

Heswall/Pensby and Thingwall Forum Area Co-ordinator's report

February, 2005

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1. Community Initiatives Funding

The Community Initiatives Fund was advertised in the Wirral Globe on 10th and 24th November 2004, with a closing date of 20th December 2004.

Posters and leaflets were sent to:

- Local and Wirral Wide Information Points
- Forum members
- Interested Persons
- Wirral Voluntary & Community Sectors Network

Details were sent to / included on:

- Wirral Council's Website
- GME Website

Response

We surveyed some of the 498 requests for application packs for the 11 area forums to find out how they heard about the funding with the following results:

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| • Website | 4 |
| • Leaflets/Mailshot | 60 |
| • Globe | 26 |
| • Forums/Forum Members | 33 |
| • Requests via e-mail | 17 |
| • Word of mouth | 6 |
| • Applied previously | 14 |

Funding available

The Heswall/Pensby & Thingwall area forum had £12,607.75 available for 2004/05 which was made up of £10,000 allocated by the Council for 2004/05 and £2,607.75 carried forward from the previous year.

Applications

The panel met on 10th January, 2005 to consider the 23 applications received. A report detailing the panel's recommendations will go to Cabinet on 10th February, 2005 after which applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

Other funding sources

The Community Planning Team receives regular updates from the Charities Information Bureau on a variety of funding opportunities. Every applicant, whether successful or not, will be sent a copy. If you would like a copy of the latest information please contact a member of the team on 691 8266/8069.

2. Area Plans

The draft area plans have been produced using information from a variety of sources, including:

- ward roadshows
- area forums
- youth forums
- the Wirral Show and other local events
- The Citizen's Panel and census information etc.

The area plans bring together – under the overarching themes of the community strategy – those broader issues that local people have said are important to them. They therefore do not attempt to pick up all of those specific local issues that have been raised but rather to provide a 'flavour' of the main issues that affect the area.

Since the preparation of the area plans began a number of changes have taken place, including changes to wards boundaries and the re-grouping of wards within area forums. As such, the original information collected during 2004 has been re-aligned where possible to reflect the new boundaries/area forums.

From June to August 2004 consultation took place around the draft area plans with a number of different stakeholders and organisations including:

- area forums members
- elected members
- Primary Care Trusts
- departmental co-ordinators
- Chief Officers
- Wirral Voluntary and Community Sectors (WVCSN)

The consultation plan adopted across the area forums was designed to ensure that as far as possible the information in the area plans reflected local needs and was up to date and relevant.

The area plans now provide a baseline for the area forums to further develop them into truly local plans, which reflect local needs and aspirations and provide a list of priorities to which the area forum can respond over the coming months. During February 2005 the area forums will be asked to adopt the draft area plans and consider ways in which to expand/improve upon them and take the local issues identified forward.

For further information on area plans please contact:

Rachel Flood
Community Planning Co-ordinator
Tel: 0151 691 8063
E: rachelflood@wirral.gov.uk

3. Youth Report

Youth Forums Update

Since the last set of forum meetings the Youth Forums have met once. The purpose of these meetings was to start a programme of grant giving.

Each youth forum has a small amount of money to grant to other youth groups, and therefore these meetings focused on the protocols and procedures for doing this. The method used was giving the group examples of bids and discussing the process and relative merits of each bid. This will prepare the members to do the exercise for real in the March forums.

Youth Conference Update

As part of local democracy week Wirral organised a youth conference. Key elements of the day included:

- Stands from local organisations and council departments
- A variety of workshops will take place on the day
- Hotseating session

What is Hotseating?

Hotseating provides an opportunity for the young people present on the day to get up close and personal with key decision makers and question them about issues of their concern and to interview key people about issues which have emerged during their debate and discussions.

Speakers involved in the Hotseating session included 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.

A report is currently being written to evaluate the success of the event, and to provide pointers for the next conference. The evaluations from the young people that attended the event, have largely, been very positive, as well from the agencies and organisations that took part in the day. Overwhelmingly the Hotseating was the most popular part of the day from all that attended, and this session will be extended at the next conference.

The following agencies, organisations and individuals were involved in providing stands / workshops and or the Hotseating

Bebington and West Wirral Primary Care Trust
Ben Chapman MP
Birkenhead and Wallasey Primary Care Trust
Connexions
Councillor Hilary Jones – The Mayor of Wirral
Councillor John Cocker
Councillor Simon Holbrook
Education and Cultural Services
Forum Housing
HMP Liverpool Prison

Housing and Regeneration
Merseyside Police
Merseytravel
Social Services Department
Stephen Hesford MP
Technical Services Department
Wirral Children's Champion – Tricia Jones
Wirral Children's Fund
Wirral Drug and Alcohol Outreach Team
Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Wisch Arrowe Park Hospital

The following people were involved in the planning and delivery of the conference:

Debbie Dawson – Youth & Community Service
Lauren Elliott – Community Planning Team
Chris Rummery – Advisory Teacher Humanities
Marie Jones - Advisory Teacher Humanities
Katrina Roberts – Tranmere Housing Regeneration Partnership
Lorraine Jones – Greater Merseyside Connexions
Tricia Jones – Children's Champion

UK Youth Parliament Members

This year Wirral has 2 Members of the Youth Parliament (MYP's) and 4 deputies, previously it has always been 2 MYP's and 2 Deputies. To ensure as many young people as possible had an opportunity to get involved and vote the elections were conducted electronically.

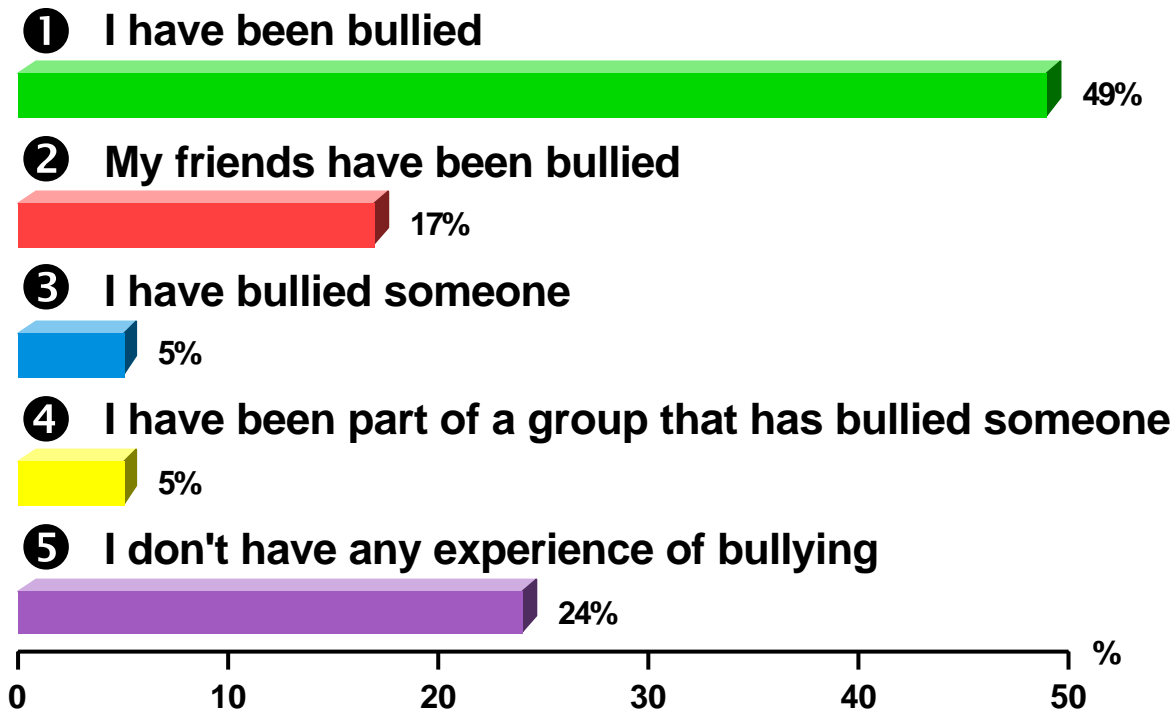
This meant that there were 43 candidates, from a variety of schools, and a total of 634 votes were cast. Previously only the candidates have been able to vote.

The election results were announced at a session held at Wallasey Town Hall. This consisted of a buffet lunch, an electronic voting session on the issues that most concerned them and finally announcing the results.

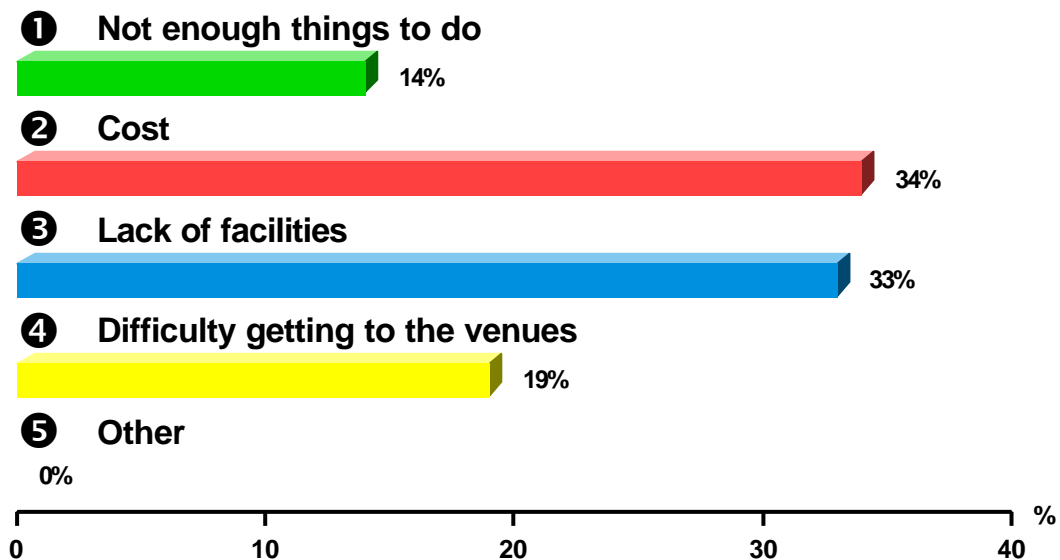
One the following pages are a selection of the responses from the electronic voting session:

Bullying

What is your experience of Bullying?



Leisure & Entertainment What is your main concern?



Risk Taking Behaviours Sub Group

This group is a multi-agency approach to working together to minimise young people's risk taking behaviours.

The group is made up of representatives from:

- Primary Care Trusts
- Wirral Brook
- Merseytravel
- Community Safety Team
- Youth & Community Service
- Response
- Wallasey Extended School
- Community Planning Team

The group had an away day to work up a set of priorities to turn into effective actions to minimise the effects of risk taking.

The priority the group has decided to take forward is education for both young people and parents.

The parents of primary school age children will be approached in the pilot scheme, it is hoped that another agency such as sure start or parentline plus could become partners in this initiative. The session for parents will be called "keeping your child safe".

If any forum member is interested in this please contact either Lauren or Tracey in the office for more information

4. Local information

Saughall Massie Road Improvement Scheme

Work on Saughall Massie Road Improvement scheme remains on schedule.

West Kirby Road, which runs from Three Lanes End to Saughall Massie Road, Upton is currently closed to through traffic. The road is being widened and re-routed so that it bypasses Saughall Massie Village to the south. The eight month project is expected to be completed by April 2005.

Dowhigh Ltd has been appointed as the contractor to carry out the scheme on behalf of Wirral Council.

Diversion signs are in place and motorists are advised to allow themselves additional journey time. Traffic travelling towards Upton is being diverted along Pump Lane, Frankby Road, Greasby Road, Upton Bypass and Saughall Massie Road. Traffic travelling towards Hoylake and West Kirby is being diverted along Saughall Road, Hoylake Road, Birkenhead Road and Heron Road.

Safe cycling

The Council's road safety team is turning attention to keeping cyclists safe in Wirral this winter. With the appointment of a dedicated cycling road safety officer, Stephen Corlett, members of the public will see more and more educational initiatives aimed at getting people out and about on their bikes over the coming months.

School Crossing Patrols go orange

Wirral Council is trialing a new uniform for its School Crossing Patrollers in a bid to make them more visible and promote a more responsible attitude from drivers.

Patrollers at six sites across the borough can be seen sporting the new-look fluorescent orange outfit.

The new uniform is being given a 'test-run' in Wirral to coincide with national Road Safety Week 2004, organised by the charity Brake. Council officers are trialling the orange outfit to see if it improves safety for school crossing staff and the thousands of pedestrians that they help across the road every day.

For some inattentive motorists the local lollipop person alarmingly goes unnoticed. The switch to orange has proven popular elsewhere in the country for increasing visibility and ensuring that motorists stop for the patroller.

Director David Green said: "Any initiatives that improve road safety are given a high priority here at Wirral Council. Thankfully we live in a safety-conscious age, where increasing numbers of people can be seen out on our roads wearing fluorescent yellow. But this means that we need to do more to make our School Crossing Patrollers distinguishable – and we hope to achieve this by switching to orange outfits."

Litter prosecutions

WIRRAL Council is taking a tough stance with people caught dropping litter in the borough.

Thoughtless residents are being warned that illegal dumping could cost them dearly – as four people were fined up to £100 each for failing to pay on spot litter fines after dropping rubbish.

Lesley Bailie from Price Street in Birkenhead, Leslie Moran from Newling Street in Birkenhead and Claire Unsworth from Bentinck Place in Birkenhead were each fined £100 plus costs of £75 at a hearing at Birkenhead Magistrates last month (Tuesday, December 7, 2004). Natalie Taylor from Mount Grove in Oxtton was fined £50 plus costs. All four failed to appear at court, but were found guilty of the offence in their absence.

The Council has served some 160 fixed penalties for 'fly tipping' and littering over the last 12 months and people who don't pay up have been taken to court and given hefty fines ranging from £100 to £1200. These latest cases bring the total number of successful litter and fly-tipping prosecutions in Wirral this year to nine with a further 15 pending.

Dealing with dangerous skips

UNSAFE and poorly lit skips on Wirral roads are being targeted in a Council campaign this winter.

From Monday, December 13 enforcement officers have embarked on drive to remove any skips found on the borough's roads without an approved Council permit.

When it comes to hiring and paying for a skip, the Council is calling upon members of the public and builders to make sure the company they use is operating within the law. Here are some guidelines to avoid getting caught out:

- The company must have approval from the Council to site each skip – you can ask to see a copy of a skip permit.
- The telephone number of the skip hire company must be clearly marked on the sides.
- Lamps must be attached to the skip and lit when it is dark.
- Each skip must not exceed five metres by two metres in size.
- All waste removal companies should be registered with the Environment Agency and hold an official licence to carry waste – you can ask to see a copy of this licence.

Skip prosecutions

THE OWNERS of four Wirral skip-hire companies have been fined for illegally placing more than 80 skips on the borough's roads.

Martin Campbell, owner of A1 Skip Hire, was fined £1,900 including costs for a total of 28 offences at a hearing at Birkenhead Magistrates this week (Tuesday, December 14). And Bernard Campbell, owner of Dial A Skip and Wirral Skips, was fined £2100 including costs for a total of 33 offences.

At the same hearing Martin Campbell and Bernard Campbell, who also co-own A2B Skip Hire Ltd – were fined an additional £1,750 including costs, for a further 23 offences by this company.

The four skip operators work out of the same yard in Old Gorsey Lane, Wallasey. The court heard that they had not gained permission from the Council to place a total of 84 skips on roads throughout Wirral between January and June this year. This was in contravention of the Highways Act 1980, Section 139 and both men pleaded guilty to the charges.

This is the largest successful skip prosecution of its kind in Wirral – upping the total number of successful prosecutions for the Council from three to 87 in just one day.

Enforcement officer Lisa Knowles said: “Unsafe skips have become an increasing problem across the borough, posing a risk to both motorists and pedestrians. Many skips are being left poorly lit, creating an obstruction, looking unsightly and causing damage to pavements.

“We would ask people to plan ahead and choose their skip hire company carefully. The company must have an approved permit before a skip can be put on the road. Any skip without a permit could be removed by one of our enforcement officers.”

Winter parking

Wirral Council has a legal duty to keep roads and pavements in a safe condition.

We are appealing to car owners not to park on grass verges this winter. The Council has been inundated with complaints about the tyre damage caused to verges because of recent wet weather.

Many residents are surprised to learn that there are legal obligations to keep pavements and grass verges free from obstructions, such as cars. And anyone found responsible for causing damage to the verge could be billed for the cost of repair work.

Our Council enforcement team is currently reviewing how we tackle this problem.

In the meantime, if you are suffering at the hand of inconsiderate parking, you might be interested in adopting a tree for a nearby grass verge. Planting a tree has proven successful elsewhere in the borough in deterring motorists from parking on verges.

If you have any additional queries or want information about the ‘Adopt a Tree’ scheme that Wirral council operates, please call our Streetscene contact centre on 606 2004.

Parking attendants prove popular

PARKING attendants have proved they are popular in parts of Wirral – after the Council has received a rush of requests from residents and businesses for enforcement action against dangerous motorists.

Within the last twelve months, more than 500 people have contacted Wirral Council to ask for tougher measures to deal with problem parking. The Parking Services section has responded to concerns by sending out attendants to ‘blitz’ each area. This news comes one year on from the introduction of Decriminalised Parking

Enforcement in the borough in late November 2003. Service managers say they receive as many as five requests for help per day – from residents who are frustrated by motorists flouting parking rules. And many of these callers get back in touch with the department to express their appreciation for Council efforts. Areas where parking attendants have helped residents over the last year include:

- Tackling abuse of the resident's parking scheme in the area surrounding Tranmere Rovers football club on match days.
- Addressing a safety issue caused by parents parking on yellow lines outside Allport School in Bromborough.
- Easing congestion caused by Sunday car boot sales in Leasowe – after residents complained about people parking on double yellow lines outside their homes in Pasture Road.
- Attendants have been working with Birkenhead market and The Grange shopping precinct to address problems caused by shoppers parking in the access road at the back of the market.
- Responding to residents of Menai Street in Birkenhead who expressed safety concerns over HGV vehicles parking on yellow lines at night narrowing access for both the road and pavement.

Director David Green said: "Many people are quick to criticise the work of parking attendants – but the reality is that these enforcement measures are vital if we are to keep our roads safe and free from congestion. There are residents out there who fully support the work that our parking services team are doing. In fact we've received more than 25 thank you letters from people who are extremely grateful that we have addressed parking problems that have previously made their lives a misery."

Garden waste update for West Wirral

WIRRAL Council is appealing for West Wirral residents to keep on using the garden waste service throughout the winter months.

The grass may well have stopped growing, but there is plenty more greenery for home-owners to find in their back garden to put in the white recycling bags for kerbside collection.

It's the time of year to get stuck into pruning hedges and clearing away dead leaves. And in the New Year, residents will even be able to recycle their Christmas trees using the service, providing it is chopped down into manageable branches. An estimated 17% of household waste is believed to be from the garden. The garden collection has proved overwhelmingly popular since it started in May this year. More than 2000 tonnes of heavy grass cuttings and clippings have been diverted from landfill and sent to a nearby composting facility.

Residents will be pleased to learn that this compost is now available to 'buy-back' for a small charge. Sacks of the high-grade compost are on sale at Warrens Nursery in Thingwall (open weekday mornings and Sunday afternoons).

Shortlisted for awards

THE shortlist for the Merseyside 21 Awards has been announced and once again Wirral has done well. Although the winners of the prestigious environmental awards are not announced until 3rd February, projects from Wirral Council departments and schools are in with a chance as they go forward to the next stage. Within Streetscene

related services we have been shortlisted for our work with aggregate recycling, anti-litter roadshows and green garden waste collections.

Licensing Presentation Update

Following the consultation process a Statement of Licensing Policy has been developed. This policy was approved by the Council on 20 December and the Policy is now available on our web site.

As the Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003, we are now able to transfer existing licences into the new system of licensing from 7 February. These licences will not come into effect until after the second appointed date which is yet to be announced by the Government. Should there be any applications to vary existing licences the holder of the licence will have to advertise this application and a process of consultation will take place. All applications to vary will be sent to Ward Councillors as well as the Police, Fire Service and other responsible authorities.

Are you registered to vote?

Are you registered to vote?

Wirral Council electoral staff are reminding local adults to check they are registered to vote – as if a general election were called for May, voters would need to have applied for inclusion on the register of electors by 11 March to be eligible.

Anyone who has moved address or moved into the area since December 2004 needs to notify the Town Hall of the change by the March deadline if they want to be included on the register and be eligible to vote.

To check you are on the register, call 691 8046, or call in at Wallasey Town Hall during normal office hours.

Tsunami Disaster –How Wirral MBC is supporting the fundraising:

This note is to bring you up to date with developments around fundraising in Wirral for the tsunami disaster.

A meeting of Wirral Council staff fundraisers, chaired by the Chief Executive Steve Maddox, was called late last week to respond to the many approaches from staff, the media and the public, all asking for guidance and a focus to the local effort.

The following points were agreed:

- Many people have already given very generously, and many council sections are organising their own events. The Chief Executive's meeting did not seek to 'control' any of these activities, but to try to support them and offer an added focus to them.
- Wirral has adopted **Friday January 21** as a special day of fundraising across the Authority, with staff from all sectors being encouraged to raise more money. (It is emerging as the day many authorities up and down the country are having a special effort). **In Wirral, this day has been dubbed "Snowdrop Day".** *(Snowdrops, which will be in flower by then, are a symbol of better times to come, and white is the colour of mourning in the east).*
- All staff are being strongly urged to take advantage of the Gift Aid scheme. *This scheme means the charity can add 28p to every £1 donated by a UK taxpayer. For example, Finance Department staff have already collected a fantastic £2,100 which has swollen to £2,614 because of Gift Aid . There are*

two forms which can be used – a “gift aid form” which is sealed in an envelope with your donation and remains private and Sponsorship Forms which are open for all to see, but is easier for a group of people who don’t mind their colleagues knowing what they have given. Both attract the additional 28p for every £1 given.

- We know many of you have already given very generously, but if you can manage a little more, please do. It’s up to you what you do – a ‘non-work clothes’ day, staff collection, coffee morning. All the money being collected from staff until Snowdrop Day is being donated to the DEC Tsunami Earthquake Appeal.
- Collections can be taken to any bank, building society or Post Office, none of which are charging. Money should be counted and bagged, gift aid/sponsorship forms collated, cheques made out to DEC Tsunami Earthquake Appeal.
- Friday Jan 21 is not intended be the end of fundraising, but it will provide a focus for the current activities.
- The Council is already being advised of medium-term help, which may be required, such as adopting a village, supporting a school etc. Details will be passed on to staff as soon as the position is clear.

Community Safety Information - Public Consultation

Area Forums

There appears to be general concern being expressed in Area Forums about the problems presented by alcohol in terms of drunkenness, ease of access and underage purchase and consumption of alcohol.

Forums also identified that vandalism and youths causing annoyance was a real problem effecting communities. However, it was also considered that part of this problem related to a perceived lack of facilities for young people.

What has become clear from Area Forum discussions is that communities want the Police to deal with antisocial behaviour. At the same time there is a recognition prompted by the police that due to resource issues and the subjectivity of the problem, this problem will only be solved by the Police, the Local Authority and the affected communities working together.

Positive feedback was also given at many forums and areas gave approval of alleygates and praise was given in the New Brighton forum for how the police and Local Authority deal with Antisocial Behaviour and problem families.

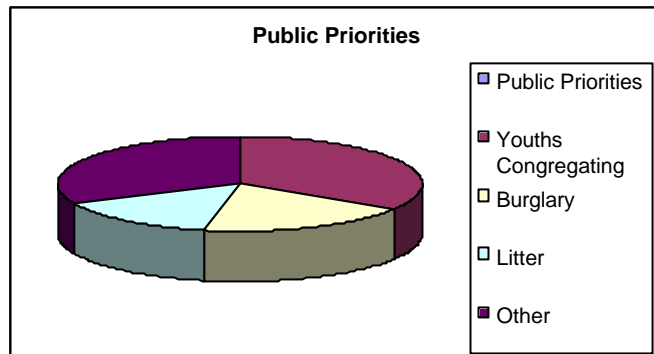
Area Forum Consultation Conclusions

In 2004 the number of forums increased from 8 to 11. All of the residents attending the 11 Area Forums were given a brief presentation from the Wirral CDRP on the findings of the Crime and Disorder Audit and the Drugs and Alcohol Audit. A short questionnaire was handed out and the results compiled as follows:

Out of 116 residents who responded, 93% felt very or fairly safe in the daytime and 54.4% felt fairly or very safe at night.

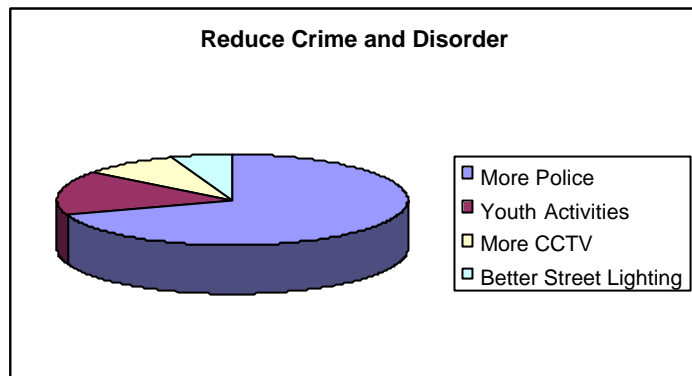
The top two priorities for Community Safety perceived by the sample of Wirral residents were:

**Youths Congregating, (34%)
Burglary (19.9%)**



When asked what they thought would help reduce Crime and Disorder

**64% thought more police,
15% thought more youth activities
8% believed more CCTV
5.3% thought better street lighting**



When asked how threatened they felt by general crime in Wirral, 35% felt not threatened or not very threatened by crime.

When results were analysed and broken down by postcode, the majority of residents identified youths congregating at the most serious problem, except in CH60 and CH61, who perceived burglary as the most serious problem in Wirral.

Wirral Youth Forums

Youth Forums are held every 2 months and represent the four main areas of Wirral; Wallasey, Birkenhead, West Kirby and South Wirral. The following feedback was taken from the July 2004 youth forums.

In the **Wallasey** youth forum, the local community issues that the youths reported were:-

- Not enough police
- More activities in local areas -skate parks + Football area
- More activities for youths
- More lighting in parks
- Improvement on the state of roads and pavements and need to clear up rubbish.
- Need for more football Cages – Improve cages outside youth club in Moreton.
- Sports facilities improved and more accessible.

Birkenhead Youth Forum stated that their local community safety issues were:-More facilities/ activities and improvements of existing facilities/parks.

- Drug use and users- More workers to deal with drug users
- Vandalism

- Improve the feeling of safety in their area
- Better lighting
- Phone boxes that work
- Public transport
- More youth clubs
- Reduce and eradicate bullying incidences
- More speed cameras
- More police patrolling the streets
- Shatter proof windows in bus stops
- More cameras around the estate
- More Alleygates in the area

West Kirby Youth Forum

The main community issues that were important to the youths of West Kirby were:-

- Need for greater Police engagement with young people.- Would like conference with Police
- Improvements and repair of phone boxes
- Curfew is wrong – should be imposed by parents not Police
- Should be cheaper fares on public transport – more accessible for young people.
- More facilities/activities -Open Youth club at w/e - Football pitches
- 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.
- Somewhere for bands to practice

South Wirral Youth Forum

The local issues that most effect the young people of south Wirral were:

- Glass in skate park
- 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.
- Vandalism / graffiti
- More activities especially over summer holidays –
- -Re-open Ritzy for under 18 nights
- Caged sports area

Summary of Key Action Points:

For West Kirby the issue of designated area (Group Dispersal) was the biggest concern for the young people in the area. (*)¹ 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.

For all areas the common concerns were the need for more activities for young people, more police patrols and an improved environment with better street- lighting and a reduction in vandalism and graffiti.

Specific to Birkenhead, the youths highlighted a concern with drug users in the area and stated that they would like to see more workers involved in reduction of users in the area. It was also minuted that they would like to see more alleyways gated.

¹ (*)The designated area for group dispersal was introduced in West Kirby in May 2004

Children's Views on Being Safe

At the Youth Voice Conference on 22nd October, 2004, the Local Authority held a focus group on the five outcomes of the green paper "Every Child Matters". Young peoples safety was amongst many of the issues, which were discussed. The main concerns highlighted were;

Gangs hanging around/roaming the streets – Intimidation

Not enough Police around Birkenhead

Lack of security on public transport

Young people drinking and peer pressure to drink

Scared to report incidents to police

The young people involved suggested ways in which to improve safety in Wirral:

Greater police presence to raise confidence

Crack down on bars serving alcohol to underage people

Raising awareness of services

5. Replies to queries raised at the last area forum

1. Aldi Distribution Centre/HGV movements

Public meetings in relation to issues around the Aldi distribution centre were held on 9th December at Heswall Hall and 14th December at 7pm Thornton Hough Parish Church. Both meetings were very well attended.

Following the meetings and taking into account public opinion, at the Council's Cabinet meeting of 13th January, 2005 it was agreed to implement a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit articulated vehicles on Barnston Road and Neston Road/Thornton Common Road.

The procedure following this decision is for the Order to be advertised in the local press to allow objections to be registered and for consultation to take place with the Freight Transport Association and Road Haulage Association. Any objections which cannot be overcome will require a Public Inquiry.

2. Query from a member of the public. Will the meetings in relation to Aldi also cover the already excessive use of Barnston Rd and Barnston Dip by heavy wagons and lorries ?

Mark Traynor, Streetscene manager made enquiries and the person who raised the question was responded to by letter. The main points in the letter were:

- there is a proposal included within the Local Transport Plan for 2007 for a possible improvement within Barnston Village
- any such scheme will be dependent on funding being approved, any land issues being resolved and planning approval
- no plans have yet been designed
- parking issues associated with the W.I. and the Church have been discussed with Rev Benson and there is the possibility that extra land could be acquired to allow extra off street parking – any proposal would be subject to planning approval

3. Skateboard Park, Gayton Playing Fields

Funding has been secured from the Big Lottery fund to build the skateboard park in Gayton (as well as New Brighton and Moreton). Designers from the Parks and Open Spaces Department have met with the user group (skaters, boarders and bladers) to progress a design. The next stage is to agree a design, which once agreed by all

stakeholders will be submitted to planning. The skateboard park is still on course to be built this year, although this is subject to:

design/costs
planning process
tendering process
physical build time

4. Overgrown trees near Caldy crossroads

Recently work has been undertaken to cut back the trees and over the weekend of 22nd January work was undertaken in Caldy to trim some overhanging bushes.

5. Possible future use of building formerly used as public toilets at Heswall bus station and Banks Road/Council's policy on the use of toilets by the public in council buildings.

The Bank Road toilets were demolished at the end of 2004 . Members of the public are able to use the toilets in Heswall Library and One Stop Shop when in the vicinity of the bus station. In addition members of the public can use the toilets in council buildings where they are in areas that are easily accessible i.e. reception areas.

6. Bollards and anchors on Heswall shore giving the impression they have been dumped there.

The anchors and bollards were placed there about a year ago following discussions with the owners of the boat yard. They wanted to reopen a slipway access which required the removal of materials from the foreshore. This was discussed with the local councillor, some local residents and English Nature. An agreement was reached and permission was given (WBC own the foreshore) for the works. The boat yard also asked permission to place the anchors and bollards at strategic points and this was agreed

7. Potential sale of land which is in Council ownership to use for hospital parking.

Details of agreement have yet to be finalised, but in outline the measures include:

- The lifting of a council restriction currently preventing car-parking charges on land owned by the Trust at Arrowe Park
- The restriction remaining on council - owned land leased to the Trust at Arrowe Park
- The introduction of a staff "permit to park" scheme
- A residents parking scheme on roads adjacent to Arrowe Park hospital to deter hospital users from parking in the local neighbourhood
- Subject to planning approval, redesigning car parks at Arrowe Park to make the best possible use of space available
- The council will consider plans to expand the existing car parks at APH

8. Closure of wards at VCH

Proposals to modernise and improve services for older people in Wirral have been the subject of a 12- week public consultation exercise led by Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT and Bebington and West Wirral PCT from 18 October 2004 to 14 January 2005.

The consultation sought views on the proposed improvements, the future of the two elderly care wards at Victoria Central Hospital, Wallasey and the changes to the way in which the Total Care and Relief of Carers teams deliver their services.

The exercise completed on Friday 14th January 2005. Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT and Bebington and West Wirral PCT will be provided with all the responses to the consultation. This will enable the PCT Boards to discuss the responses and to make a decision on the proposals outlined in the consultation document.

Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT board meets on Thursday 27th January 2005 and Bebington and West Wirral board meets on 1st February 2005.

9. Request for minutes and papers for meetings to be available in local libraries in Heswall and Pensby.

Local libraries have been contacted and will ensure this is done.