, Eastham and New Ferry, a meeting is held once a year in each of these three areas. The feeling of some forum members is that they need to meet together to plan and exchange views to ensure that the formal meeting is useful for everyone.

The Chair proposed that the area forum gives power to a group of members to meet informally between formal meetings and find ways of involving and consulting with the public in a wider range of issues than has been the custom in the past. A written report on the outcome of the consultations would be presented at the next area forum meeting when further views would be invited.

The Chair formally proposed that –

‘This Forum agrees to consultation exercises on the following: (a) the Mill Park area – community consultation (b) youth provision in the area, (c) other activities identified by members of the Forum. That this be subject to (1) reports on activities be reported to each meeting of the Forum (2) that any recommendations arising out of these activities will be reported to the Forum for decision (3) that the source of any resources needed be identified before the commencement of an activity.’

The proposal was seconded by Councillor D Mitchell.

A member of the public stated that he would not expect to receive such a proposal from members of the Area Forum, but that any such proposal should come from the floor.

The Chair explained that the Area Forum comprises the group of people present this evening, and one of the purposes of the Forum is to co-ordinate the agencies that work in an area. Being a local government body, the group meets in public but there needs to be informal meetings to become interactive and to co-ordinate activities. The Forum needs to be empowered to meet informally to achieve that.

Members of the public signified that they were happy with the proposal.

Minute 5 - Public Question Time

A member of the public raised the issues -

I was not informed of this meeting and only found out this afternoon from the neighbours. Homes in my neighbourhood do not receive free newspapers.

Where I live, there are complaints about youths breaking in to properties.

The maisonettes have interconnected doors, and the neighbours have keys which can open the doors; it is meant to be a fire escape. I think it is a hazard because someone can enter my property because they have a key to get in. I live on my own with my children and I do not feel safe that someone can come into my house.

All the trouble in Clifton Avenue at the moment seems to be coming from the Rake public house. The previous landlord allowed ‘yobs’ in and they caused trouble in the street at night. The problems are spiralling out of control and there needs to be a small police station or a mobile police station in the area.

There had been a fight in the Rake, and that Police attended, but it is still happening.

This week someone was left unconscious on the floor.

I fell down the stairs when I was pregnant and have applied for priority re-housing on medical grounds but was told the priority is insufficient and I have not been given 'urgent need' status by the Council. I am still applying every week. I have reported my concerns to Wirral Partnership Homes, the Health Visitors and my GP and I have been trying to contact the child protection team because there is a 40 ft drop outside the living room door. I have asked for a copy of the policies and the legislation but was told Wirral Partnership Homes have not got a copy.

I have made complaints and have not received replies.

The Chair, Forum members, and a representative from Wirral Partnership Homes, responded and offered advice to the member of the public as each issue was raised.

The Chair asked the member of the public to provide full details of all the points raised at the end of the meeting. He would ensure that a response is given to each issue.

Other members of the public raised questions on –

The future of the No.146 bus to Eastham railway station, which plays a valuable role in getting people to the Treetops surgery.

Litter in the road outside South Wirral High School [a reply was given that the Headteacher is trying to persuade young people not to drop litter along Plymyard Avenue.]

The state of the underpass on the A41 near Thorburn Avenue and Eastham Road – [an elected member replied that Biffa seldom omit that particular underpass, and at the time of a recent inspection there were only three pieces of litter on the site].

Susan Nicholson: Pavement cafes: Two premises, one in the Bromborough Ward and one in Eastham Ward, have street café facilities, and it would appear that the people involved were unaware that they needed to gain permission from the police and from two separate council departments before they opened the facility. There needs to be an application for a change of use to the Planning Department, and the application then goes through the normal planning procedures, which involves the publication of notices. It is a matter of concern that the public are not alerted initially to the proposal and that pavement cafes can just appear without anyone knowing. In some instances, the applicants are not sure whether the piece of pavement they are using is within their curtilage, or not. There is a concern that matters appear to take a long time to resolve. There is someone here who is very concerned about the facility sited near Bromborough Cross. There is an anomaly in Allport Lane, adjacent to The Cross, where a café licence has been granted prior to the planning application going through.

The Chair gave reassurance that the planning application will highlight all the matters raised.

Marjorie Hall explained that she had made a request at a previous meeting for the removal of the Westbury home sign on the A41 near Eastham Village. The sign had

been erected to direct contractors' lorries to the building site, but now construction work has finished there is no longer a need for the sign.

Marjorie Hall passed on the views expressed by local residents that many complaints submitted to Wirral Council are not acknowledged or responded to. She cited an example where residents in Eastham Village had complained about the track in Hooton Park on the grounds of public safety and nuisance in an industrial zone. The conditions attached to granting permission for the use of the track are not being adhered to and the noise levels for local residents are unbearable.

Equally, at meetings of the Area Forum, people frequently raise issues or complaints but they just disappear and there is no outcome for people.

The Chair indicated that he wished it to be minuted that the go-karting issue is a 'live' one. It does not affect people on this side, but for people who live on the other side the noise is dreadful at times. There was a restriction placed on the kind of activity, but this is ignored. The site is not in Wirral area, it is in Cheshire's area, the corner at the end of North Road. The arrangement had been that an enforcement officer would attend when events are being held. Hopefully that will happen, but it was not known whether it would happen. Clearly, the matter needs to be monitored before it gets worse.

Traffic in Allport Lane: Allport Lane is now gridlocked at Bromborough Cross corner traffic lights where the shops are. Cars enter the 'access only' section from the wrong direction. This has been the situation for about 2/3 years now and no action has been taken. There is a 'no entry' sign which motorists completely ignore and drive in and park their cars. The number of traffic wardens have been increased but they just walk passed and ignore them.

The Chair noted the views expressed. He requested that issue of Allport Lane as a one-way street is taken up and a response is given to the Area Forum.

Heygarth Junior School, Eastham. The school was used as a polling station on 3 May and the female polling clerk had to leave the polling station in the dark at 10.p.m. and walk through an unlit area at the back of the school. The Chair undertook to bring the matter to the attention of the Electoral Section.

Minute 6 - Older People's Parliament

Sheila Williams explained that the Older People's Parliament is a newly formed Parliament for older [aged 50 plus] people of Wirral to attend meetings and air their views and concerns on local issues that affects people in this area and in the Borough. As a member of the Older People's Parliament Sheila was invited to attend the forum to provide some background information. She invited any members of the public are interested in joining the Parliament to ring Tracey Smith at Wallasey Town Hall for an application pack.

Councillor Niblock recalled that each Area Forum is allowed to have two nominated representatives from each Ward to serve on the Parliament.

The Chair replied that nominations had been invited at an area forum meeting about a year ago, but no one had come forward.

Sheila Williams continued that the dates of meetings of the Parliament will be announced in the local Press.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That Sheila Williams be thanked for the information.

Minute 7 - Wirral Hospital Trust - NHS Engagement Strategy

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

The first phase in February 2006 involved a major consultation programme, A Change for the Better, in relation to the Trust's application for Foundation Trust Status. The consultation laid out service plans for the following five years. The Trust has just been notified that it has been granted NHS Foundation Trust status. Arrowe Park Hospital has been renamed Wirral University Teaching Hospital.

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

Unlike current NHS trusts, Foundation Trusts have Members and Governors. Members elect Governors to represent them and to set direction for the organisation. The membership and Assembly of Governors is a key part of the engagement strategy.

The Trust values the contribution made by members and encourages members of the public to become public members or attend Assembly meetings – application forms were available at the meeting. Further information can be obtained from www.whnt.nhs.uk. Read your hospital.

Members of the public raised the issues –

A&E Facilities are Clatterbridge Hospital: Are there any plans to re-open A&E at the weekends? The matter has been ongoing for four years and there has been no outcome.

Glenn Coleman – Consideration was being given to an out-of-hours service, not an A&E unit, but a decision has been made not to open a new out-of-service on the grounds that it would be uneconomical and unsustainable to maintain that service.

Councillor Mitchell - Car Parking Charges at Arrowe Park Hospital. The concession to people who are disabled to reclaim parking charges is not advertised anywhere.

Lynn Benstead – My understanding is that disabled car parking is free. There are about 15/20 designated spaces.

Councillor Mitchell - People with disabilities have to pay to use the main car park in front of the hospital. People with relatives in intensive care who visit on a regular basis use have to pay an exorbitant amount. Is there a scheme for reduced charges? If there is, it is not advertised and no one knows about it.

Lynn Bensted - I will take the query back and feed the response back to the Area Forum.

Member of the public - You have to walk a long way to get reimbursement. It would help if it were closer to the main entrance.

Councillor Mitchell - The people who live in the southern end of the peninsular are isolated. There is Arrowe Park and Wallasey, but there is nothing for this end. One of the questions we are constantly asking in this Area Forum is the ability to have an out of hours service in this part of the Wirral. The GPs surgeries are packed with patients on Monday mornings. If there was a more local service people would go there at weekends instead of waiting to Monday morning. There is an ageing population on the Wirral and they are expected to travel longer distances.

Glenn Coleman - What we are looking to do is build a business case around extended hours. We have looked at the activity in out of hours for this end and looked at the average number of attendances. The figures are average. People can make their way to the out of hours service on other sites and use those effectively. The out of hours service is an urgent service and if they can wait for treatment it is more appropriate for them to access their normal GP surgeries.

The out of hours and A&E activity is increasing and we are trying to manage that better. It is not unusual for surgeries to be particularly busy on a Monday morning across the Borough, not just in Bromborough.

Secretary of Wirral Pathfinders Monitoring Health Support Group – the number of beds for mental health problems at Clatterbridge has been halved. People suffering from anxiety and depression are not seen by a psychiatrist; to do that they have to be classed as having a severe and enduring mental illness.

Lynn Benstead – The mental health services come under Cheshire & Wirral Partnership Trust – not Wirral NHS Trust.

[Glenn Coleman asked the member of the public to provide details and he would raise the issue with Cheshire & Wirral Partnership Trust and provide a response].

Minute Decision :

Resolved that :

Lynn Benstead be thanked for the presentation

(i) Lynn to report back to the Area Forum regarding reduced parking charges at Arrowe Park Hospital

(ii) Glenn Coleman to provide a response to the secretary of Wirral Pathfinders

Monitoring Health Support Group regarding reduced service for patients with mental health problems at Clatterbridge Hospital

Minute 8 - Partner Updates • Merseyside Police • Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service • Wirral Primary Care Trust

Merseyside Police: Inspector McKeown, Neighbour Inspector for Bromborough introduced himself and reported -

March and April had been particularly good months in Bromborough and Eastham with low levels of crime and high detection rates. The figures for June show a steep rise in low level damage and anti social behaviour, but the past seven days have seen a decline in the number of offences.

Terrorist activity is significant and all Police Officers in Wirral have been working compulsory 12-hour shifts since 30 June. MI5 are confident that they have identified all the suspects in the most recent attacks. Two or three people identified as leaders have been under surveillance for some time and six of the eight suspects have been arrested. Further searches of premises in Liverpool 8 have taken place. The National Council of Islam and Islamic Leaders in this area have joined together to condemn the activities which are completely against the teachings of their faith.

Inspector McKeown read out a statement issued by Merseyside Police. Extracts from the statement are given below -

‘A major UK counter terrorism investigation is underway following attacks in London and Glasgow. The country is on critical alert and the Merseyside Force has to be more vigilant. High visibility police activity is taking place across Wirral and Merseyside as a precautionary measure to ensure that the public at large are kept safe and are reassured.

(subject to this statement being read out on the night of the forum the security alert status was lowered from critical to severe late on the 4th July 2007 . Two weeks ago this was then reduced further to high alert.)

Merseyside Police is doing everything possible to ensure the safety of the public of Merseyside. We ask that all our communities continue to help us by remaining calm but vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour directly to us or to the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321, or to report incidents of hate crime anonymously via the Crimestoppers hotline on 0800 555111.’

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service:

Myles Platt then gave an update on fire service activities. In the past three months, fire crews have carried out 550 home fire safety checks in the area. There have been four fires in domestic dwellings with no deaths or serious injury resulting from those fires. There have been 113 fires in Wirral in the same three-month period. Secondary fires, nuisance fires etc, totalled 22 against a total of 744 across Wirral.

The high volume-pumping appliance has been mobilised on four occasions as part of

the national response to the flooding in South Yorkshire and Humberside. The specialist water rescue team has also been sent to Humberside to help rescue people trapped by floodwater.

All senior fire officers are on standby and can be recalled at any time to respond to the terrorist threat. There are crews of firefighters on Merseyside who are fully trained in the use of the specialist equipment that enables them to respond to all kinds of threat.

Before the end of this financial year, there will be a specialised hazardous materials response unit based at Bromborough Fire Station to respond to incidents at the Eastham Oil Refinery and the various industries in the area.

Wirral Primary Care Trust

Glenn Coleman reminded the Forum that a smoking ban had been introduced in enclosed places in England on 1 July 2007. He reiterated that there are excellent smoke-cessation services that can be accessed through GP surgeries, in pharmacies across Wirral, and from the Health and Lifestyle wellbeing service in Hamilton Square.

The PCT is consulting on a proposal to redevelop the Orchard Surgery in Bromborough by constructing a purpose-built surgery on the land behind the current cramped and out of date facilities. Two drop-in sessions have been arranged to allow members of the public to view plans of the proposed development and to share their views with representatives from the practice, the developers/architects and the primary care trust.

Both events will take place in St Barnabas Church Hall on Wednesday, and Thursday, 11/12 July. Comments can be emailed to TheOrchardDvt@WirralPCT.nhs.uk. by the closing date of 20 July 2007.

Minute 9 - Any other business

In an addition to the agenda The Chair then invited Paul Loughnane from New Ferry Butterfly Park to address the forum

Paul expressed his personal thanks for the grant of £750 for a display board from the Community Initiatives Fund for the New Ferry Butterfly Park. The Mayor of Wirral had recently attended an open day and unveiling ceremony. The park is open on Sunday afternoons in the summer and other times by appointment. Visitors are welcome and admission is free. Details are on the website - www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cheshire look under reserves.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Minute 10 - Date of next meeting Tuesday 23rd October 2007 venue to be confirmed

That the next meeting of the Area Forum be held on 23 October 2007 in Bromborough.

The Chair invited members of the public to use the feedback forms available at the

meeting and especially to put forward their ideas for agenda items at future meetings.

Matters arising

Local resident from Clifton Avenue: Wirral Homes have been contacted and resident's concerns have been addressed.

Pavement cafes: Zegers on Allport Road, confusion over land rights looking to be resolved soon. Gossip have made an application and now have a licence.

Go Kart track at Hooton Park (update received from Environmental Health):

Complaints have been received from local residents about motor vehicle noise on certain days. The track is on West Road, Hooton and has a number of planning conditions some of which were imposed to reduce the impact of the track on local residents. Planning enforcement staff have been to the track and are taking steps to ensure that the conditions are adhered to.

Enforcement officers have visited the track on race days however to date our investigations have not established a noise nuisance, in that the occasions when you would expect it to be the noisiest from the track i.e. race meetings which are held once a month, have on the last 2 occasions not been noisy. It appears from what residents are telling us is the noise from the track is very much weather dependant--wind direction and strength has a major bearing on the impact. There is also a question as to whether all the 'motor vehicle noise' is from the go karts. There have been complaints that West Rd and North Rd are used as a race track for both motorcycles & cars, plus there is an area of land just within the Borough boundary on North Rd which is used by off road bikes & cars.

To date we have not carried out an assessment because we haven't heard the karts at the complainant's properties.

Traffic in Allport Lane (update from Inspector Andy McKeown) During the first two weeks of August a fortnight's worth of enforcement was carried out by two PCSO's. For the first week any transgressors were stopped and warned, for the second week any transgressors were given on the spot fines. Following the first week, incidents were reduced and towards the end of the second week, members of the public were more aware of the situation. Therefore the exercise was reasonably effective, resulting in a number of people being fined.

Parking charges at Arrowe Park Hospital: Lynn Benstead awaiting a response.

Home zone area Winstanley Road/Salisbury Drive: quotes have been received, however the scheme is considered to be too expensive, alternative proposals are currently under consideration.

Sefton Road: no further updates however funding by PCT is still guaranteed.

Westbury Homes sign on A41: Streetscene have confirmed this will be removed.

Section Two

Local Updates

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services. They involve local ward councillors, police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, fire safety representatives along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council. Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.

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

Safer & Stronger Communities

Alleygates crash through thousand barrier



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

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

installation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agencies combine to tackle underage alcohol sales

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

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

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

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

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

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

Healthier Communities & Older People

Find out More log on to www.wirral.gov.uk Or www.ageconcernwirral.org

Wirral Older People's Parliament

Newsletter Issue Four June 2007 – Issue Number 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wirral Older People's Parliament

Newsletter Issue Five September 2007

News & Progress

Talking to a number of the people attending this “**Later Life Convention**” it became quite obvious that some had not realised that so many organisations existed with the means to assist and advise the older populations. One issue that arose time and time again was the fact that Insurance Premiums had risen dramatically both in terms of **House and Car Insurance**, this was explained away because of the recent heavy flooding in some parts of the country, most companies had taken quite a lot of claims and consequently premiums had risen accordingly. This was not received very well for people who had not been involved in any of the flooded areas.

Many of the changes and proposed changes worried some, the closing of local GP practices and the movement of doctors to **PCT Community Practice locations** involved longer journeys and sometimes difficulties in public transport to get to the doctors, plus you were not always sure you would actually see your own doctor, maybe just the doctor who was on duty at the time, and maybe not familiar with your particular medical history.

A number of visitors were complaining to the local police stand that despite urgent telephone calls for assistance in many instances the police only turned up after a long delay and then seemed to actually do very little with clusters of youths causing anxiety to elderly resident’s housing estates. This complaint was usually answered by claiming lack of manpower and or recourses from the police departments.

One stall that received a lot of interest was the “**Healthy Eating**” giving good advice on issues of healthier diets, together with mild exercise and promoting an active participation in local communities and or taking part in various allotment schemes.

Everybody attending this conference took away an abundance of information literature with them.

Jack, Joe, & Sandy assisted Lesley on the stall



Hulme Hall Port Sunlight (September)

The later life convention proved to be very popular with many of our senior citizens who happily toured round the 78 exhibitors covering all aspects and issues that have a direct bearing on the elderly, and much of their every day life. Abundant advice on subjects like Insurance, Fire Safety, Health & Well-Being, plus making life easy with numerous gadgets and modern equipment aiding mobility and comfort. From Pensions and Benefits available too Healthy Eating and Beneficial Exercise, including many specialists in areas like Alzheimer’s, Stroke’s, Parkinson’s and Smoking or Alcohol Addictions, and experts in the fields of Care, and Active Aging plus Community Life. Wirral Council one stop shops and Independent Age activities for Volunteers, Carers, & Nursing Services.

To learn about your local forum ring Tracey Smith 691 8026 (traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk) For more about “the Older Peoples Parliament” ring Lesley Howells 666 2220 You can take an active part in the Parliament within your own district just ring and find out what can be achieved when the older people band together

Children & Young People

Wirral's students are celebrating

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

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



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

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

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

Teenagers' challenge of a lifetime

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

The group are canoeing 68 miles from Fort William to Inverness across Scotland's Caledonian Canal. Aged between 15 and 18, the young people were engaged through the Council's Response Service - a support service for at-risk young people. In total the group of seven young men and three young women will complete the six-day course carrying their own equipment and camping gear.

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

The trip will see the group work as a team developing better health and improved life chances. For many, it is their first experience of working within a group but they represent a growing number of young people determined to tackle substance abuse through making changes to their own lives. Individually the youngsters have already achieved a First Aid and Life Savers award and are aiming for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award for Outward Bound Achievement.

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

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

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

Wirral Youth Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children in a bid to help them successfully complete their Bronze Awards. In August, most of this group attended a 3 day residential course at The Oaklands Centre where they engaged in a wide variety of outdoor activities. One young woman in particular was identified as having the potential to take a future lead role and will probably be invited back and given a work experience opportunity.

Wirral's D of E Open Award Centre is due to move premises again. Following a decision to vacate the Somerville Site at Gorse Lane we have entered into negotiations regarding the use of the Wirral Alternative Schools Programme new premises at Solar Campus.

In our drive to make the Award available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units run the Award. This includes Meadowside Special School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with complex learning difficulties.

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

Bromborough and Eastham

Bebington Youth Club is open on Mondays, (6.30 – 9.30) Wednesdays and Thursdays evenings. (7.00 – 10.00) The main range of opportunities includes the popular computer suite, games in the sport hall, snooker and table tennis. Environmental issues are highlighted at Bebington.

Bromborough Youth Club is open on Mondays, Wednesday, (7.00 – 10.00) and Friday (6.30 9.30) evenings. The core activities are snooker, table tennis dance and sports. Recent events have included visits to Alton towers and a number of consultation events, particularly a transport Forum at Hatton Garden.

Eastham Youth Club operates on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7.00pm until 9.45pm. The Club has been busy over the summer months with the staff concentrating on completing a number of outings and activities such as Manley Mere and national football Museum. The normal activities are crafts, pool, table tennis, outdoor games; programme of healthy eating and issues based work. The Club has recently secured funding to up grade and repair the outdoor facilities, which will then be available as a community resource.

The South Wirral Young People's Project has continued with the Dig It Project during the summer. Despite the poor weather, a good crop of vegetables was grown and under the auspices of Groundwork, the Sensory Garden is now complete. The young people involved have been successful in NVQ Level 1 modules in horticulture and construction. The dance project at the Delamere Centre is drawing to a close. Young people participated in a programme of outdoor activities such as rock climbing during the summer.

Economic Development & Enterprise

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All Planning decisions can now be viewed live from anywhere in the world via Wirral Council's website, www.wirral.gov.uk

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

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

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

"This new facility is very good news for Wirral residents and developers. Now the meetings can be watched live, or at a time that suits you, from the comfort of your own arm chair or from the side of a swimming pool on holiday. Its also going to save many journeys across Wirral to watch the meetings in person, people can now log on and watch at home or at work, saving unnecessary car journeys"

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

LICENSING ACT 2003

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

In December 2004 a Statement of Licensing Policy was produced which sets out the principles the Council will generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions under the Act. It is a requirement of the Licensing Act 2003 that the Council reviews it's Statement of Licensing Policy every three years.

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

Full consultation on this document is being undertaken with: -

- The Chief Officer of Police
- The Fire Authority
- Bodies representing local holders of premises licences
- Bodies representing local holders of club certificates
- Bodies representing local holders of personal licences
- Bodies representing businesses and residents
- Other interested parties

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

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

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

Section Three

Partner Updates

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

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

Community Safety

- Stealth software - the Joint Community Safety Team, working in conjunction with the IT Department of the Children and Young Person's Department, have a roll-out programme of software being loaded onto all computers belonging to the Authority e.g., schools, libraries, One Stop Shops, Community Centres. In the event of a computer being stolen, it notifies a central control point where the machine is being used. The police are alerted and procedures are in place for the machine to be recovered and, if appropriate, person(s) arrested.
- Smartwater Project - most schools now have their valuable equipment marked with Smartwater which identifies which school the property came from. All operational police officers on the Wirral have been equipped with special torches which identify Smartwater marked property. In addition, Trading Standards attend Car Boot Sales with police officers and check for Smartwater marked property.
- DVLA Project - whenever Parking Wardens, Community Support Officers, Police Officers see vehicles with items on display a letter is forwarded to the registered keeper to remind them of their responsibility and they should remove items on view in the future to ensure their vehicles are not going to be targeted by thieves. Most thefts from vehicles are committed by opportunists.
- 'Talking CCTV' launched 31/5/2007. Funding was secured from the government's Respect Task Force enabling broadcasting systems to be attached to existing CCTV cameras at key site. The systems enable operators in the Council's CCTV Control Room to prevent and challenge anti-social and criminal behaviour by broadcasting directly to members of the public and giving out key messages relating to crime and disorder.
- Reparation initiative launched on 13/6/2007. A partnership between Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Wirral Youth Offending Service (YOS), BT and Virgin Media using young people engaged with YOS through reparation to repaint streetboxes affected by graffiti and flyposting. Residents can report streetboxes requiring repainting to 'It's Your Call' on 606 2020 or at any One Stop Shop.
- Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords signed-up to Respect Housing Management Standard on 26/6/2007 as part of a local Consortium. Eighteen RSLs in partnership with Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team signed-up to the Standard as part of a local Wirral RESPECT Consortium. The Standard is commitment to challenging unacceptable behaviour and promoting good behaviour. The Consortium now meets regularly to share intelligence and best practice and develop initiatives.
- Operation Safe Space launched 18/7/2007. A new partnership initiative, led by Merseyside Police, aiming to increase the use of parks and open spaces. This involved enforcement activities across hot-spot parks by the police and diversionary activities throughout the summer in multi-use games areas.
- Youth RESPECT Team appointed to Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team launched on 27/7/2007. The Team consists of youth workers and play workers with the focus of preventing and reducing ASB by young people. They are identifiable by their distinctive red jackets

**Bob Little Information, Communication & Evaluation Manager Wirral Council Wirral
Joint Community Safety Team Telephone Number: 0044(0)151 606 5444 e-mail:
boblittle@wirral.gov.uk**

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Young people dig it at Bromborough



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

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

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

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

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

Merseyside Police

Your Neighbourhood Inspector is Andrew McKeown

Your neighbourhood team is **Sgt Dave Tinsley**

Bromborough Ward

Con Anderson, PCSO Crilly, PCSO Gillespie, PCSO Evans

Eastham Ward

Con Jones, PCSO Littler ,PCSO Bodie, PCSO Collins

Dedicated Officers will:

- Tackle your priority issues
- Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour
- Deliver a premium service to victims
- Engage with and educate young people through school liaison
- Promote Community intelligence

For all emergencies always call 999.

For non emergencies or enquiries call 0151 709 6010.

If you would like to pass information to the police anonymously then please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

If you would like to help us and become a Police Community Volunteer, please contact Sgt Kate Roberts, our Volunteer Co-ordinator on 0151 606 5448.

To contact your Neighbourhood Dedicated Officers:

Tel: 0151 709 6010

Bromborough Police Station
Bromborough Village Road
Bromborough
CH62 7JG

Opening hours:

Daily – 9am - 7pm.

Wirral Primary Care Trust

1. Primary Care Trust (PCT) Small Grants Programme to support Community Initiatives Fund

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

The PCT Funding must address following health themes:

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

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

2. Primary Care Practice developments update

The PCT has carried out a public consultation on a proposal to redevelop the Orchard Surgery in Bromborough by constructing a purpose built surgery on the land behind the current cramped and out of date facilities

Summary

The consultation exercise was comprehensive and inclusive with all three events well attended. The responses were in the vast majority very positive and supportive of the development.

With this positive mandate from the patients and residents the planning application has been submitted to of Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council and we anticipate a decision by December 2007.

3. Update on questions/discussions raised at Area Forum held Wednesday 4th July 2007, South Wirral High School, Eastham.

No update to be given.

4. Wirral Primary Care Trust Involvement Strategy 2007 - 2010

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

- Involving patients: as consumers of health care services and using their views to influence Primary Care Trust commissioning and help shape current and future health services.
- Involving citizens: to provide legitimacy and accountability for health policy and health care service provision decision making.
- Winning hearts and minds: enabling people to take a more active role in their own health and wellbeing.

The PCT will be involving people in the implementation of the strategy and input will be provided to all future area forums.

5. Wirral Primary Care Trust Commissioning Strategy 2007 – 2010

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

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

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

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

How can you submit comments to the PCT?

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

- You can call in person to our PALs office at Laurie's Centre, 136 Claughton Road, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 6EY
- Call us on our freephone 0800 085 1547
- Write to us at FREEPOST HAVE YOUR SAY

- e-mail us at <mailto:Haveyoursay@wirralpct.nhs.uk>
- Have Your Say on line form at www.wirralpct.nhs.uk and go to home page and click on 'Have Your Say' document. Click on left hand side box 'Have your say request form' and you will then be guided through the 'Have Your Say' process.
- SMS text on 07781472493

What happens next?

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

Section Four

Local Transport Update

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

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

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

Transport

Wrexham Bidston Electrification

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

project in the Regional Funding Review which was likely to take place in the next two years. This would effectively cover the English element of the funding profile.

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

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

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

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

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

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

2.0 BACKGROUND

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

3.0 PROGRAMME REVIEW

- 3.1 The second Merseyside LTP was submitted to the Government in March 2006. LTP2 contains 41 targets – some of which are mandatory. In order to ensure that these targets are managed effectively, they are delegated between the various Merseyside LTP sub-groups. As such, the sub-groups are responsible for the targets' monitoring and reporting.
- 3.2 For LTP2, the Government introduced four 'shared priority' areas: Congestion, Road Safety, Accessibility and Air Quality/ Environment. Each target, and indeed each transport scheme, is likely

to contribute to the delivery of more than one of these 'shared priorities', however, there is generally one that can be identified as the 'main' priority.

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

4.0 SHARED PRIORITIES, TARGETS AND SCHEMES

4.1 Congestion

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

4.1.2 Measures might include:

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

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

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP2	Change in area wide road traffic	9.2% cap on growth to 2010/11
LTP5	Bus punctuality	90% by 2012/13
LTP6	Changes in peak traffic flows to LCC (7-10a.m.)	7% cap on growth to 2010/11
LTP7	Congestion (Person Delay)	6.4% increase in traffic leading to a 4.3% increase in journey time over the life of the LTP2
BVPI 102	P.T. patronage (bus, rail)	Bus: 1% growth to 2010/11 Rail: 7.9% growth to 2010/11
BVPI 104	Satisfaction with local buses	65% by 2009/10
L1	Sustainable transport as the final mode for air passengers	12% - 2008/09, 14% - 2010/11
L2	HGV journey times on designated freight routes	Capped at 1/3 rd of increase in traffic levels
L3	Limit current number of car parking spaces in LCC	16,500 public off-street cap
L4	% of network below threshold speeds during peak periods	Monitoring only
L5	Extent of peak spreading	Monitoring only
L6	Road works coverage	Monitoring only
L7	Park & Ride usage	35% increase by 2010/11

4.2 Road Safety

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

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

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

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

4.3 Accessibility

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

4.3.2 The LTP partners will:

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

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

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

4.4 Air Quality/Environment

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

4.4.2 This shared priority contains:

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

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

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

4.5 Transportation Planning

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

4.5.2 The type of projects under this heading include:

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

5.0 DRAFT 2007/08 TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME

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

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

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

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

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

6.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

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

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

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

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

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

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

8.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 In accordance with DfT guidelines, the LTP2 is closely aligned with the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and other strategic and local policies, including the Regional Transport Strategy, Wirral's Tourism Strategy and local environmental, social and economic regeneration strategies.

8.2 The Merseyside authorities are currently developing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) regarding land use and transport, which will improve linkages within the planning approvals' process. It is intended that the SPD be approved and implemented in the near future and will be reported to Members separately in due course. Members will note that the SPD was particularly noted by the Government in the settlement letter as "indicative of forward thinking on the links between transport and planning".

9.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Most of the schemes in the Transport Capital Programme have positive Community Safety Implications, either through improvements in road safety (e.g. introducing physical changes to the highway) or improvements in personal safety (e.g. installing better street lighting).

9.2 LTP2 directly addresses the Government's shared priority of road safety, which links closely with the council's Local Performance Service Agreement (LPSA) to reduce traffic accidents.

9.3 Furthermore, LTP2 complements the Housing Market Renewal Initiative by helping to improve the street environment.

9.4 The LTP2 complements the majority of the Council's corporate objectives, however, it is directly linked to that of 'Improving Transport'.

10.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Sustainability and LA21 issues are common threads running through all the transport policies.

11.2 Specific elements of LTP2 include:

- Sustainable Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the strategy;
- Joint working with health authorities and the promotion of walking and cycling;
- Reduction of transport related pollution;
- Encouraging greater use of public transport and non-motorised modes of transport;
- Development of Travel Plans with schools and businesses; and
- Merseyside 'TravelWise' – the initiative that is specifically helping to make an important contribution to people's behaviour change and the promotion of alternative modes of travel to the private car.

12.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

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

13.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

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

14.0 RECOMMENDATION That:

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

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

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

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

Section Five

Area Forum Funding Progress Report Community Initiative Funding 2007/2008

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

Bromborough / Eastham Area Forum Funding Progress

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Port Sunlight Rugby Football Club Ltd	To contribute towards funding multi sport training courses to offer students of junior and senior schools an opportunity to play sport in a controlled, safe environment.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,800.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The pilot project your funds helped us to set up proved to be a great success, and we have been asked to extend the scheme to the 12 junior schools in our catchment area, thank you for your support.
Anselmians Rugby Club	To contribute towards the costs of playing kits and mini goal posts.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £800.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We used the grant to purchase playing kits for children within the community, to enable them to go on tour and to use the kit for training and playing.
Fire Support Network	To contribute towards the DIG IT project, which is a diversionary activity for young people in the South Wirral area.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	The project is facilitated by an outbuilding that is being renovated. The polytunnel is installed and work is about to begin on the renovation of the wildlife area.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Port Sunlight Cricket Club	To refurbish the changing rooms and shower facilities at the club.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £985.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund. made a big improvement to our facilities.	We have now completed all the work, except for the decorating which will be carried out by our members. Thank you on behalf of our members, this has
Eastham Blades Junior Football Club	To purchase jackets and to provide opportunities to send volunteers on sports related training courses.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £400.00 towards this, for the purchase jackets for the under 15 year olds, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Jackets were purchased for the children and a number of the under 16s attended an eight week refereeing course at Acre Lane and are now qualified and have refereed games this season. We also sent a number to first aid and junior football organisers courses run through Bebington High School.
Eastham Village Preservation Association	To contribute towards the hardwood wall mounted display cabinet which will be situated in the Centre of the village.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £450.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The display board has been erected on the wall of the renovated barn in the yard of Powell Demolition Heritage Centre. We have been given copies of old photographs and memorabilia to display, and we are sure that they will be appreciated by residents and visitors.
Bebington Royals Morris Dancers	To contribute towards cost of new costumes for the troupe.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Since receiving the award we have been able to purchase new costumes for the forthcoming season.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
1st Eastham Boys' Brigade and Girls Association	To contribute towards accommodation and travel costs to take a group of children to an activity centre in Wales.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £265.00 towards costs for this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The hire of the minibus allows us greater access to places of interest for the children to enjoy.
T S Sea Hawk Sea Cadet Unit	To purchase specialist expedition equipment for use by the cadets to enable them to gain their Duke of Edinburgh Award.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding has been used to purchase tents and camping equipment. A Summer camp has been arranged in Cheshire, where the cadets will start their Duke of Edinburgh training.
12th Bebington (Eastham) St Mary's Scouts	To purchase 2 kayaks, 2 paddles and 2 vests.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £600.00 from the Community Safety / Community Initiatives Fund.	We purchased a Canadian canoe and paddles which is fine for our purposes and we are very grateful for this.
Age Concern Wirral	To replace cutlery, crockery and kitchen utensils at the Lunch Club based at Bromborough Civic Centre.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £300.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We have replaced the cutlery, crockery and kitchen utensils at the lunch club based at Bromborough Civic Centre.
New Ferry Butterfly Park	To put up an interpretative board at the entrance to new Ferry	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to fund this.	The sign was erected and an unveiling event was attended by the mayor of Wirral and 50+ butterfly park enthusiasts. The new entrance board has much been admired, the art work was produced by Vicky Hose, the senior ranger at Eastham Country Park.

Applications granted for financial year 2007/2008

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

Area Forum	Date of Assessment Panel meeting	Panel members in attendance
Bromborough & Eastham	11th July 2007	Cllr Niblock, Cllr Mitchell, Netty Smith, Mark Craig Louise Harland-Davies (advisory role)

Applications to Area Forums

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

Projects funded/not funded through the Bromborough and Eastham forum only

		Organisation	Project Details	CIF Awarded	CS Awarded	LA21 Awarded	Total Awarded	Panel Recommendation	Declaration of interest
SA	17	Manor House Social Fund	To purchase furniture for a new conservatory being provided as part of a major refurbishment scheme at Manor House.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but felt that it should be funded by the housing association	

SA	27	Wirral Dancers Morris Dancing Troupe	To cover cost of hire of hall for dance troupe practices.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel did not wish to fund the cost of hiring the hall, however requested that the troupe be advised that they would consider funding trips to competitions.	
SA	50	Eastham Youth and Community Centre	To redecorate and fit new blinds to the coffee bar area.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not feel that it would be appropriate to fund this as it is for a council owned building.	Netty Smith
SA	55	Wirral Autistic Society	To provide a computer and software for Independent Living Skills module.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but felt that this is of benefit to all of Wirral. Panel requested that the applicant be advised that would consider this more favourably if it is submitted to other area forums.	
SA	73	Port Sunlight Cricket Club	To refurbish kitchen.	£1,210.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,210.00	Panel considered this to be a worthwhile project and agreed to award £1,210.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	
SA	87	Bebington Sea Cadets "TS Sea Hawk"	To fund three cadets on the Royalist voyage and to purchase paint for exterior walls and polish for block floors at the cadet unit.	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but felt that the group should consider organising carrying out some fundraising activities towards this. Agreed to contribute £300.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Councillor Dave Mitchell
SA	88	Busybodies - Parent / Carer and Tots Group	To replace toys and safety equipment.	£800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£800.00	Panel considered this to be a good project that would benefit local parents and carers, and agreed to award £800.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	

Multi application projects funded through Bromborough and Eastham and other forums

Id		Organisation	CIF Awarded	CS Awarded	LA21 Awarded	Total Awarded
MA	7	Wirral Pathfinders	£250.00	£0.00	£0.00	£250
MA	33	New Ferry Regeneration Action Group (NFRAG)	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
MA	36	Families need Fathers (FNF) - Wirral	£700.00	£0.00	£0.00	£700.00
MA	52	Wirral Festival of Music, Speech and Drama	£51.00	£0.00	£0.00	£51.00
MA	60	New Ferry Gautby Road (NFRG) Table Tennis Club	£700.00	£0.00	£0.00	£700.00
MA	77	Wirral Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	£675.00	£0.00	£0.00	£675.00
MA	114	Victim Support and Witness Service Merseyside	£00.00	£150.00	£00.00	£150.00

The above organisations submitted requests to more than one area forum, the amount detailed above shows how much the Bromborough and Eastham area forum awarded. There is still an amount of £13,784.65 left of funding made up as follows:

- CIF £6,831.11
- Community Safety £5,453.54
- LA21 £1,500.00

Funding is being advertised at the moment with a closing date of 2nd November 2007. Please call the Community Engagement Team on 0151 691 8650 or email engage@wirral.gov.uk if you would like to apply.

Section Six

Local Area Forum Plan Update

The area forum plan is a useful tool for everyone who has an interest in improving the local area as it will not only provide area forum members with a work programme of actions to be addressed, but will also ensure that local people have a means of monitoring the impact and progress of the area forum and the difference it is making to quality of life in the area.

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

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

ROAD SAFETY

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

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

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

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

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

WALKING AND CYCLING

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

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

	<u>Allocation</u>
Pedestrian Signals	£140,000
Walking/Pedestrian Dropped Crossing	£26,000
Pedestrian Central Refuges	£26,000
Signing for Pedestrians	£10,000
Public Rights of Way	£15,000

	£217,000

Area Forum – Heswall, Pensby, & Thingwall	£16,300
Area Forum - Bromborough & Eastham	£16,300

Further details of this report will be included in the Area Forum Plan for 07/08. Please contact Louise Harland-Davies 0151691 8695 or email louiseharlanddavies@wirral.gov.uk for further information.

Section Seven

Streetscene Update

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

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

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

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

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

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

School children win road safety prize: In conjunction with Merseyside Police and Radio City, Wirral Council have presented a £1000 prize to Rock Ferry High School for their outstanding entry in our Road Safety video competition. Pupils from Wallasey School, Park High School, Rock Ferry High School, and Woodchurch High School scripted, directed, filmed and edited videos, aimed at getting road safety messages across to other young people.

All of the films were excellent and we couldn't possibly pick the winner - so we gave the opportunity to Wirral's young people to vote online for their favourite video, and Wallasey were the clear winners. The videos can still be viewed online on Radio City's website www.radiocity.co.uk/roadsafety

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

- St. Peters Way, Noctorum - 20mph/Traffic Calming Scheme
- Portsunlight Train Station to Clatterbridge Hospital - Cycle Route (including 3 Toucan Crossings :- Brimstage Road, Bebington, Church Road, Bebington, Bromborough Road, Bebington)
- Arrowse Park - Ambulance Priority Scheme (substantially complete)
- Hoylake Road nr. Danger Lane, Moreton- Puffin Crossing
- Townfield Lane, Oxton- Puffin Crossing (substantially complete)

Puffin Crossings have been proposed at the following locations:

- Hoylake Road / Stuart Avenue, Moreton - Conversion of existing zebra crossing, 13m West of its junction with Stuart Avenue
- Laird Street / Miriam Place, Brikenhead - 8m North-West of its junction with Miriam Place

- Irby Road / Fishers Lane, Pensby - Conversion of existing pedestrian refuge, 29m North of its junction with Fishers Lane
- Townfield Lane / Calverly Close, Oxton - 60m West of its junction with Calverly Close
- Eastham Rake / Plymyard Avenue, Eastham - 16m South-West of its junction with Plymyard Avenue

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

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

Grey bins have been rolled out gradually over the last 9 months and now 95% of properties are on the scheme. Those who live in flats or multiple occupancy housing will be joining the scheme soon. The grey bin is for plastic bottles, glass bottles, jars, cans and tins, paper and card and other dry recyclables. Whilst food waste, plastic bags, plastic containers, foil and textiles go in the green bin as normal, and garden waste goes in the brown bin.

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

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

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

The pilot has concluded that it is better to collect garden waste only in our brown bins. This is because processing a combined collection of food and garden waste is a complicated and expensive way of collecting organic waste. If successful it could have helped reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill and increased Wirral's recycling rate. Unfortunately, due to a combination of the following factors, the scheme hasn't helped us to reach these targets:

- The composting units have struggled to maintain consistency with the biological reaction necessary for this type of enclosed composting.
- We've actually received very little food waste from residents as a whole, which meant the scheme was not cost-effective.

- Residents had concerns over putting food waste directly into a bin without wrapping.

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

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

www.recyclenow.com/compost 0845 077 0757

Footway works completed: Wakefield Drive, Leasowe, The Laund, Wallasey Derwent Drive, Liscard, Dalmorton Road (part) New Brighton (in progress), awarden Avenue, Liscard, Bassenthwaite Avenue, Claughton, Nursury Close, Oxton (in progress), Well Lane, Bebington, Riviera Drive, Rock Ferry.

Future footway works planned: Upton Road (part) Claughton, Grafton Street (part) Birkenhead, Burlingham Avenue, West Kirby, Fieldway, Bebington, Croxteth Avenue, Liscard, Sussex Close, Pensby & Thingwall, Hillfield Drive, Pensby & Thingwall, Mere Farm Grove, Oxton, Lord Street (part) Birkenhead, Chester Street (part) Birkenhead, Downham Road (part) Birkenhead, Oak Road, Bebington, Reedville Road, Bebington, Richardson Road, Rock Ferry

Carriageway resurfacing completed: Sherlock Lane, Poulton, Brompton Avenue, Wallasey, Haydock Road, New Brighton Chadwick Street, Moreton, Wharfedale Road, Wallasey, Aysgarth Road, Wallasey, The Laund, Wallasey, Perrin Road. Wallasey, Acres Road, Bebington, Richmond Close, Bebington, Devonshire Road (part) Birkenhead, Townsend/Challis/Curlender Road, Bidston, Bedford Road (part) Rock Ferry, New Chester Road (part) Rock Ferry Bridge Street, (part) Birkenhead, Argyle Street, (part) Birkenhead, Mount Road (part) Bebington.

Carriageway resurfacing planned: Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge, Derwent Drive, Liscard, Neville Road, Bromborough, Dibbins Hey (part), Clatterbridge, Wirral Mount, Clatterbridge, Patterdale Road, Clatterbridge, Bassenthwaite Avenue, Claughton, Laburnum Road, New Brighton, Sandheys Road, New Brighton, Mount Road (access link to hospital entrance) Clatterbridge, Telegraph Road/Pensby Road, Heswall, Dock Road, Seacombe (part).

Carriageway Retread sites completed:

WESTBANK ROAD
WILLAN STREET
BRIMSTAGE LANE
KNOWSLEY ROAD/VICTORIA DRIVE
WILLOWBROW ROAD
THINGWALL ROAD SERVICE ROAD HSE 51 - 77
CALDWELL DRIVE
MEADOW CRESCENT
FLAXHILL
BLACKHEATH DRIVE
WILKES AVENUE
HALSBURY/WOBURN ROAD
ALLERTON GROVE
HALDANE ROAD

PRENTON
OXTON
CLATTERBRIDGE
ROCK FERRY
CLATTERBRIDGE
PENSBY & THINGWALL
UPTON
UPTON
MORETON WEST & sm
LEASOWE
LEASOWE
NEW BRIGHTON
BIRKENHEAD & TRANMERE
CLAUGHTON

Carriageway Retread sites programmed:

GRANT ROAD
MACKENZIE ROAD

LEASOWE
LEASOWE

HARVEST LANE
DEVONSHIRE ROAD

MORETON
WEST KIRBY

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

TEEHY CLOSE
NAPIER ROAD
INGLEBY ROAD
WOODFORD ROAD
BRILL STREET
NEWLING STREET
TRINITY STREET
ABERDEEN STREET
CRAVEN STREET
RODNEY STREET
HELENA STREET
FOX STREET
BRASSEY STREET
RABY DRIVE/RABY AVE
STATION ROAD (PART)
GOTHAM ROAD
GRANBY CRESCENT
SILSTON CLOSE
ORSTON CRESCENT
ELTON DRIVE
RADFORD AVENUE
BRADDEN CLOSE
BENTY HEATH LANE (PART)
RIDGEVIEW ROAD
MANOR HILL
HEATHER BROW
LYNDHURST/DAWLISH/GREENHEYS/SOUTH ROAD
WOODLANDS ROAD
DRAYTON CLOSE
PORTO HEY ROAD
SOUTH HEY ROAD
SHAWS DRIVE
WHITEHEATH WAY
GREENHEATH WAY
BLACKHEATH DRIVE
CARTMEL DRIVE
SEAFORTH DRIVE
SHEEN ROAD
RATHMORE ROAD
BARKER ROAD
PORTAL ROAD
CUMBERLAND/CALDER/BOWNESS
COLLEGE DRIVE
NORTHBROOKE/DOMVILLE
KILN ROAD
ROBIN WAY
BRIDGE FARM CLOSE
GLEBE HEY ROAD
BIG MEADOW ROAD
MONKSWAY
FLECK LANE
LYNDHURST ROAD

BEBINGTON
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BIDSTON & ST JAMES
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIDSTON & ST JAMES
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLAUGHTON
CLAUGHTON
CLAUGHTON
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY
HOYLAKE & MEOLS
LEASOWE
LEASOWE
LEASOWE
MORETON WEST & SM
MORETON WEST & SM
NEW BRIGHTON
OXTON
PENSBY & THINGWALL
PENSBY & THINGWALL
PRENTON
ROCK FERRY
UPTON
UPTON
UPTON
UPTON
UPTON
UPTON
WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON
WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON
WALLASEY

Carriageway Surface Treatment sites programmed: Vyner Road North, Bidston & St James, Wroxham Way, Upton, Seabank Road (part) Liscard

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

RUSSELL STREET
CRAVEN STREET
RODNEY STREET
HELENA STREET
FOX STREET
KNOWLES STREET
JULIET AVE
PORTIA AVE
MIRANDA AVE

BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BEBINGTON
BEBINGTON
BEBINGTON

CRESSIDA AVE
BEATRICE AVE
ROSALIND AVE
NAPIER ROAD
NEW FERRY ROAD
INGLEBY ROAD
CECIL ROAD
BEVERLEY ROAD
SHOREFIELDS
APSLEY AVENUE
DEARNFORD AVE
DEARNFORD CLOSE
BRINLEY CLOSE
BRONINGTON AVE
SPRINGHILL AVE
REDBROOK CLOSE
MILLERSDALE CLOSE
WHARFDALE AVE
DARLEYDALE DRIVE
MALLOWDALE CLOSE
WENSLEYDALE AVE
EDALE CLOSE
SWALEDALE CLOSE
LYNDHURST/DAWLISH/GREENHEYS/SOUTH ROAD
WOODLANDS ROAD
DOWNHAM DRIVE
SHAWS DRIVE
WILKES AVE
FLAXHILL
HARVEST LANE
CARTMEL DRIVE
SEAFORTH DRIVE
HOLLAND ROAD
BARKER ROAD
THINGWALL DRIVE
DEMESNE ST& BORO ROAD EASTSEACOMBE
RANKIN STREET
LIMEKILN LANE
BIG MEADOW ROAD
NORTHBROOKE /DOMVILLE ROADUPTON
HILLSIDE ROAD
FLECK LANE
DEVONSHIRE ROAD
KIRBY PARK

BEBINGTON
BEBINGTON
BEBINGTON
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
EASTHAM
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EASTHAM
EASTHAM
EASTHAM
GREASBY, FRANKBY & IRBY
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY
HESWALL
HOYLAKE & MEOLS
LEASOWE & MORETON EAST
MORETON WEST & SM
MORETON WEST & SM
MORETON WEST & SM
MORETON WEST & SM
NEW BRIGHTON
PENSBY & THINGWALL
PENSBY & THINGWALL

SEACOMBE
SEACOMBE
UPTON

WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON
WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON
WEST KIRBY
WEST KIRBY

Section Eight

Equalities & Diversity

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

The standard has six strands or pillars:

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

New equality and diversity policy and strategy for Wirral Council

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

The standard has six strands or pillars and these are: Race, Disability, Gender, Age, Sexual Orientation and Religion or belief

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

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

Main site www.wirral.gov.uk
or use the following link http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm

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

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

Council staff diversity forums go from strength to strength

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

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

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

The gender diversity forum has met twice since their inaugural meeting in May with the next meeting scheduled for 19th September. The focus of this meeting will include agile working and transforming working practices to meet the future and addressing the gender imbalance within the top 5% of staff within the Council.

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

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

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

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

Wirral Black and Racial Minority Partnership established

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mayoral reception for Wirral's leading BME community members

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

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

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