

# Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall Area Forum Area Co-ordinator's Report

Meeting – 27th October 2004

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## **Section One – Community Initiatives Funding 2004/05**

There is £2,607.75 carried forward to this year's CIF. The CIF allocation for 2004/05 is £10,000 giving an overall allocation of £12,607.75.

Adverts for CIF will be placed in the Wirral Globe on 10th and 24th November. Flyers and posters will be circulated to groups and organisations as well as libraries, One Stop Shops, council reception areas etc. Individual forum members will also receive publicity information. The closing date for applications will be Monday 20 December.

The assessment panel will meet week commencing 10 January in order for an overall report to go to Cabinet on Thursday 10 February.

It has been agreed that the criteria for this forum is:

*Funding is available for a range of projects to benefit the communities of Heswall and Pensby and Thingwall wards. Normally a grant payment of up to £1,000 will be considered, although a higher payment may be considered in appropriate circumstances.*

### **Other funding sources**

We have been asked to bring to your attention funding available through community safety. This could be used to supplement grant applications or as a possible alternative where applications do not meet the criteria for the Community Initiative Fund. For further details please contact Andy Dams on 666 5098 or Jim Thompson on 666 5097.

The Community Planning Team receives regular updates from the Charities Information Bureau on a variety of funding opportunities. If you would like a copy of the latest information please contact a member of the team on 691 8266/8069.

## **Section Two – Developing and Implementing a Local Area Plan**

### **AREA PLANS – setting the work programme for area forums.**

#### **Introduction**

This paper seeks to outline the development processes underpinning the production of area plans, their purpose and how they should be used by area forum members to progress the work and added value of the forums.

#### **Background**

Wirral Borough Council introduced area forums in the summer of 2001 as part of their drive towards modernising local government and bringing council services, and the services delivered by partner organisations, closer to local people. Area forums are advisory and consultative bodies i.e. they have no delegated decision making powers or budgets and as such the area forums have been used to great effect since their introduction. However, area forums have provided an opportunity for local people to begin to influence the way in which services are delivered and to identify those issues that are important to them.

For example, the forums have been consulted upon the following and their views fed into the decision-making processes of council departments and partner organisations:

1. The Highways Maintenance Programme provided all forums with the opportunity to identify roads for improvement;
2. The Community Strategy;
3. The Schools Term;
4. Specific regeneration developments in areas such as New Brighton and Hoylake

For local councillors, area forums provide an additional opportunity (over and above council surgeries) to engage with local people and, with other service providers, to look at specific issues identified by local communities, which can better be progressed by the joint action of the area forum. Through this community leadership, councillors, through working with local people and organisations can develop a shared vision for the future of their local area, identify immediate priorities for action and then through working together, make a difference in local communities. The production of the area plan supports all councillors' role as community leaders and supports the modernisation agenda through involving local people in service delivery.

## Area Plans

The main task for each area forum has been to develop and agree a local area plan, which reflects the needs and priorities of the area, and provides the area forums with a list of priorities from which they can begin to look at how the forum will respond. While the plans will obviously form a major part of the overall Community Strategy for the borough, perhaps more importantly they are designed to guide the work of the area forums over the coming 12 months.

Area plans bring together a range of identified community needs and priorities from:

- Feedback and views raised at area forums;
- Feedback and views raised at annual ward roadshows;
- Citizens panel questionnaires;
- General consultation activities undertaken by partners around specific issues.

To ensure that area forum plans are aligned with, and make reference to, other supporting plans and strategies prepared by the council and partner organisations, the documents have been rigorously checked against:

- Council departmental plans which set out the priorities and key actions of all sections and departments;
- Other area based plans and strategies such as the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Plans, Pathways Partnerships, Housing Market Renewal Initiative etc;
- The Community Strategy

## Consultation

To support the development, relevance of the area plans, a significant consultation process was developed to further ground the priorities and needs identified by the local community. Copies of the area plans have been distributed to:

- Council heads of service;
- Departmental co-ordinators who support area co-ordinators in relation to service delivery elements of area forums;
- Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) members;
- Wirral's Voluntary and Community Sectors' Network;
- Area forum membership;
- Membership of the 8 thematic partnerships supporting the LSP e.g. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, the Health and Social Care Partnership, Wirral Learning Partnership etc.

Area plans provide the opportunity to:

- Theme future meetings around specific issues identified in the plan;
- Ensure that appropriate council officers and partner organisations are in attendance to support progress against identified issues and needs;
- Convene subgroups (task and finish groups) of the area forums around specific issues to begin to progress ideas, the issues and barriers to addressing the identified needs within the plan;
- Allow councillors to pick up specific issues and priorities and feed these into the political making processes within the council;
- Lobby locally and nationally on issues identified within the area plans and barriers that prevent progress or action;

- Feed local views into the planning and budget setting cycles of the council and partner organisations to ensure that local views and issues are influencing service delivery in positive ways to achieve real and lasting progress against area forum priorities;
- Feed local views into the overarching community strategy for Wirral;
- Align the community initiatives fund grant, where required, with the priorities agreed by the area forum for action within the area plan. The area plan could even provide an opportunity for the area forum to commission specific activity / projects to address identified local needs and priorities.
- Allow area co-ordinators to convene local service co-ordination groups (with key officers from the council and partner organisations) to look at specific service delivery issues, share information and attempt to identify ways of working together in a more co-ordinated fashion to support the achievement of the area forums key priorities;
- Identify the added value of the area forums i.e. those things that have been achieved that would not have been achieved if the area forum did not exist and the council and partners worked individually;
- Undertake specific consultation on the issues identified and the priorities agreed for action by the area forum;
- Report progress to the local community on taking forward the area plans and the issues and priorities they have identified as important to them;

For further information on area plans, how they feed into the planning process and community strategy, please contact:

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Brighton Street  
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## **Section Three – Youth Report**

### **Youth Update Report - September 04**

#### **Youth Forums**

The youth forums met in July and will meet again in September. The outcomes of the September meetings will be reported back at the next area forum.

#### **South Wirral Youth Forum**

22<sup>nd</sup> July at Bromborough Youth Club

Five young people were present, three from Bromborough Youth Club and two from Eastham youth club, plus two workers from Bromborough, one from Eastham, Mark Newman, Lauren Elliott & Chris Bown from Connexions.

#### **Local Issues**

Glass in Eastham skatepark

Groups of young people aged 16-20 hanging round Eastham shops / flats – they are very intimidating. Community Patrol / Police should visit the area more often.

Re-open Ritzy for under 18 nights

Caged sports area in Bromborough by the youth club

Vandalism / graffiti by Eastham youth club

Why do things close down over the summer? For example the Frenzy Club. There should be more on not less

Clean the Oval more often – the changing rooms are in a bad way

#### **What do you think of the publicity?**

Not up in South Wirral High

Was up in the youth clubs

An advert on buses would be good

Posters should go up in:

- libraries
- Bus stops
- Supermarkets
- Cinema's
- Dentists

Radio adverts

Different title

Youth workers should be generating an interest

#### **What issues would you like to raise with Steve Maddox at the next youth forum ?**

Buses don't turn up and you can't rely on them

Oval clean it

Glass by Bromborough station and by the skatepark

#### **Did you like the forum?**

Liked the evening

Really enjoyed it

#### **Since the meeting:**

Discussions have been taking place with the Police about the items raised at the meeting and PC Paul Lawson will be attending the next meeting to discuss their needs and priorities with the forum members.

## **West Wirral Youth Forum**

20<sup>th</sup> July 04 at West Kirby Youth Club

Present

40 young people from WK Youth Club, plus club staff, Lyn McCormack, Debbie Dawson, Rob Connelly, Lauren Elliott & Lynda Parry.

### **Local Issues:**

The Police aren't polite

The Police don't respect us

Need up to date phone boxes

Curfew is wrong – should be imposed by parents not Police

Should be cheaper fares

Would like conference with Police

Would like a place to hang out weekend and evenings – e.g. a shelter in the park

Groups of no more than two causes problems with social activities, just target the troublemakers not the whole group – introduce a form of self-responsibility.

Open Youth club on a Friday

Football pitches

Be able to go everywhere

Police listen to ideas

Would like a McDonalds in West Kirby

Somewhere for bands to practice

### **The Forum Publicity**

The posters are eye-catching and easy to read

Didn't feel they were well circulated

The posters should be displayed in: parks, newsagents, free papers, buses and trains, toilets, concourse, Maccies, libraries, chippies, website & internet

Text messages would be a good way to advertise the forum

Billboards

Should be more prominent in schools

In Connexions

Email the information

### **What issues would you like to raise with Steve Maddox at the next youth forum?**

State of the Wirral is bad – e.g. rubbish and pollution – especially Marine Lake  
Drunks and heroin addicts ruin the place

The curfews are wrong – should be parents decision what time we come home

Treat us with respect

Being on your own, makes us feel vulnerable – should be able to hang round in more than 2.

We trip over loose slabs in the pavements

Reduce the cost of using council leisure facilities

We should be able to access the park

Cost of travelling by public transport – OAP's get free passes, why can't we if we are in school?

The Police move us before the curfew – at 5pm

There's no where to go

Less Police

### **What worked about the forum?**

The way we were listened to  
Having fun

### **What could have worked better tonight?**

Groups that listened  
Having more fun

### **Summary of Key Action Points:**

The curfew was the biggest issue – the group felt that individuals would be vulnerable on their own, and they shouldn't be separated on the streets. It would be really useful for them to discuss this with the Police.

### **Since the meeting:**

Discussions have been taking place with Youth Service & the Police about the items raised and PC Paul Lawson will be attending the next meeting to discuss this and other issues.

## **Children's Community Strategy**

The Community Strategy has been agreed for everyone, and therefore covers everyone's broad needs. This may mean that smaller group's specific needs or aspirations may be lost in the detail. Therefore a specific document focused on children and young people will be able to explore this.

From the schools Roadshow involvement and the youth forums we have a clear understanding about what children and young people want and need, as well as service levels and what departments plans are. Therefore this provides all the ingredients for a draft strategy sitting under the community strategy BUT highlighting children and young people's issues.

A Children's Community Strategy would be an excellent focus for our work and our partners to ensure that services are delivered which meet the needs of our children and young people. This would ensure a coherent, co-ordinated and sensible approach.

This would also give children and young people a focus to review the work of the council and how well they think their needs and aims are being met.

The Community Planning Team has approached the Local Strategic Partnership for support in this work and they have given broad approval at the June meeting.

The process for consulting young people has already started through citizenship events at local schools and Wirral Play Council's "Play Day". Now the schools have returned they will be involved in other consultation on this, along with the Youth Forums.



# Outside Agency Consultation

## Wirral Hospital NHS

The Community Planning Team has been approached to assist with the Hospital's plans for a redesign of how Children's health services are delivered.

## Mersey Regional Waterfront Park

This group are looking at setting up a Children's Panel from West Wirral to include in the decision making of any projects and schemes the Mersey Regional Waterfront Park undertake. The Community Planning Team and Advisory Teachers will be working together on this.

## Youth Conference

This year's conference will close the Council's Local Democracy Week celebrations. This event will offer a unique opportunity for pupils at local schools to experience citizenship "for real".

The conference will include stands from local organisations and council departments. A variety of workshops will take place on the day, which will include:

- Connexions
- Youth / Area Forums
- Public Health
- Liverpool Prison
- Merseytravel

And "Hotseating", which will allow young people to interview key people about issues which have emerged during their debate and discussions. Speakers involved in the hotseating session will include Steve Maddox, Chief Executive WMBC, Howard Cooper, Director of Education, Chief Supt Alan Jones Merseyside Police, Ward Councillors and a number of others representing a diverse group of service providers and organisations.

During lunchtime a buffet will be served providing an opportunity to taste a variety of foods from India, China & the Caribbean. This variety will also be replicated in the entertainment during the break; a steel band will perform.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate young people's participation and allow them to come "face to face" with key decision-makers to put their point across and have fun.

Lauren Elliott  
September 04

If you have any questions about this report please contact me on 691 8213 / [laurenelliott@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:laurenelliott@wirral.gov.uk)

## **Section Four - Streetscene**

*The following report has been provided by the Streetscene Champions.*

### **Hitting highway targets**

STAFF in Technical Services are working hard to ensure the Council hits performance targets for keeping roads and pavements in a good state of repair.

Here is a chance for you to figure out for yourselves just how well we are all getting along...

- Highway maintenance (Priority I tasks) - damage to roads and pavements made safe within 24 hours is 99.56%, exceeding the target for the department of 99%.
- Highway maintenance (Priority II/III tasks) - the figure for damage to roads and pavements substantially repaired within 28 working days is running at 82% for May 2004. This is an improvement on last year's out-turn, thanks to the help of all involved, however we still have some way to go before we reach our target of 87%.
- Lighting - percentage of faults on streetlights reported and repaired within 20 hours is 98.3%, exceeding our target of 93%. Under Council PIs a total of 1.01% of streetlights are 'allowed' not to be working as planned, this figure is currently running at 0.82%, ahead of even our five-year target.
- Customer satisfaction on vehicular crossings. Target of no more than 3% dissatisfied, currently at 0%. Year end figure for last year was 1.02%.

Performance Indicators are in place to help us make sure that the department is delivering its services to an acceptable standard within an agreed timescale.

#### Improving walking and cycling facilities

Wirral Council has been awarded £49,000 in funding to help eight schools improve walking and cycling facilities for pupils.

Bebington High Sports College, Devonshire Park Primary in Birkenhead, Grove Street Primary in New Ferry, Greasby Junior School, Barnston Primary School, Heswall Primary School, Egremont Primary School and Somerville Primary School in Wallasey have been allocated the money from central government.

The schools were selected because they each now have a School Travel Plan in place. These plans outline a package of measures to improve road safety and reduce car use on the school journey.

Teachers and parents will now work together with a specialist Council travel adviser to implement their plans. Local speed restrictions, road crossings, dedicated cycle ways, secure cycle storage, cycle training and developing road safety skills are just some of the ways in which this money could now be spent.

Director of Technical Services Dave Green said: "Twice as many children are driven to school now in comparison with 20 years ago and most of these journeys are less than two miles. We want to work with schools to make walking, cycling and bus travel

a safe and realistic options for more pupils. We hope parents will realise that there are alternatives to taking the car and dropping the kids off right outside school everyday.”

## **Spreading anti-litter messages**

ANTI-LITTER messages hit home with thousands of Wirral teenagers this summer – as part of an innovative web, radio and live roadshow publicity campaign.

Radio City DJ, Scott Hughes, took to the road with a live stage show, visiting more than 2,500 school pupils as part of Wirral Council’s ‘X:CELL 4 Wirral’ litter campaign.

Earlier this summer young people across the borough were listening to Radio City and logging on to the station’s website, to nominate their school for a roadshow tour.

The winning schools selected for the tour were Mosslands, Weatherhead, St Mary's and Woodchurch. Pupils were given the opportunity to swap lessons in the classroom for the chance to take part in games, win prizes and see up and coming girl-band Genie Queen performing live in the school last week.

The campaign, aimed at 11-16 year olds, spread the message – ‘Stop the Drop’ – pick up litter and help us keep Wirral clean.

Director David Green said: "Wirral Council recognises that there is a problem with litter in the borough. This is a national issue, which our officers are keen to tackle locally. We have been working with the regional station Radio City (96.7fm) to come up with an innovative and effective way of educating young people not to drop rubbish and to take more pride in their local environment.

"Run-of-the-mill educational posters, leaflets and presentations aren't always effective when dealing with teenagers. By using radio, the web and live events we are more able to successfully communicate anti-litter messages to secondary school children. We see these mediums as an acceptable way of reaching a notoriously 'hard to reach' age group.”

## **Making it easier to contact ERIC!**

Requests for the ERIC service are now being directed through the Streetscene contact centre. This is the Council service for the collection of bulky household waste. To find out more information or to request the ERIC service, call 606 2004.

## **Rummaging through rubbish**

PUPILS at one Wirral primary school have been rummaging through their rubbish bins... as part of an exercise to examine what they throw away.

Wirral Council recycling officers and representatives from the environmental charity, Global Action Plan, visited Stanton Road Primary School in Bebington to host a waste workshop on Wednesday, July 7.

Children took part in a range of fun educational activities to raise awareness about the three Rs – reduce, re-use, recycle.

The main focus of the workshop was measuring the different types and amounts of school waste, calculating daily, weekly and annual figures. Teachers and pupils were then encouraged to draw up an action plan to help reduce the amount of rubbish they throw out everyday.

This initiative is part of an ongoing programme of waste workshops across Wirral primary schools.

## **Recycling reminder to school pupils**

WIRRAL students celebrating the end of term and exams have been urged to recycle their unwanted revision notes to help the environment.

The appeal was made as part of national Paper Recycling awareness week, which ran from Monday, July 12 to Friday, July 16. As the school bell rang out to signal the start of the six-week break, scholars across the borough were asked to make sure their papers were recycled and not binned.

In Wirral hundreds of tonnes of paper will needlessly be heading for the wheelie bin over the summer holidays. The Council reminded students to make use of facilities and services that ensure waste paper is recycled for re-use again and again after processing.

More than 70 schools have signed up to the Council's recycling collection service. Containers for recycling paper, cans, foil, fluorescent tubes, cardboard and toner cartridges are collected regularly from these sites. This service will hopefully be extended to cover the remaining schools in the borough later this year.

## **Thurstaston roundabout**

Scheme history and details:

- Wirral Council first looked at introducing a scheme in the Thurstaston area back in the late 1990s. Following investigations by traffic management officers it became apparent that considerable investment would be needed for any safety scheme in this area. It would involve road widening and land acquisition. In order to secure funding it was submitted to be included as part of a five year programme of work in the Merseyside Local Transport Plan and it has now been prioritised for action.
- The current design involves introducing a medium-sized roundabout (30m long and 20m wide) at the junction where Telegraph road, Station Road and Thurstaston Road meet. It will be slightly larger than the nearby roundabout at Caldy and we will be endeavoring to keep the access to the former Ismay estate as it is at present.
- There are plans to introduce a 30mph speed limit on the approaches to the roundabout.
- The scheme will reduce the speed of traffic along Telegraph Road and help motorists with manoeuvres into Station Road and Thurstaston Road (particularly motorists making right turns).

Why a roundabout?

- Engineers have looked at a range of schemes and designs for the area. This is the final design that the Council will now take forward to seek approval from Councillors.
- A roundabout will physically force motorists to slow down and reduce the risk of high speed side impact crashes.
- Alternatives have previously been considered. A junction improvement scheme with traffic signals would involve more road widening and land acquisition than a

roundabout, making the scheme more costly. Safety auditors have also expressed concerns over the visibility of lights to approaching traffic. Reducing the speed limit alone does not guarantee traffic will slow down.

- This location has seen six injury accidents within the last three years.
- Local residents and land owners expressed a preference for a roundabout scheme during the early stages of consultation. A petition of 2,179 names was submitted requesting a roundabout.

Environmental issues:

- We are in consultation with conservation officers about the scheme. We want to preserve the appearance of this conservation area.
- The roundabout will be landscaped in keeping with the surrounding environment.
- There will be noise reduction and spray reduction properties in the surfacing of the road.
- Lighting on the roundabout will be shielded to reduce light pollution.
- The new scheme includes enhanced cycling and pedestrian facilities – to assist people crossing the road.

What happens next?

- Cabinet members have now approved the proposed layout for the junction. We will now seek planning permission from the Council's Planning Committee. At this stage in the process any residents wishing to object will be able to make comments in writing to the Director of Planning and Economic Development.
- Planning officers will make a recommendation either approving or refusing the scheme and it will be for Councillors to decide whether or not it should go ahead. If approved this means that officers will then be authorized to purchase land, finalise plans and start work on the scheme.
- We will then buy the relevant land to enable us to go-ahead with the scheme. This will involve the Council entering into discussions and gaining the support of four different land-owners.
- Land acquisition is a lengthy process – we are hoping it will be completed as soon as possible. Cabinet has authorised the use of compulsory purchase powers to acquire the land, should this be necessary.
- The roundabout scheme itself should take approximately six months to build.

## **Section Five – Future meetings and presentations**

There may be requests from various council departments and external organisations to attend area forums to discuss a variety of issues. If a request is made I will inform the Chair.

If forum members would like me to arrange for a presentation on a particular issue please let me know. It may be useful to link future presentations to the priorities identified within the area plan.

The following future dates have been agreed for this area forum:

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2005 at 7pm at Pensby Junior School, Greenbank Drive.

Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2005 at 7pm at St Peter's Primary School, Thursaston Road

# APPENDICES

## **Appendix 1:**

Minutes: Heswall and Clatterbridge Area Forum, 12<sup>th</sup>  
February, 2004  
West Wirral Area Forum, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2004

## **Appendix 2:**

Feedback: Tranmere Show, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2004  
Wirral Show, 10-11 July, 2004

## **Appendix 3:**

CIF Progress reports: Heswall and Clatterbridge and  
West Wirral Area Forums

## **Appendix 4:**

General Forum Update

## Minutes - Area Forum (Heswall & Clatterbridge) Meeting - 12 February 2004

Present	
In the Chair	PSC Johnson
Ward Councillors	AC Hodson , AT Jennings , IM Moon , MJ Moore , SL Rowlands
Community Representatives	Mr T Criddle , Ms M Johnson , Mrs E Rafferty , Mr K Sharkey , Mr K Whittle
Lead Officer	Howard Cooper (Director of Education and Cultural Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Maxine Joynson
Bebington & West Wirral PCT	Allison Cooke (Chief Executive)
Merseyside Police	Cons. Karl Cottrell , Cons. Mark Parry
Council Officers	Derwent Derbyshire (Deputy Director of Highway & Engineering Services) , Phil Miner (Street Scene Area Manager) , Alan Stennard (Director of Housing & Environmental Protection)
Apologies	Steve Beal (Youth representative)

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### Minute 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those present, including 57 members of the public, to the meeting in Bebington Civic Centre.

### Minute 2 - MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held at St. Peter's School, Heswall, on the 23 October 2003 were agreed as a correct record.

### Minute 3 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Maxine Joynson, deputising for Jan Evans (who was on sick leave) gave the report. Copies were made available for anyone requiring them.

### Minute 4 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- (a) A written request from a member of the public was received asking that an item on the North West Regional Assembly be discussed at the next Forum, as there was little information available to the general public.
- (b) The question of policing in Bebington was raised, and the questioner was told that a reply would be given in item 8 (Police update).
- (c) Wirral Transport Users Association again requested that the Line



Electrification Programme be included on the Agenda, along with those for other Forums that would be affected. This is a very important project, especially the introduction of new stations and the electrification of the Bidston line right through to Wrexham.

(d) The question of the proposed road closure by Welsh Water for the insertion of a collecting tank for flood water in Heswall Lower Village was raised, and the ensuing problems it would cause. The Chair replied that it is unlikely that there will have to be a road closure, as it is hoped the tank would be situated inside the Rectory grounds. A small amount of connection work into the road will be required, and there may be temporary traffic lights for a couple of days whilst this is carried out. The Church Commissioners and Daniels (the construction company) are having discussions at present regarding the timetable for this work.

(e) A question was raised asking how the Area Plan fitted into the Local Strategic Partnership.

(f) Another member of the public raised the concern of local residents about the road closure of Bebington Road, Bebington to the junction of Boundary Road. The Street Scene Champion was able to inform him that it will not be the whole road at once, but sections of it, due to work by United Utilities.

(g) Residents in the Quarry Road/Quarry Avenue area had been informed that a sum of money had been put aside for the repair of highways and footways, but this had been put on hold. This is correct because United Utilities have to carry out repairs in the area, which may be more than they had originally anticipated, and this is the cause of the delay.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - That the Area Co-ordinator arrange for a representative to attend the next meeting to discuss North West Regional Assembly.

#### **Minute 5 - ALDI DISTRIBUTION CENTRE - UPDATE**

Derwent Derbyshire reported following on from the Environment and Transportation Select Committee meeting in September, when Counsel's advice was received regarding the imposition of a weight limit on Barnston Road. He also informed the Forum that an item was on the agenda for the Council Cabinet meeting on 19 February recommending the appointment of Mott McDonald MIS to undertake a survey comprising a comprehensive assessment of imposing weight restrictions within the highway network, limiting the use of local roads to vehicles less than 18 tonnes gross. A comprehensive assessment study, including environment and amenity considerations, should also be undertaken into the implications of imposing these weight restrictions within the highway network.

Lengthy discussion ensued with several Barnston residents expressing the following views:

(a) lack of communication with Aldi. There now appears to be an impasse.  
(b) the number of vehicles (HGVs) using the Aldi site was understood to be 50 vehicles every twenty four hours, but this was queried, and another site was quoted as having 650 trips in and 650 trips out, of which approximately 40% were HGVs.

(c) It was pointed out that neither Thornton Hough, Barnston Road, or indeed the A.540 through Heswall to Pensby Road were suitable for this volume of HGV traffic. The Borough Engineer was asked to investigate whether, when the Twelve Quays traffic consultation took place, it was recommended that HGVs do not use Barnston Road.

(d) the dangers along this road – narrow bridge and bends, blind junction at Gills Lane etc. were again raised, also the damage being done to the highway surfaces.

(e) as there have been numerous accidents on the A540 (as reported by Ellesmere Port & Neston Council) in the Chester direction, is it not the responsibility of that Authority to make this highway safer?

(f) Will Mott McDonald contact Singleton-Clamp, the Consultants appointed by the Barnston Conservation Society?

- (g) What action will the Council take if the Consultant's Report does not come up in favour of imposing a weight limit?
- (h) As the Council appears to be inching along on this, can the Council Officers give a time scale to public the Consultant's findings?
- (i) Howard Cooper gave assurance that the Cabinet will be given the full details of how concerned all the residents are, and the elected members of the Forum will make quite sure the Cabinet know the strength of feeling this has raised.
- (j) Concern was raised at the short notice of the Cabinet meeting – residents had understood they would be given two weeks' notice. It was reported the Agenda for the Cabinet meeting was only finalised yesterday (11th February), and all those who had requested the date would be notified this week. The information is now available on the Council's website. Cllr. Isobel Moon stated that she had not yet been informed of the Agenda, and that she and Cllr. Hodson are on the Transport Committee who are looking at the weight limits of all village roads in the Borough.
- (k) Maxine Joynson stated that details of all interested people held on the Community Planning Team's database had been passed on to Mr Derbyshire's section in order for a single letter to be sent out.

#### **Minute 6 - HOUSING STOCK TRANSFER - PRESENTATION**

Alan Stennard, the Director of Housing & Environmental Services gave a comprehensive presentation to explain the proposed Housing Stock Transfer. The Council has set up a new housing organisation Wirral Partnership Homes. Wirral Partnership Homes will be a "not for profit" organisation arms length from Council. It will be run by a Board of 15 - 5 Council nominations, 5 tenants and 5 independent people from the community. The whole procedure will only move forward if all the tenants are in agreement. Tenants do not have to move – it is only the ownership and management which will be changing. Existing staff will be transferred to Wirral Partnership Homes, and already 180 transfers (800,000 homes) have gone through this procedure. There will be a 7 year investment programme, which will mean the refurbishment of many homes to bring them to a higher standard. It is hoped this will help anti-social behaviour and maintain the standard of houses better over the next 30 years. Rents will be broadly in line with Council rents. Tenants will be consulted all the way through the process, and this is to comply with the Government target 'Decent Homes' by 2010. Mr. Stennard answered numerous queries, and presented a leaflet for those who wanted one.

#### **Minute 7 - AREA FORUM: CONSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION - DISCUSSION**

Steve Maddox gave a brief report on the development of the Area Forums. A discussion took place around the Constitution.

- (a) Once elected to the Forum, there is nothing in the Constitution stating the length of time of a term of office for the community representatives. It was suggested that a three-year term be adopted, but to avoid all changing at one time, there should be a staggered re-election. At present, the Councillors by the very nature of their term of office will serve the same way.
- (b) Mr Starkey requested clarification on the voting rights of members of the public attending a Forum. Mr. Maddox confirmed that only Councillors and Community representatives had voting rights.
- (c) Regret was voiced that not many people had put their names forward to become community representatives.
- (d) A comment was made that many people were unaware of the Forums at all. Mr. Maddox replied that a considerable amount of advertising had been undertaken for the Forums.
- (e) Mrs Rafferty raised the point that lack of cohesive planning had meant that Heswall had lost its way, and that houses have been built without

serious thought to the provision of facilities, such as transport etc., and that the character had been lost. She felt it was too late to be able to restore this.

(f) A member of the public praised the input of the Council Officers to the local Forums, as he has attended several other Forum meetings. He also wished it to be minuted the hard work and endeavour that this Forum Co-ordinator, Jan Evans, had done was appreciated.

The discussion ended with Mr. Maddox stating that the feedback from all the Wirral Forums would be collated and be used to re-draft the Constitution.

#### **Minute 8 - MERSEYSIDE POLICE - UPDATE**

PC Mark Parry replied to the question raised earlier about the policing in Bebington. He added that it was difficult for him to answer queries about Clatterbridge, as he is a Community policeman in Heswall, and was deputising this evening.

Inspector Gill had recruited ten community volunteers, who have no police powers, but do report anything untoward. Two of those volunteers are in the process of becoming special constables.

He also reported on the police activity and the reduction in disturbance by young people in Dawstone Park, Heswall.

A member of the public was concerned at the amount of vandalism at Heswall Hills Railway station, and PC Parry noted this for investigation.

On the question of youth disturbance, a member of the Forum commented on the success of the Youth Engagement Shelter at Egremont, and felt that more of these ought to be made available for the young people. The downside to that was that nobody wanted them placed near their homes. The meeting was advised that the girls in Seacombe feel safe because it is in a well-lit position.

A Heswall resident pointed out that no money had been spent in Heswall on any facilities for the young people for a considerable number of years, and asked was it possible to find out just how much had been spent for the youth in Heswall. Howard Cooper said that he would investigate and report back.

#### **Minute 9 - DATES FOR MEETINGS IN 2004**

No firm date was fixed, but the Area Co-ordinator said that it would possibly be in July, after the local elections.

The Forum was again reminded of the Heswall Road Show, to be held on 27 March 2004 at Heswall Fire Station.

#### **Minute 10 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Allison Cooke from the Primary Care Trust reported that they were still seeking a site for the provision of a Health Centre in the Heswall district. There are two large practices working under difficult conditions, and the problem needed to be solved, but finance was a major factor due to the high cost of any suitable site in the area.

She expressed a wish to link in to the Heswall Roadshow to undertake some consultation and would feedback the outcome to the July meeting.

A suggestion was made from the floor that a site in Whaley Lane might be

suitable, and Allison Cooke made a note of this to investigate.

Another resident reported that Heswall is a mess, the flowerbeds are not cared for in front of Castle Buildings and Tesco.

Mr Sharkey asked whether the Director of Highway and Engineering Services could report to the next Forum the reason why United Utilities were returning time and time again in Bebington to roads where they have done an initial job, which has obviously not been correct. This is causing disturbance to neighbourhoods.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending, and for their input, and closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

## Minutes - Area Forum (West Wirral) Meeting - 28 April 2004

Present	
In the Chair	Cllr Gerry Ellis
Ward Councillors	DM Elderton , G Gardiner , J Hale , Mrs HJ Jones , LC Jones , Mrs J McKelvie , PTC Reisdorf
Community Representatives	Mike Bennett , Gary Evans , Ian McKellar
Lead Officer	Jim Wilkie (Deputy Chief Executive)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Lauren Elliott
Council Officers	Bob Beresford (Deputy Director of Housing & Environmental Protection) , John Bulmer (General Inspector) , Howard Cooper (Director of Education and Cultural Services) , Ian Ramsden (Highways)
In attendance:	Gary Dixon (United Utilities) , Eileen Sheppard (Community Liaison Officer)
Apologies	Cllr Jeff Green , Inspector J Smith

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### Minute 50 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed 96 members of the public to the meeting (at Great Meols Primary School) and asked the members of the Forum to introduce themselves.

### Minute 51 - ALLOCATION OF PUPILS TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Chairman stated that he had agreed that the Forum consider an additional item of urgent business in view of the level of concern of parents of children at Great Meols Primary School, because 15 children had not been given the school of their choice within the Hoylake/West Kirby area but instead had been allocated to Wallasey School.

Howard Cooper, the Council's Director of Education and Cultural Services, expressed his sympathy for the parents' predicament and explained the process for allocation to secondary schools. Every local education authority had a problem where some schools were more popular than others and therefore it was necessary to have an agreed system for allocating places to over-subscribed schools that was fair to all. By law, those criteria had to be determined by the LEA, in accordance with strict government guidelines, 18 months before the start of the school year. The criteria were

- (i) for grammar schools, that the child had reached the required standard;
- (ii) children in the care of the local authority;
- (iii) children with medical needs, specific to the school in question;
- (iv) children with a sibling (brother or sister) at the school;
- (v) distance, measured from door to door, by the nearest safe route - it was the application of that criterion that had meant that the children in question could not be offered a place at Hilbre High School and instead had been

allocated to the nearest school with available places.

Parents were given the opportunity to express three preferences. For September 2004, 618 had chosen Hilbre High School as either first, second or third preference. The average figure over recent years had only been around 500. In addition, demand for places at the school had increased because fewer girls than predicted had passed the 11 Plus. Once the 180 places at Hilbre High School had been filled, and West Kirby Grammar School filled with all those children who had reached the necessary standard, he had no legal discretion to admit any more pupils. As far as the parents of the 15 children were concerned, it was possible that there would be final adjustments as some parents of children allocated to Hilbre made other arrangements. In addition, parents could appeal to the Appeals Panel, which was independent of the LEA. If the Panel decided that a particular child should be admitted to a school, the LEA had to comply with the Panel's decision, even if the school was already full.

It was not considered practicable in the short term to provide additional accommodation at Hilbre High School. Although new building was going on at the school, it was to improve the facilities, not to increase the number of places (although when the work was completed the accommodation would have to be re-measured, and it might be that, in accordance with DfES criteria, the measured capacity could be revised). It was also not feasible to widen the distance criterion to admit children from the Great Meols area, because children on the other side of the school would equally qualify. With regard to future years, the arrangements for 2005/06 had already been published. However, the Council was committed to examining anomalies in the current arrangements. As the birth rate fell and the effect of the sibling criterion lessened, it was thought that there could be less demand in future years. The Director undertook to review the rules, which would include examining the situation in other LEAs.

Councillor Hale stated that, despite the Director's explanation, he was not satisfied. The LEA knew the number of children due to leave primary schools each year and the level of demand should have been predicted. Two areas, Meols and Thornton Hough, were in an anomalous position because of their distance from the nearest secondary school - that represented an inequality of opportunity. He proposed that the problem could be alleviated by a number of means:

- if parents were prepared to take up vacant places at Pensby School (for Boys);
- some might win appeals for West Kirby Grammar School, which still had spare places, and the remainder could be allocated to Hilbre - one per class would make no difference.

Otherwise, what was a distinct community of Meols would be socially divided - children in Meols traditionally had an expectation of which school they would attend and allocation to Wallasey School had come as a shock. The Chairman indicated that he and his fellow ward councillors would support those parents who had said that they would boycott Wallasey School and opened the matter up for general discussion. Members of the audience raised a number of questions.

\* One member of the public said that she was aware of a case of a child from Upton who had been admitted to Hilbre School - surely that was outside the area. The Director doubted if there had been any error in applying the distance criterion, but stated that his officers were prepared to re-measure in cases where there was doubt.

\* The Council was making a mistake by relying on the simple question of distance - the area to which a child belonged should be of paramount importance.

\* The sibling rule was unfair if, in relation to all-ability schools, the elder brother or sister had been awarded a grammar school place.

\* Some children had achieved the grammar school standard but had opted for Hilbre instead. John Bulmer, General Inspector, said that he doubted if that were the case, but that he would check.

\* How many children from Moreton had been allocated to Hilbre? None would have qualified on the distance criterion.

\* Why could children not take the 11 Plus before indicating their preference? The Council had introduced that policy but had been obliged to revert to the current system as a result of a legal challenge (it had been claimed that allowing some pupils to take the 11 Plus in the first instance effectively gave them two bites of the cherry).

\* Was the popularity of Hilbre School likely to diminish? That was unlikely in the short term, but the Director was committed to looking for a way around the problem, within legal constraints.

\* Why could not the LEA undertake surveys of pupils in advance to ascertain likely demand in future years? The Director undertook to look into the feasibility of that suggestion.

\* If the eldest child of a family were allocated to Wallasey School, would younger siblings be obliged to go there also? No, the sibling rule was not applied in that way.

\* Why did the Council still operate the 11 Plus system?

\* One parent was adamant that his daughter would not go to Wallasey School - his wife was prepared to leave her job in order to educate their child at home.

\* Mrs Wall, a Governor of Hilbre School, emphasised the increasing popularity of the school, which she felt the LEA should have predicted. She regarded it as the community school for the Hoylake/West Kirby area.

\* Other than if a pupil did not attain the grammar school standard, the only other criterion for not complying with parental preference was that if admission to a school "would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources" - what did that mean? Director - that the school was full, based on its measured capacity.

The Chairman pointed out that the Councillors for the Hoylake Ward would be holding a further meeting for concerned parents on Friday, 30 April.

Councillor Hilary Jones stated that the Director's proposals for resolving the situation appeared to be related to future years, and the problem would still be there if the geographical criterion were retained. Children attending Great Meols Primary School who did not reach grammar school standard had only one realistic option for secondary education and that was Hilbre High School.

The Director concluded by assuring the meeting that his officers would try to find a solution. He would be reporting back to the Cabinet in due course with an analysis of how the procedure was operating and, if necessary, suggest changes for future years. In addition, Wirral's Admissions Forum, which represented a wide range of educational interests, would also be examining the matter.

The Chairman thanked Mr Cooper and Mr Bulmer for their attendance.

## **Minute 52 - BDP CONSULTANTS - UPDATE**

Francis Glare of BDP Consultants reported on the progress in developing the vision and framework for Hoylake and West Kirby over the next 10/15 years.

He stressed that the exercise was not specifically about The Open but that event would provide the impetus for achieving early results. A further series of meetings was currently under way (notes of the results of the earlier consultations, in October 2003, had been circulated to the meeting) in order to research public opinion on the current proposals - details would also be available on the Council's web-site ([www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)) by the following week.

The view of Hoylake and West Kirby was that, whilst they were two distinct places, together they would make an attractive destination, "a classic resort". The current proposals included development and promotion of recreational and leisure pursuits, strengthening the character of the two town centres by defining them more clearly and enhancing their qualities; relieving some of the traffic congestion; improving coastal linkages, perhaps by means of a boardwalk; improving links with the Country Park. Particular areas requiring redevelopment were Market Street, which was felt to need a stronger core; the appearance of Carr Lane; connections through to North Parade/Meols Gardens; the area from West Kirby Station to Dee Lane, which could be promoted as the gateway to the area - that would involve demolition of the existing health centre, and provision of more leisure facilities/restaurants.

Ian McKellar accepted that he might have a vested interest, but was concerned that a proposal to re-site the Hoylake Station car park would only add to what was already a traffic bottleneck. He also felt that preliminary consultations with those directly concerned should have taken place on proposals for The Quadrant - it was still unclear what the final intentions were for that area, but local people were being left with the feeling of being told what was good for them.

Mr Glare answered a number of questions from the floor:

\* What was the general position on parking, which was becoming limited? The consultation proposals would increase provision in both centres with the aim of influencing where people did their shopping.

\* Would there be a cost for parking? That would need to be appraised but it was possible that parking facilities might be operated by an outside organisation.

\* What would be the extent of alterations to the West Kirby Concourse area? It would not be possible to remove everything and start again. The most practicable step would be to demolish the health centre, which in any case was due to be replaced. The plans on display indicated the subsequent options.

\* Could the plans also be displayed in the Hoylake and West Kirby Libraries? Yes.

\* The gardens at North Parade should be upgraded, but was the local authority committed to maintaining them in the long run? The Chairman suggested that the excellent work carried out by the Friends group could help in that respect and urged anyone who was interested to join them.

\* There was concern arising out of a report in the Globe that a hotel was proposed near to Carr Lane. Mr Glare - that would be subject to finding a willing developer, but the master plan indicated what was possible if golf facilities were upgraded. It was felt that such a hotel would be better sited away from the town centre.

\* The Chairman reported the recent decision of the Council's Cabinet to create a conservation area around the Royal Liverpool Golf Course and thanked the officers for their efforts in bringing the proposal forward. Graham Arnold, the Council's Conservation Officer, explained that the aim was to protect existing buildings and trees from the more unwelcome development proposals. The matter was currently out for consultation - details would be available in the local library and would be sent to the individual property owners concerned.



The public were being invited to comment on what they felt were the most important elements of the area's character.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - That Mr Glare and Mr Arnold be thanked for their reports.

### **Minute 53 - PRESENTATION: UNITED UTILITIES**

Gary Dixon, Customer Services Director for United Utilities, attended with his colleagues and explained the action being taken to alleviate the problems in respect of the Meols water treatment plant, principally relating to the emission of odours and lorry traffic. He stated that United Utilities had been working closely with the Council, both through the Environment and Transportation Select Committee and in liaison with Council officers. The Meols site had been extended from 1999 to process waste water coming onto the site before discharge. The site served a population of 88,000. Under EU legislation, United Utilities, as contractor, were obliged to comply and install the necessary equipment to mitigate nuisance and he described the various measures taken. They included installation of a chemical scrubber to remove odours, replacement of the out-dated carbon filter and provision of tree screening. In addition, he was applying for funding from the Regulator under the Early Start Investment Programme in order to pay for total enclosure of the plant. He stressed that United Utilities were committed to working with the Council to alleviate the problems, which was evidenced by the level of investment already made.

The Chairman and other members of the Forum stated that they were not convinced that the measures to date had been very effective. Views were invited from the floor.

\* In response to an earlier complaint, United Utilities had indicated that once commissioning problems were solved, the plant would be operating effectively by 2002. That had clearly not been achieved, a view echoed by a number of other people present. Mr Dixon replied that new equipment had only come onto the site in December and was still in the process of being commissioned.

\* What were the agreed arrangements for lorry traffic to and from the treatment plant? Sludge had to be removed from the site by lorry every day. The number of agreed daily journeys was eight in and eight out, between the hours of 9.00am and 3.30pm, i.e. to avoid schoolchildren. That timetable was adhered to unless other factors intervened, e.g. once on their journey, lorries could be delayed for a variety of reasons, which would then have a knock-on effect on the day's schedule. The drivers were, however, under instruction to delay departure from the site until schoolchildren had dispersed (usually by 4.00pm).

\* What legal sanctions did the Council have against the emission of odours, particularly since there was evidence that they were affecting the health of nearby residents. Bob Beresford, Deputy Director of Housing and Environmental Protection, explained that legislation had been applied in cases involving emissions but that water treatment plants were not considered to be premises that would be liable for statutory nuisance. However, the Government was reviewing that position, following resolution of a legal case. The Government, in any event, did require utility companies and local authorities to work in partnership - taking legal action could be a costly alternative. He hoped that the ensuing months would provide the opportunity to test if new measures were proving successful.

\* What was the chemical being used as an odour suppressant - there had been no public consultation about its use? The chemical used was diluted by one part to 99 parts water, in accordance with EU standards, which ensured that it would not be airborne beyond the boundary of the site.

\* There was evidence that the number of lorry journeys was being exceeded. Mr Dixon's colleague stated that that could not be the case - the number could

easily be verified by the company because it received a bill for each one from the haulage contractor. The contractor himself explained the steps he took to ensure compliance. He had suggested using alternative routes into and out of the site in order to ease the burden on residents of [...] Road. However, the police had not supported the suggestion and would not allow lorries to use the route that involved crossing the railway line.

\* Would the use of drop-tankers on the site improve turn-around time? Only by a small margin.

\* How could a company invest in equipment when it was not sure how effective it would be? Mr Dixon stated that the company was using the best technology available, but no cast-iron guarantees could be provided with it. Other factors such as weather could influence its performance but the public should be assured that the company was using its best endeavours to solve the problem.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved -

(1) That the representatives of United Utilities be thanked for their attendance.

(2) That in advance of the next Forum meeting, the local councillors be kept informed of progress, including the results of the monitoring of air quality, and it be noted that United Utilities intend to provide the public, via the Deputy Director (Environmental Protection), with a copy of statutory risk assessments of any substances that are being emitted into the atmosphere from the Meols plant.

#### **Minute 54 - COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND**

Jim Wilkie reported that since the previous round of publicly advertised bids, four more had been received. Those bids totalled £4,500 in value; the sum remaining from the Community Initiatives Fund allocation was £3,000.40.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved - That, although the bids now referred to have been received outside of the agreed timescale, they be considered by the Assessment Panel and an appropriate recommendation be made to the Council's Cabinet.

#### **Minute 55 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME / ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman invited questions from the floor.

\* When will work start on upgrading Heron Road, residents having waited 45 years already?

Ian Ramsden (Highways) stated that the work referred to was part of the phases of the Saughall Massie bypass. The section to Three Lane Ends was the next to be implemented, during summer 2004, but it was expected that the Heron Road improvements would be completed before The Open in 2006. In that context, the Chairman reported that the Ridgeway was definitely due to be resurfaced in the near future.

\* What progress was being made in relation to sand problems?

Councillor Hale reported that he and colleagues had met Council officers on a number of occasions but were not satisfied with the results. As far as he was concerned, spartina grass was not natural to the area and should not have the protection that English Nature was insisting upon. The limited chemical treatment being used was not working and the situation was therefore likely to get worse. The best solution would be to dig it up, as residents of the area had done in the past. It was known that in Northumberland rats had been encouraged by the growth, and English Nature had relented to allow its removal. In the meantime, sand was accumulating and the opportunities to remove it were diminishing. It was also building up in the boating channels.

The Chairman added that he regarded the spraying as potentially dangerous to children using the beaches.

\* There was a need for warning signs to discourage people from driving onto the beaches, from which they were having to be towed.  
That matter would be investigated.

\* What action was being taken to make culprits, particularly those companies operating heavy lorries, pay for the re-instatement of broken flagstones?  
Ian Ramsden stated that his department's inspectors would look into the matter.

\* Why were not flagstones replaced like for like, particularly if culprits were paying for the reinstatement?  
IR - that was done in certain areas, but the general policy was to replace with asphalt, a cheaper option and less likely to cause tripping incidents.

\* Often, no action seemed to be taken when highway and pavement defects were highlighted with white paint.

#### **Minute 56 - MINUTES / MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 11 February 2004, were accepted as a correct record.

#### **Minute 57 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT**

The Chairman apologised for the fact that the report had been left to the end of the agenda but the items discussed earlier in the meeting had been of wide public interest.

The Area Co-ordinator's report had been circulated to all those attending the meeting and included information on the following matters:

Area Plan - update;

Hoylake and West Kirby Regeneration - update;

Street-scene issues - including improvements to traffic signs, waste and litter campaigns, a survey of public footpaths and bridleways, tree planting, insurance against highway liabilities, operation of the new mobile speed warning unit;

Plans to improve the Wirral Way;

Matters discussed at the Youth Forum held on 17 February 2004;

Efforts to establish a West Kirby skate park.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - That the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for a most informative report.

#### **Minute 58 - CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

## **Results from consultations carried out at Shows in 2004**

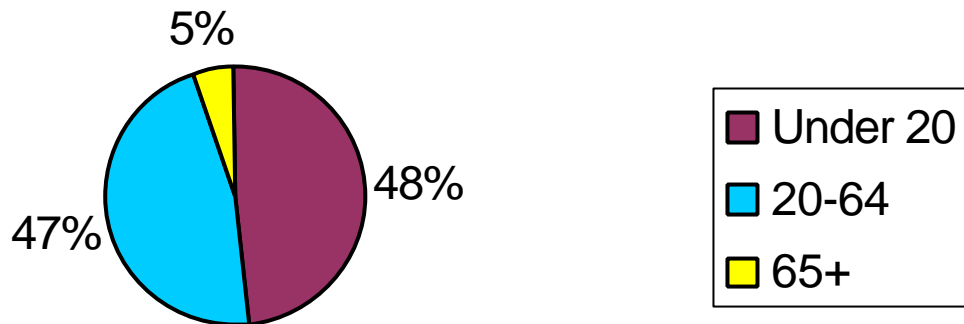
The Community Planning Team produced a questionnaire for the Tranmere and Wirral Shows held in 2004 to find out people's views on the local area where they live, together with a questionnaire to find out the views of visitors to Wirral (for the Wirral Show).

We received 625 completed questionnaires, 140 from the Tranmere Show and 485 from the Wirral Show. 48% of these were completed by Under 20's, 46% were completed by 20-64 year olds and 6% were completed by over 64 year olds.

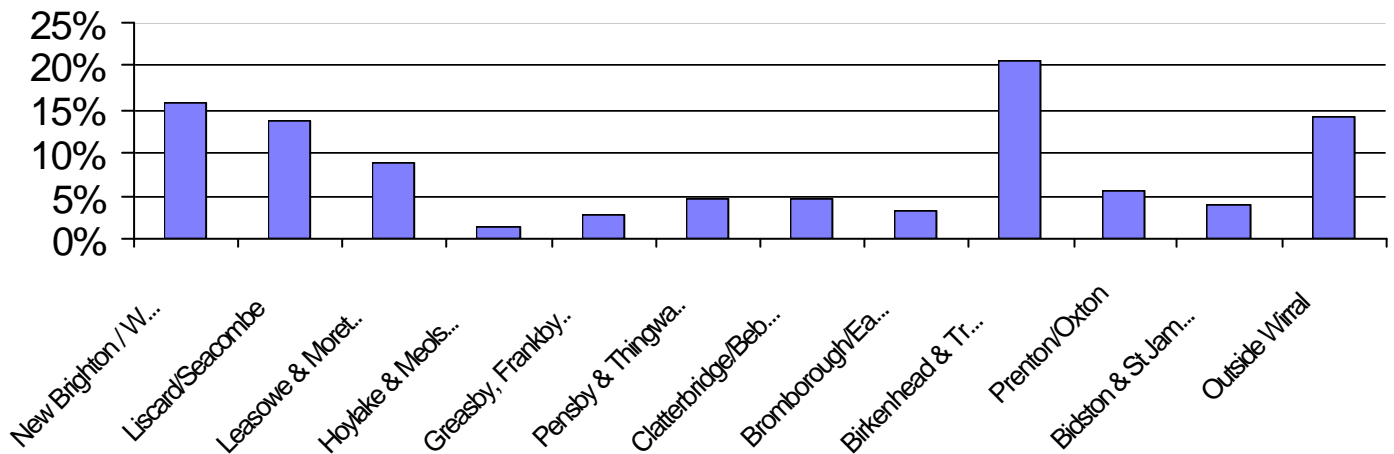
8% of those completing the questionnaires requested further information on community representatives, and 14% requested information on area forums.

The results from these questionnaires show that overall most people consider Wirral in a favourable light. Further detailed results are attached.

## % of age groups completing questionnaires at Wirral and Tranmere Shows - 2004



## % of questionnaires completed from different areas



### Results of questionnaire for all age groups

How Good do you think your local area (Wirral in general for visitors) is:	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
As a place to live	31%	53%	8%	6%	2%
As a place to shop	20%	46%	15%	14%	5%
As a place for travelling on public transport	28%	48%	11%	10%	3%
As a place for leisure activities / sport and culture	21%	33%	15%	23%	8%
As a safe place to live, work or visit	22%	45%	16%	13%	4%
As a place for education and learning	31%	44%	14%	9%	2%
As a place where there is a good choice of affordable local housing	22%	41%	19%	13%	5%
As a place for good quality, accessible health care	29%	50%	12%	6%	3%

### Results of questionnaire for Under 20 Year Olds

How Good do you think your local area (Wirral in general for visitors) is:	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
As a place to live	28%	55%	8%	6%	3%
As a place to shop	23%	47%	14%	12%	4%
As a place for travelling on public transport	29%	49%	12%	7%	3%
As a place for leisure activities / sport and culture	26%	28%	16%	21%	9%
As a safe place to live, work or visit	26%	40%	19%	11%	4%
As a place for education and learning	39%	40%	13%	6%	2%
As a place where there is a good choice of affordable local housing	31%	40%	18%	6%	5%
As a place for good quality, accessible health care	32%	47%	12%	6%	3%

### Results of questionnaire for 20 - 64 Year Olds

How Good do you think your local area (Wirral in general for visitors) is:	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
As a place to live	29%	53%	8%	6%	4%
As a place to shop	24%	49%	13%	10%	4%
As a place for travelling on public transport	29%	50%	12%	6%	3%
As a place for leisure activities / sport and culture	28%	29%	15%	19%	9%
As a safe place to live, work or visit	26%	39%	19%	11%	5%
As a place for education and learning	41%	39%	11%	6%	3%
As a place where there is a good choice of affordable local housing	33%	39%	18%	6%	4%
As a place for good quality, accessible health care	33%	45%	11%	7%	4%

### Results of questionnaire for people aged over 64 Years

How Good do you think your local area (Wirral in general for visitors) is:	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
As a place to live	48%	33%	4%	15%	0%
As a place to shop	17%	46%	8%	20%	9%
As a place for travelling on public transport	30%	46%	9%	9%	6%
As a place for leisure activities / sport and culture	18%	35%	12%	20%	15%
As a safe place to live, work or visit	29%	35%	12%	15%	9%
As a place for education and learning	31%	50%	6%	13%	0%
As a place where there is a good choice of affordable local housing	9%	47%	13%	25%	6%
As a place for good quality, accessible health care	29%	53%	6%	9%	3%

## Heswall / Clatterbridge

ID	Bid No	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
194	1	£1,000.00	Helplink Community Support	To provide transport to doctors surgeries, hospitals, day care centres, short day trips out, and a shopping collection service for elderly, disabled and vulnerable people.	Report received from Helplink Community Support - July 2004: The demand for our transport services remains constant and we thank the forum for the contribution towards this.
196	3	£950.00	Girl Guiding Heswall	To provide the Heswall Brownies with the resources required to implement the Adventure, a new educational programme based on the guiding fundamentals.	Report received from Girlguiding Heswall District, January 2004: The grant has enabled 80 Brownies in Heswall to start the new Brownie Adventure programme in September, and further programmes will start this term and after Easter.
200	7	£850.00	Relate Cheshire & Merseyside	To train an experienced Relate Councillor In Relateen work, which is a new service providing support within the school setting to young people aged between 11-18 who are experiencing the relationship breakdown of their parents/carers.	Report received from Relate Cheshire and Merseyside - June 2004: Thank you for the funding which was used toward training our Counsellors in Relateen skills to work in schools locally.
414	8	£1,000.00	Little Fishes Toddler Group	To improve provision by increasing facilities to accommodate an additional 20 places who are currently on the waiting list	Report received from Little Fishes Toddlers Group - May 2004: The funding has enabled the group to purchase new toys, tables, chairs and playmats.



ID	Bid No	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
212	10	£500.00	Wirral & Deeside Standing Conference of Women's Organisations	To hold a health day on 19 th February 2004 in a central venue of the Wirral on the topic of children's obesity.	Report received from Wirral & Deeside Standing Conference of Women's Organisations - May 2004: Thank you for the award, the day was very successful and the issue was very much in the news at the time of the conference.
250	12	£250.00	Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability (WIRED)	To provide funding for training support of volunteers and staff.	Report received from Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability (WIRED) - June 2004: The funding was used for training volunteers in the use of the phone system and customer services. This has resulted in volunteers being supported better and clients receiving better services.
255	17	£500.00	Playschemes (Heswall & District CVS)	To provide premises and equipment for the playscheme held at Richmond Hall for four weeks of the summer holiday.	Report received from Heswall & District CVS - July 2004: The total registrations were 95 children at Heswall with an average daily attendance of 30. The scheme was run by 3 paid playworkers, together with the assistance of 8 volunteers for varying times during the four weeks.

ID	Bid No	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
256	18	£500.00	Volunteer Bureau (Heswall & District CVS)	To partially fund a community volunteering project for under 16 year olds.	Report received from Heswall & District CVS - July 2004: Work with a local secondary school is continuing for both sixth-formers and under 16's. The students are encouraged to volunteer both within school and outside in the community. The Bureau has obtained placements for several students, visiting the elderly in residential homes, assisting with sport in primary schools and assisting local organisations with IT work. Some young people were able to assist at a Charities Fair in April.
257	19	£70.00	Age Concern Wirral	To purchase a portable CD/Karaoke system for the Heswall Hoofers and Stompers, a tap dancing group and a line dancing group made up of older people who meet at Alexander Hall, to enable them to continue to perform in a range of venues within the Heswall and Clatterbridge wards.	Report received from Age Concern Wirral: The system has increased the sound quality of the performances of the Heswall Hoofers and Stompers has enabled these groups to perform in venues which do not have their own sound systems.
180	20	£250.00	The Court Tenants Association	To provide a microphone and speakers in the lounge of the Court sheltered housing scheme, to allow greater participation for the elderly tenants with hearing difficulties.	Report received from The Court Tenants Association - July 2004: We are all very grateful for funding the purchasing of equipment needed to provide help to our hard of hearing tenants.

## West Wirral

ID	Bid No	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
263	13	£250.00	Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability (WIRED)	To provide funding for training support of volunteers and staff.	Report received from Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability (WIRED) - June 2004: The funding was used for training volunteers in the use of the phone system and customer services. This has resulted in volunteers being supported better and clients receiving better services.
266	16	£1,750.00	Friends of Ashton Park	To improve the pathways between the Lower and Top Park, between the main bowling green and the pathways adjacent to the secret garden.	Report received from Friends of Ashton Park: The pathways have been improved thanks to this grant.
267	17	£1,750.00	Friends of Hoylake and Meols Gardens and Open Spaces	To create a sensory garden, mosaic feature, new shrubbery and provide four additional seats at the Meols Parade Gardens.	Report from Friends of Hoylake and Meols Gardens and Open Spaces: The funding has contributed towards an ongoing programme of improvements to the gardens.

ID	Bid No	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
270	20	£500.00	Playschemes (Heswall & District CVS)	To provide for additional playworkers for the playschemes held in Irby and Pensby for four weeks of the summer holiday.	Report received from Heswall & District CVS - July 2004: The total registrations were 129 children at Pensby with an average daily attendance of 58. The total registrations at Irby were 130 children with an average daily attendance of 54. Each of the schemes were run by 4 paid playworkers, together with the assistance of 8 volunteers for varying times during the four weeks.
271	21	£750.00	Volunteer Bureau (Heswall & District CVS)	To partially fund a community volunteering project for under 16 year olds.	Report received from Heswall & District CVS - July 2004: Work with a local secondary school is continuing for both sixth-formers and under 16's. The students are encouraged to volunteer both within school and outside in the community. The Bureau has obtained placements for several students, visitng the elderly in residential homes, assisting with sport in primary schools and assisting local corganisations with IT work. Some young people were able to assist at a Charities Fair in April.

ID	Bid No	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
274	24	£180.00	Age Concern Wirral	To purchase a portable keyboard and accessories for the Twirlies, an old time music hall song and dance group made up of older people who meet at the URC in West Kirby, to enable them to continue to perform within local community venues.	Report received from Age Concern Wirral - June 2004: The Twirlies are exceptionally pleased to be in possession of a keyboard. This will enable them to extend the venues from which they perform and entertain local communities.
275	25	£250.00	Wirral & Deeside Standing Conference of Women's Organisations	To hold a health day on 19 th February 2004 in a central venue of the Wirral on the topic of children's obesity.	Report received from Wirral & Deeside Standing Conference of Women's Organisations - May 2004: Thank you for the award, the day was very successful and the issue was very much in the news at the time of the conference.
280	30	£500.00	West Kirby Promenaders Bowling Club	To carry out improvements and refurbish the clubhouse.	A report from the West Kirby Promenaders Bowling Club; this funding has enabled the club to refurbish the clubhouse providing better facilities.
283	33	£587.60	Girlguiding UK - Irby District Brownies	To purchase new adventure packs to enable group to begin the new brownie programme.	Report received from Girlguiding UK - Irby District, Feb 2004: The funding has enabled the two Irby Brownie Packs to start the new Brownie Adventure Programme.

ID	Bid No	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
284	34	£1,000.00	Merseyside Autistic Children's Society	To set up a fund to enable parents of children with autism to go on relevant courses and training around autism.	Report received from Merseyside Autistic Children's Society - February 2004: A number of families have taken advantage of the fund by attending various training events, including Picture Exchange Communication System, Sleep Problems in Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
305	36	£342.00	Yoga for MS (Multiple Sclerosis Society Wirral Branch)	To purchase specially adapted yoga equipment for use by MS sufferers.	Report received from Yoga for MS (Multiple Sclerosis Society Wirral Branch) - June 2004: The equipment has been well received and used to further our work.
330	37	£500.00	West Kirby Concourse Singers	To purchase a portable piano, pa system and microphone.	Report from West Kirby Concourse Singers - Feb 2004: The funding has enabled us to purchase an electric piano along with other equipment and costs (music stands, document wallets etc.)

## **UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2004**

### **Area Forum Attendance**

In 2002/3 the average public attendance at a forum meeting was 32, this increased to 37 in 2003/4 - a 15.6% increase.

### **Community Planning Website**

The Council recognises the growth of the number of people who have access to and use the internet, and the importance of e-government. This offers an additional way for people to access information and communicate with the Council, and may attract interest from different client groups, such as young people or people with disabilities.

Therefore we have developed community issues pages on the Council's website, with a link to these on the home page, to enable people to find out more about the services mentioned below. This went "live" in December 2003.

The pages include information on the area forums, roadshows, community initiatives fund, local strategic partnership, local area plans and youth forums  
It is also possible to put forward questions for consideration/discussion at the forum meetings.

The community Issues Homepage has been accessed 2777 for the period January – August 2004.

The site address [www.wirral.gov.uk/community](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/community)