

# **Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forum - Area Co-ordinator's Report 21st June 2005**

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## **Appendices**

Minutes Heswall Pensby & Thingwall – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2005.

## **Section 1: Community Initiative Funding**

### **Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forum**

#### **Community Initiatives Fund Update**

##### **2004/2005**

The forum had funding of £12,607 in 2004/05 (including sum carried forward from 2003/04) and awarded grants totalling £12,607 for eighteen projects (detailed overleaf) at the panel meeting in January 2005, which were approved at Cabinet on 16th February 2005.

##### **2005/2006**

The forum has a carry forward of £0.00

For the 2005/06 financial year, each area forum will be responsible for allocating the following specific funding streams:

**Community Initiatives Fund** - small grants available for voluntary and community groups to support local projects and initiatives in line with area forum agreed priorities (£11,000 per forum);

**Community Safety** - specific funding ringfenced for initiatives dedicated to tackling crime and nuisance (£3,000 per forum);

**Environmental Funding** - specific funding, provided through Local Agenda 21, for community based projects aimed at improving or maintaining the local environment (£1,500 per forum).

In total, this gives the forum a total of £15,500.00.

As in previous years, each area forum will be responsible for setting their own priorities and processes for agreeing and allocating funds.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project / Service</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Stanley Special School PTA	To raise funds for the replacement of the school minibus. The bus is used to take the children to therapeutic activities such as horse riding and swimming.	<b>£1,000.00</b>
Helplink Community Support	To provide services, including transport, shopping, advice, support, diy & gardening services, to extra clients on our waiting list.	<b>£1,000.00</b>
Heswall Squash Rackets Club	To purchase equipment and run courses to encourage sport and fitness in adults and school children in the local community.	<b>£1,085.00</b>
Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	To recruit, train and meet expenses of 25 new volunteers, to visit victims and their families over the whole of Wirral.	<b>£177.00</b>
Pioneer People Wirral	To purchase a digital projector.	<b>£1,000.00</b>
Orion Club	To purchase hi fi equipment and storage for this.	<b>£750.00</b>
Heswall Junior Football Club	To purchase equipment to enable the club to run junior football teams for under 6's through to under 16's.	<b>£900.00</b>
Wirral Family Friends	To purchase a laptop and TV/Video/DVD player.	<b>£100.00</b>
2nd Thingwall Scout / Cub Group	To fund repair works to the roof of the scout hut.	<b>£1,000.00</b>
Wirral Women & Childrens Aid	To provide training for staff and volunteers and educational and development courses for women, to help them break the cycle of domestic violence.	<b>£250.00</b>

Wirral & Deeside Standing Conference of Women's Organisations	To hold an event on the future and nature of children's TV and feed this back to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.	<b>£250.00</b>
Heswall Skaters Party	To contribute towards providing CCTV and further security equipment for the proposed Skatepark at Gayton.	<b>£1,000.00</b>
Richmond Hall Club	To install a fire alarm system.	<b>£1,000.00</b>
Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)	To purchase a PowerPoint projector and a small water urn for use by local community and charitable groups.	<b>£95.00</b>
Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) - Playschemes - Heswall & Pensby	To contribute toward playschemes run for four weeks over the summer holidays.	<b>£1,000.00</b>
Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) - Volunteer Bureau	To contribute toward publicity materials and travel expenses incurred by running a project to encourage youth volunteer work within Pensby High Schools.	<b>£250.00</b>
Wirral YFC - Ex:cell Pensby	To contribute towards the costs of using a theatre company to work with local young people in and out of school.	<b>£750.00</b>
Heswall Youth Fellowship	To contribute towards providing lighting equipment for three youth groups.	<b>£1,000.00</b>

## **Section 2: Developing & Implementing a Local Area Plan**

### **AREA PLAN UPDATE**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide forum members with an update of progress made in relation to the development of area plans and to suggest possible next steps for the forum to implement which will support the achievement of priorities identified locally for action.

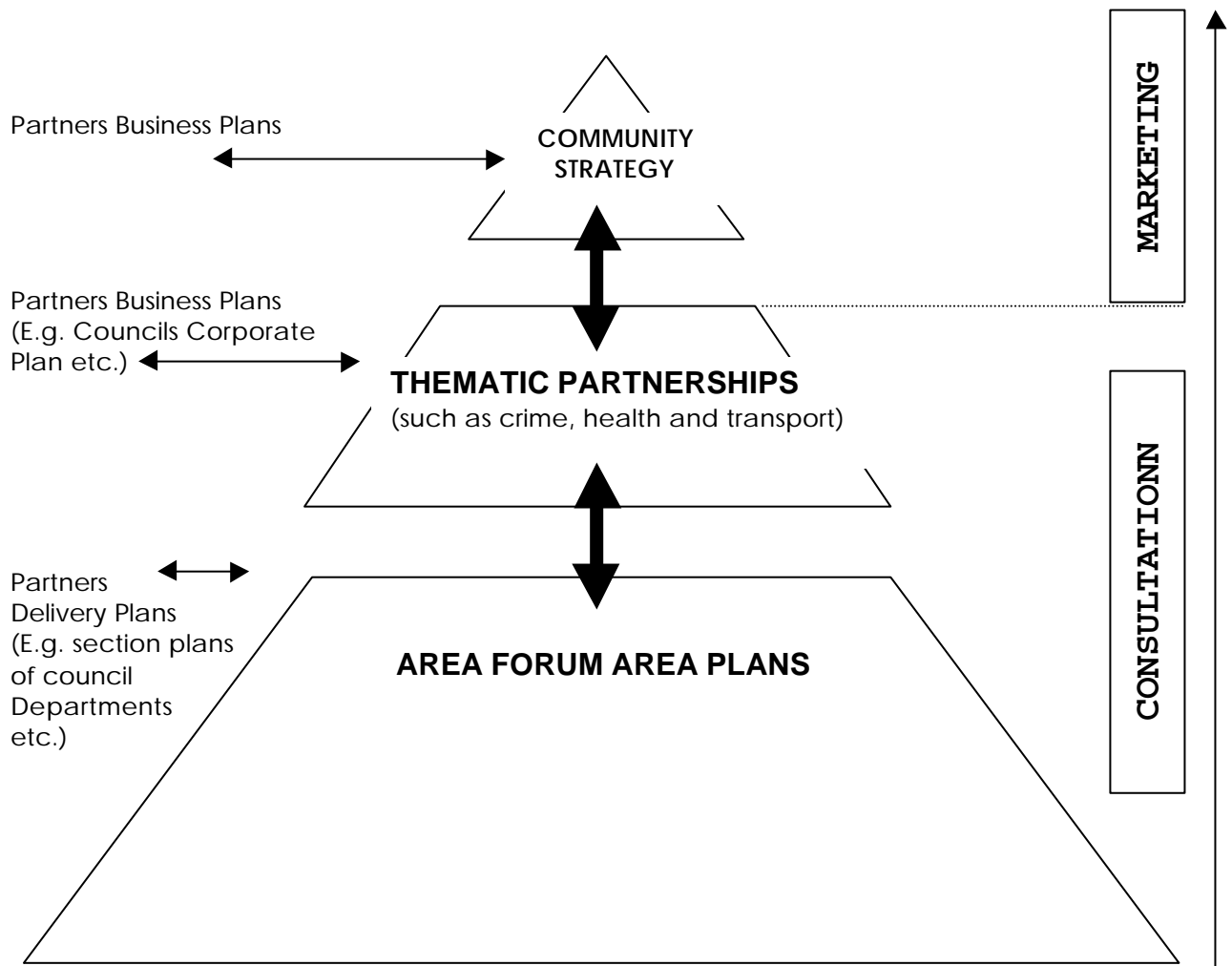
#### **Background**

One of the key tasks envisaged for all area forums since their introduction in 2001 was the development of specific local area plans which reflected the needs and priorities of the area forum. The area plans form a key element of the overarching community strategy – developed through Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership – which sets out how the council and its partners will work towards improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of all communities in Wirral.

Area plans are designed to:

- Identify the needs and aspirations of the local community;
- Identify significant social, economic and environmental trends through establishing an overall demographic picture of the area;
- Promote initiatives that will address the identified local needs and priorities;
- Provide a work plan for the area forum;
- Provide a more local perspective to the overarching community strategy through identifying 'common' issues and needs across the area forums;
- Feed into the service planning cycles of the council and its partners to ensure that the identified local needs are influencing business plans and strategies.

The diagram below shows how the area plans developed by local area forums feeds into, and influences, the business plans and overarching community strategy for Wirral.



The development of area plans has been ongoing for the last 18 months. The work carried out by the area forum has also been informed by Quality of life surveys, Wirral's Citizen Panel, specific information drawn from area forums and existing consultation results.

#### Next Steps

The development of the area plans has been further protracted by the recent changes to ward boundaries and the increase in the number of area forums, which has delayed the production of the plans.

It is proposed that the area forum:

- Approves the attached area plan, developing a work programme to support forum activities in meeting issues identified within the plan as being a priority for local people;
- Refreshes the existing plan (to be completed by December 2005 to allow for the plans to inform service planning cycles);
- Undertake further consultation with local communities – through specific mechanisms identified by the forum – to identify specific local needs and priorities around the new community strategy themes.

### **Section 3: Youth Forum Update**

Area Youth forums  
February 28<sup>th</sup>-March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005

#### Agenda

Consultation with transport dept and Police

Allocation of forum money

The first half of the forum involved young people in a large group discussing transport issues as part of a wider consultation on Wirral. The police were consulting with young people on the best way to present information to young people.

For the second part of the forum the young people present were divided into groups. Each group had a set of application forms (designed and filled in by young people). The groups spent about 20 mins discussing whom they would allocate funding to and why. We reformed into one big group and went through the process of negotiating and allocating the funding.

Some of the unintended outcomes included: user groups sharing some resources as they were doing a similar project, freeing up money to be allocated elsewhere. Offering to fund raise for a particular group if it was unsuccessful in getting funding and putting prejudice aside to allocate money to a rival group.

#### Funding allocated

Greasby Outreach project	£250
Pensby barge trip	£250
Jigsaw video work	£100
Beaconsfield skills project	£100
Beaconsfield craft project	£100
Beaconsfield/Fender cultural project	£50
Powerhouse newspaper	£90
Fender YAP health project	£100
North end YPP Homelessness project	£110
Eastham YC D of E resources	£100
Eastham YC Drama activities	£100
Bromborough YC cooking project	£100
Bromborough YC Southport trip	£100
Bromborough YC Card Making	£100
YMCA senior member training	£100
Belvidere YC quiet room project	£100
WYPP social event	£100
Skateboard group / skating trip	£100
Leasowe health project	£100
Moreton senior club training	£100

## **Section 4: Streetscene update**

### **Plans to spruce up Wirral for the Open**

Wirral Council has announced plans to invest £300,000 on the biggest clean up operation the borough has ever seen – so as the region shines for The Open golf championship in 2006.

The eyes of the world will fall upon Hoylake in July next year, when an estimated 40,000 visitors per day descend upon the area and the event is watched on television by 350 million people around the globe.

The authority is enlisting help from public sector colleagues, local businesses, landowners, schools and community groups to spruce up the region and guarantee a warm welcome for visitors.

Director David Green said: “The Open presents us with a fantastic opportunity to showcase Wirral to the rest of the world. We will be embarking on a mammoth tidy up campaign - spanning a huge area and involving people from a wide range of backgrounds. The Council can’t do this on its own. We will be relying on the efforts of everyone in Wirral to get behind us, show their pride in the local area and get involved.”

Wirral Council already has a good reputation for its cleanliness - as recognised our recent inspection by the audit commission, and for its work developing innovative anti-litter campaigns that have been short-listed for national awards. This project builds on these successes and aims to ensure that Wirral looks its best for the Open.

The Council has been gathering intelligence from other host Councils to maximise opportunities created by the event and regeneration plans for the Hoylake and West Kirby area are now being implemented. Many of us are aware that work has already begun brightening up the street scene in West Wirral. More than 70 trees have been planted along Meols Drive, and roundabouts and shrub beds have been given a thorough revamp. A litter blitz is set to target key transport routes in and out of Wirral, together with Hoylake, West Kirby and neighbouring town centres. Land owners Network Rail have pledged to tackle waste issues along the Liverpool to West Kirby railway line. As the golf championship approaches, the Highways Agency and Mersey Tunnels will also be working tirelessly to clear their land of any illegally dumped rubbish.

Much work is being done by the local authority to catch the criminals responsible for fly-tipping in these areas and in other parts of Wirral. Every effort is being made to trace those responsible and take action against them. To help the Council with these investigations officers have the use of covert surveillance equipment that is sited in known hotspots. Further educational work will be taking place in Wirral’s schools. The Council’s award winning ‘anti-litter’ roadshow that encourages secondary school children to take more pride in their local environment will be embarking on a new series of tours. Primary School litter clubs are also being asked to get involved in organising community clean-ups.

During the tournament community volunteers will be enlisted to serve as uniformed town guides. These guides, and additional volunteers from the business community, will be encouraged to report any environmental issues to our Streetscene contact centre for immediate action during the Championship. We will have an increased presence in terms of street cleaning staff, for the duration of the event.



## **Support for Recycling**

WIRRAL residents have expressed overwhelming support for changes to rubbish collections, according to a recent survey.

More than 75% of householders responding to a waste questionnaire have said that they would like an additional bin or container for storing recyclable waste at home.

The Council's recycling team has been consulting with residents about how it can encourage more people to recycle. This recent survey is one of a series planned for the coming months. Results will be used to inform the Council of key issues to consider when planning the new kerbside collection arrangements.

Wirral Council's Director of Technical Services David Green said: "The reality is that less than 12% of waste is being recycled in Wirral while the rest of our rubbish is being sent to landfill. Changes to waste collections are essential if we are to boost this figure, meet government requirements and more importantly protect our local environment.

"We want to make it even easier for the people of Wirral to recycle. With the results from this recent survey, it is reassuring to see that residents are supportive of all recyclable rubbish being collected from outside their front door."

The local authority is about to embark on a major re-organisation of waste services that will see recycling rates soar - with paper, cardboard, glass, can, garden waste and clear plastic collections likely to come into effect in Spring next year.

These recyclables will be taken to a new Material Recycling Facility, which, after several years of negotiation, is currently being built in Bidston. The site will be managed and owned by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority. Here Wirral's waste will be sorted out and sent on to recycling companies for transforming into new materials.

## **Litter Prosecutions**

ENFORCEMENT officers are continuing in their fight against litterlouts. Thoughtless residents are being warned that illegal dumping could cost them dearly – as two women were heavily fined by the courts this week.

Kelly Cole from New Ferry Road, New Ferry was fined £150 plus costs at a hearing before Birkenhead Magistrates on Tuesday, April 5. The court heard how Miss Cole

had dumped bags of rubbish less than 100 yards from her home in Salisbury Avenue last November 18, 2004.

Emma Lyon from Newling Street in Birkenhead was also fined £150 plus costs after leaving household waste in an entry between Newling Street and Prince Edward Street last October 29, 2004.

The women were caught by Wirral Council's environmental enforcement team, responding to fly-tipping reports from local residents. After searching through bags, the officers were able to trace the rubbish back to the owners.

After failing to pay a fixed penalty, Wirral Council took both cases to court and Miss Cole and Miss Lyon were found guilty of the offences in their absence.

### **Road Safety Update**

Road safety officers have been out and about visiting Wirral schools to promote sensible driving.

Pre-driver training has been given to pupils at West Kirby Grammar school. Students were offered advice on selecting a driving school, learning about attitudes, risk and behaviour. They were also given an overview of the demands of both the Theory Test and the Practical Driving Test, taught practical checks (oil, water, brake fluid etc) and even changed a wheel!

Meanwhile students taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award scheme at Pensby High School for Boys welcomed road safety officers and two police motorcyclists to school for a talk this term as part of a traffic education training programme. The police officers took their bikes to the school and engaged the boys in the positive and negative points of being both a police officer and a motorcyclist. Students at the school have one more lesson learning about the physical damage caused by road traffic collisions and then they have to take an examination.

### **Switch off and Belt Up**

Road safety officers and Merseyside Police have launched a 'Switch off and belt up!' driver safety campaign.

Throughout April, Merseyside Police were cracking down on motorists they saw using a mobile phone whilst driving, and stopping drivers and passengers who were not wearing their seatbelts.

The police enforcement campaign was supported by an educational 'push' from regional road safety officers. They targeted local communities with publicity reminding motorists to switch off their mobile phones before starting the engine, and reiterating the message that seatbelts save lives. The initiative is in support of the ongoing Department for Transport 'Think!' road safety campaign.

Merseyside Police and road safety officers gathered at Tranmere Rovers Football Club at the launch of the road safety campaign. Young drivers who recently passed their test attended to take part in off-road cone slalom - while using a mobile phone. Anna Cope from Support and Information Services was among those taking part. For safety reasons this was done using dual control cars, with assistance from local driving instructors. It proved the point that it is not possible to control a car with the distraction of a mobile phone.

David Midmer, the bereaved father of road traffic collision victim Nathan, also spoke at the launch to talk about his loss and the impact that careless driving can have on a family.

Wirral Council's road safety officer Dave Watson said: "We want to remind motorists that mobile phone and seatbelt laws are in place to protect people. People are still too complacent about using handheld mobiles whilst driving. Throughout the launch demonstration our young drivers have had great difficulty controlling the car while they had a mobile phone clamped to their ear. We've proved this in a safe environment, but how many people are out there on our roads, still ignoring the law? Anyone using a mobile phone while driving is not in full control of their car - it is a dangerous distraction. If you are setting out on a journey, please be careful and take a moment to carry out your in-car safety checks. Don't forget to switch off your phone and belt up."

### **Success in Fighting Claims**

The number of claims being made against Wirral Council has fallen dramatically – as the local authority is establishing a winning reputation for itself in the courtroom.

Improved systems and procedures have brought about a staggering 66% drop in the number of claims pursued against the Council. Whereas two years ago the Council was receiving up to 180 claims a month, the authority now receives less than 60 claims each month. And of 41 cases taken to court in 2003/04, Wirral Council officers successfully defended 35, making for a win rate of 83%.

Recent years have seen local authorities up and down the country facing growing numbers of highway claims made against them. However, officers in Wirral have been working hard to counter this trend as part of its Streetscene overhaul of services.

Highway inspectors have been undergoing specialist training to give them more confidence in the courtroom. They have taken part in one-day intensive workshops, which cover everything from preparations before going into court, dealing with cross examination, developing confidence in giving effective evidence and a mock trial.

Wirral Council has also enlisted the help of specialist risk advisors in a bid to make the borough's roads and pavements safer. Insurance giant Zurich Municipal has been assisting the local authority with implementing current industry 'best practice' for maintaining roads and pavements.

Inspection regimes have been re-organised, priorities for road repairs are now assessed differently, and there is a new Council policy for replacing paving flags with Bitmac. This has proven to be a much safer and cost effective alternative, particularly in areas where flags are repeatedly broken or lifted because of inconsiderate motorists parking on the pavement. Claims 'hotspot' areas are also mapped and closely monitored by inspectors.

As a result of all these changes the Council is now in a better position to prove that it fulfils its legal obligations for highway maintenance. Wirral will continue to work with industry experts to improve both the condition of roads and pavements and its claims record.

Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council David Green said: "We are striving to make roads and pavements even safer for the Wirral public. Much work has been done to re-organise the way in which we carry out highway inspections in line with national recommendations.

“We’ve also rolled out an extensive training programme to familiarise our highway inspectors with the court room environment and give them the confidence to provide good evidence. It is now reassuring to see our efforts are paying off with this massive reduction in claims being made against the Council.”

### **Award winning litter campaigning**

Wirral Council has been shortlisted for a prestigious national environmental award – in recognition of its achievements with anti-litter campaigning to teenagers.

The X:CELL4WIRRAL campaign has seen innovative partnership working between the Council, secondary schools, Radio City and Tranmere Rovers FC. Over the last year all have been involved the co-ordinated targeting of anti-litter messages at school children using the web, radio advertising, live stage shows, text messaging and community litter picks.

The X:CELL4Wirral initiative has already received regional recognition – winning the category for Innovation and Technology at the Merseyside 21 Awards earlier this month). The campaign has been deemed so impressive that it was also shortlisted for the annual ENCAMS ‘People and Places’ awards that took place in Birmingham this month, hosted by comedian Jasper Carrott. The environmental charity, which manages the ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ campaign, organises the awards to highlight work local authorities are doing to tackle local environmental quality issues that blight neighbourhoods.

### **New £1.3m BYPASS opens in SAUGHALL MASSIE**

Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council, David Green, said: “Wirral Council is committed to improving transport facilities across the region. This is a route of major strategic importance and the new road will provide better links between NorthWest Wirral and the motorway network. “Not only will it reduce journey times for motorists, this road has also been designed to take into account the needs and safety of pedestrians, cyclists and even horse riders.”

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

**Gangbuster'** appointed to spearhead Anti-Social Behaviour Team crackdown on youths.

WIRRAL Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team has appointed an officer to focus entirely on anti-social behaviour caused by gangs of youths.

From Monday February 14<sup>th</sup> 2005 a new officer begins a period of crackdown on youth anti-social behaviour.

Anti-social behaviour and annoyance caused by gangs of young people is one of the most reported issues affecting the quality of life of a number of Wirral residents and a concern raised at many neighbourhood forums and residents' meetings.

The newly appointed youth enforcement officer, Lucy Pritchard, who has four years' experience with the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, will be spending the next 12 months getting to grips with the gangs of youths who make the lives of some Wirral residents a misery.

Caroline Laing, Manager of Wirral's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, said, "The behaviour of gangs of youths can have a very detrimental impact on the lives of residents, particularly the most vulnerable members of our communities. This new post has been created specifically to deal with the problem and hopefully improve the lives of a number of Wirral residents.

We are very clear though that not all young people behave anti-socially, most are well-behaved, polite and respectful individuals. It is only the minority, who do not behave in a way that society expects, that we will be targeting. There are also many issues with tolerance, or more significantly the lack of, towards young people and this too is an issue we will be mindful of".

The newly-appointed officer Lucy Pritchard, commented, "There is much good work already being undertaken across Wirral to tackle this issue by the Council, police and other agencies and organisations. I am hoping to build upon this good practice and work closely with other stakeholders.

In particular, we want to hear from members of the public about what problems they are having and where.

Often such issues are not reported to the authorities and it is important that the Team embarks on this project with a clear idea of the extent and nature of the problem".

Caroline Laing/Lucy Pritchard

0151 606 5463

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **Residents show support for changes to recycling services**

April 2005

WIRRAL residents have expressed overwhelming support for changes to rubbish collections, according to a recent survey.

More than 75% of householders responding to a waste questionnaire have said that they would like an additional bin or container for storing recyclable waste at home.

The Council's recycling team has been consulting with residents about how it can encourage more people to recycle. This recent survey is one of a series planned for the coming months. Results will be used to inform the Council of key issues to consider when planning the new kerbside collection arrangements.

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The local authority is about to embark on a major re-organisation of waste services that will see recycling rates soar - with paper, cardboard, glass, can, garden waste and clear plastic collections likely to come into effect in Spring next year.

The Council plans to take these recyclables to a new Material Recycling Facility, which, after several years of negotiation, is currently being built in Bidston. The site is owned by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority and managed by Mersey Waste Holdings on their behalf. Here Wirral's waste will be sorted out and sent on to recycling companies for transforming into new materials.

- The survey was carried out by non profit environmental consultants SWAP (Save Waste And Prosper) on behalf of Wirral Council.
- A total of 616 houses were selected to take part in the postal survey from a sample of postcodes across the borough.
- A total of 172 responses were received, giving a response rate of 28%. This is a high response rate for members of the public targeted with a postal survey.

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **Developing Skills for Neighbourhood Renewal**

Wirral Metropolitan College, Wirral Lifelong Learning Service, Birkenhead 6th Form College and the Worker's Educational Association

#### **Working in Partnership**

Wirral Metropolitan College, Wirral Lifelong Learning, Birkenhead 6th Form College and the Worker's Educational Association are working together in five Wirral wards; Leasowe, Seacombe, Bidston, Birkenhead and Tranmere to provide a range of opportunities in community settings for individuals who wish to improve skills in literacy, numeracy and communication.

Three development workers have been engaged and work as an impartial team in community locations across the Wirral.

They work with individuals on one to one basis providing information on opportunities offered by all the partner organisations and helping to overcome individual barriers. They can provide guidance with financial assistance to help with childcare, travel and books.

They also work collaboratively with other community based organisations and groups to provide customised provision in community locations.

By working collaboratively, using the expertise of each provider, the project aims to provide information about local English and Maths courses to individuals and respond to community needs with innovative ways of encouraging adults to participate in courses in the community.

If you would like to talk to a development worker about English, Maths and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses in your area, please contact

Carole Wilshaw at St James's Centre, Birkenhead or Beechwood Neighbourhood College	670 0359 677 9211
Anna Douglas at Leasowe Early Years & Adult Learning Centre or Rock Ferry Adult Learning Centre	630 5069 645 9182
Janet Castle at South Wallasey Neighbourhood College	691 2640

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **Local Transport Plan 2 Consultation In Wirral**

#### **Accessibility**

Free travel scheme for pensioners is good however the passes should be valid pre 0930hrs

Access to work - public transport does not cater for the needs of shift workers.

Reliability of buses – cannot rely on them for journeys to work therefore limits opportunities.

Bus Networks – distribution of services is not balanced – some areas have lots of buses and others have none.

Access to hospitals difficult by public transport but also need to ensure that access to GPs is not overlooked. Shuttle buses from the villages and/or stations to the hospitals would benefit visitors and staff.

Need more evening bus services and Sunday services as accessibility to leisure and retail is limited (social inclusion issues). Train services also stop too early. As more people are now employed in leisure and retail this needs to be addressed.

Cost - Services are too costly – need more discounted tickets. Suggestion made to have tickets valid on all services for 60 or 90 minutes to make interchange between operators and modes easier. General comments regarding introducing standard fares and more integrated tickets.

Safety and Security issues affect accessibility as services are withdrawn due to vandalism. Buses and trains need to have conductors on and more visible staff. Need more CCTV

Customer care – inconsiderate attitudes of, and erratic driving by, bus drivers puts people off using the services. (Similar comments regarding private hire vehicles also made).

Bus operators/Merseytravel should be providing local services eg. Circulars around housing estates etc that feed into more strategic services along main routes.

We should all be looking at bringing services etc back to the communities so that we reduce the need to travel.

Information – there is still a need for more public transport information and a need to publicise its availability as a lot of people are not aware of where to get leaflets etc from. Also trains and buses need better information e.g. service numbers and destinations on buses. Need to be aware of information on train fronts not being easily read by partially sighted/elderly people due to “orange dot” format. Bus companies should not be allowed to handwrite their service number and destination on a piece of paper and stick it in the window. Buses should also have service number at the rear so you know if you have just missed it.



Pedestrians - Need more road crossing facilities. Footpaths which need to be in better condition. Crossings need to have clear visible indicators to show when safe to cross (some crossings don't have visible 'green man')

Bus shelters and bus timetables are much improved in recent years although timetables not always reflecting what the service actually does! – i.e. need speedier responses after changes to services.

Employers should be playing a bigger role in subsidising services in order to get people to their place of work.

Joblink – service is good but would it be better utilised and more time efficient taking people to the stations instead of direct to work – may reduce long journey times as rail journey often quicker.

Access to stations for disabled and parents with prams needs to be improved.

Need to consider accessibility to areas outside Merseyside – particular support for electrification of Bidston to Wrexham rail line.

Interchange facilities at Liverpool for buses from Wirral need to be improved - buses through the tunnel do not go to the Coach Station or to Bus station. In particular problematic for the elderly or people with cases who have to walk up quite a distance after alighting from the bus.

Should try to increase role of ferries

## **Congestion**

Congestion only occurs at peak times however it is unacceptable. Mixed views over the definition of congestion from 5 minutes to 30 minutes. General agreement that it has got worse in recent years.

Greatest problems outside schools, at the Tunnels, the A41, the Hospitals and the Motorway roundabouts. Main cause is school and work travel.

Congestion also caused by more localised issues such as road works – need better co-ordination of road works to reduce disruptions.

Park and Ride is key to reducing congestion however many stations need extensions to the car parks as it is pointless trying to encourage people to use the trains if no parking is available.

Shuttle buses to key locations such as the Hospitals – would benefit visitors and staff.

Rail – rail is crucial in tackling congestion. Car drivers more likely to change to rail than to bus (social class issues). Strong support for the electrification of the Wrexham – Bidston line: would remove some cars off the road and increase accessibility to jobs

Could old railway track-beds be better utilised either through re-opening of rail services or making them available for walking/cycling routes?

Enforcement issues - specifically taxis and cars double parking needs to be enforced as this causes congestion.

Deterioration of bus services has led to increased congestion as more people won't use them. Therefore need to improve reliability and improvement of bus services – strong support that we should be looking at Quality Contracts/more public control of the bus network and more bus lanes (if properly enforced). However, acknowledgement that bus lanes can increase congestion if car drivers unwilling to make shift to bus.

Improvement and expansion of Community Transport and Demand Responsive Services. We should also be looking at car clubs. Could the planning system play more of a role with regard to car free developments, or developments where facilities for a car club are designed in from new.

Traffic Management – signage needs to be clearer to avoid drivers getting lost and clogging up the towns. Signage painted on the roads is more useful than the signs on posts especially where several lanes of traffic. Improvements needed to traffic lights so that they do not stop cars and buses when there is no other traffic.

Need better integration between operators of buses and also better integration between buses and trains.

Walking and Cycling – need better facilities to attract people to cycling and walking e.g. storage facilities and changing facilities. Particularly to schools.

Mixed views on “stick” approach of reducing congestion, i.e. road tolling and car parking charges, however, agreement that can't build more roads. Some feeling that Wirral residents are already tolled because of the tunnel.

Requests for Merseytram be extended to Wirral in the future.

Anti- social behaviour needs to be tackled if people are to be encouraged to get back on to public transport.

Flexible working/staggered school times – should be encouraging more companies/schools etc to allow flexible working/staggered school times.

Young people at the Youth Forum had not realised the link between congestion, air quality and cars - and their main desire was to own cars at age 17.

## **Road Safety**

Speed limits – differing views obtained; Some people thought speed limits should be more consistent (less changing of speed limits along routes) however others considered that variable speed limits at different times of day would work better. General support for lower speed limits in residential areas and more speed signs generally. View was that speed cameras work but traffic calming is less effective. Support for Homezones.

Enforcement – Residents should be trained to operate speed guns to warn drivers of speed? Should have cameras on buses to photograph cars in bus lanes. People should be more proactive in reporting bad driving and reporting offenders (police systems would need evidence). General support for enforcement cameras however need for consistency, (not all functional) and their use needs to be further extended. Location of cameras should not be publicised but visibility of boxes could be improved - in Scotland, cameras are striped and were viewed as more visible. Incorrect parking should be more widely enforced.

Cameras – strong support, but preference was for speed/distance cameras as opposed to spot speeds which encourage people to slow down and speed up again once drivers have passed the camera. Mobile cameras keep people alert. Support for use of mobile speed warning signs to provide ‘surprise’ factor on roads.

Education – drivers need to be educated more – signage alone is not effective enough. Education should be more generally targeted and not just at the young – elderly people were mentioned in particular. Mobile speed warning signs to raise drivers’ awareness of their speeds are effective. “Gateway“ markings were also seen as effective, as were the use of variable speed warning signs on approaches to known black spots.

Pedestrians and Cyclists - more roads to be pedestrianised to make it pleasant for walking and there is also the need to promote the health benefits of walking and cycling more. “Walking Bus” idea is excellent.

Rat running is a problem at peak times - need to address this.

Cycle lanes need to be continuous. Cycling on pavements needs to be addressed. Traffic calming measures need to take cyclists and motorcyclists into account as some speed ramps are too steep at slow speeds.

Driving standards – drivers should be re-tested periodically.

School buses – more enforcement required on vehicles - drivers cannot/will not control the children. Problem of unruly behaviour by school children also applies on public services.

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **Ideas**

Introduction of ‘countdown system’ at pedestrian crossings (like in Dublin) to indicate to waiting pedestrians how long they have to wait to cross.

Buses stop in roads rather than in laybys like in Leeds – cheap and effective traffic calming on busy routes.

### **Air Quality/Environment**

Strong agreement that transport is a significant contributor to poor air quality, however, apart from at specific spots, air quality was felt to be quite good on Wirral however noticeably worse during peak periods.

Main offenders were felt to be buses as they are usually from old inefficient fleets. As well as air pollution this also creates noise pollution. Taxis were deemed to contribute to air pollution by leaving engines running

Air quality and noise issue also raised in regard to Liverpool John Lennon airport and increasing numbers of flights over Wirral.

Alternative fuels should be investigated and encouraged - Buses should be gas/electric/hydrogen cell powered and trains can also be dual fuel or solar powered.

More control needed on HGVs with regard to parking, driving through centres, noise and fumes

More freight to be carried by rail to reduce the number of HGVs on the roads.

Support for park and ride to reduce cars on the road.

Mixed views on “stick” approach of reducing congestion, i.e. road tolling and car parking charges

Suggestions for specified ‘drop-off’ locations near schools to avoid poor air quality at schools due to the numbers of waiting cars.

American yellow buses should be used for transporting children to school.

Higher taxes for 4x 4’s and sports cars.

Need enforcement of parking on verges and pavements as these damage the streetscene.

Young people at the Youth Forum had not realised the link between congestion, air quality and cars - and their main desire was to own cars at age 17.

## Section 5: Local Updates



# PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**COUNCIL TRAFFIC ORDER TO BAN LARGE TRUCKS FROM RURAL ROUTES**

### **At a glance...**

- Council takes action to stop HGVs passing through Barnston village and Thornton Hough.
- Traffic Regulation Order is advertised for Barnston Road, Neston Road and Thornton Common Road.
- Move prompted in response to road safety concerns from local residents.

Thornton Hough.

The local authority has this week advertised a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to ban articulated trucks from using parts of Barnston Road, Thornton Common Road and Neston Road.

The move has been prompted in response to public concern over the opening of a large distribution centre outside Neston on the A540. The centre is expected to generate an increase in the number of HGVs using these routes.

**Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council David Green said: "This Council will fight to preserve the charms of Barnston village and Thornton Hough. We share the road safety concerns of residents regarding increasing numbers of HGVs passing through these sleepy rural villages. We don't believe these are appropriate routes for large wagons and hope this proposed Traffic Regulation Order will go a long way to protecting the local environment."**

The Order will affect Barnston Road (A551) from its junction with Brimstage Road to its junction with Thingwall Road East, Neston Road and Thornton Common Road (B5136) from its junction with Parkgate Lane to its junction with Clatterbridge Road.

The Council has proposed the Order in the interests of road safety, traffic management and to preserve the existing character of Barnston village and Thornton Hough, both of which are Conservation Areas.

**The local authority is legally obliged to advertise the Order in local papers. Consultation letters have also been sent out to the Freight Transport Association and the Road Haulage Association this week. If there are any objections to a proposed restriction on heavy vehicles the matter may have to go to a public enquiry.**

ends

Released by: Gill McLachlan. 0151 606 2089  
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Protecting and improving the local environment

## Wirral: Home of the Open 2006



**Media information from Wirral Council - Thursday May 5 2005**

### **All aboard for Wirral's latest attraction!**

#### **At a glance...**

- ❑ Over £500,000 EU funding tees up major new tourism package in Wirral
- ❑ Open-topped summer bus tour starts in July
- ❑ Other highlights include a major summer music festival and IT information kiosks

The bus tour is the latest new development to be announced as a result of a large cash injection from the EU. More announcements will be made in the near future, including the launch of a new summer music festival to join Folk on the Coast, and the jazz and guitar festivals.

The open top tour begins in July and runs all through the summer, taking in all of Wirral's major historic and tourist sites before returning to Seacombe Ferry. There it will link with Liverpool via the Mersey Ferry, and take trippers directly on to the City's own open top tour.

Stephen Maddox, Wirral Council's Chief Executive said: " This is great news. We have a great deal to offer, from fantastic golf to our beautiful coastline and from the mighty industrial heritage of Birkenhead, to the tranquil Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight. We have something to offer everyone, and now we have an ideal opportunity to show it off."

- ❑ There is info about all Wirral's attractions, accommodation and events on [www.visitwirral.com](http://www.visitwirral.com)
- ❑ Bus Tour Itinerary:
  - The Tour starts from the Mersey Ferries terminal at Seacombe, adjacent to the soon to be opened Spaceport, Wirral's new multi-million pound attraction where visitors can experience a virtual journey through space ending up in the depths of the Universe.
  - The Tour includes Birkenhead Tourist Information Centre and the Mersey Ferry Terminal at Woodside, before moving on to Wirral Museum in Hamilton Square, which is the largest group of Grade 1
  - listed buildings outside the capital. The Tour then goes on to Lady Lever Art Gallery and its superb collection of pre-Raphaelite masterpieces and impressive Wedgewood and 18<sup>th</sup> Century furniture collections, before moving on to the Heritage Centre in Port Sunlight. The Heritage Centre tells the fascinating story of Port Sunlight and its community, with displays of old

photographs and early film footage, a scale model of the village and original plans.

- The Wirral Bus Tour then returns to Seacombe via the Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, with its wealth of maritime heritage, and Historic Warships - one of the finest collections of 20<sup>th</sup> century fighting ships in the country.
  
- The EU-funded project builds on Wirral's existing tourism development, and is a direct result of the peninsula's own tourism strategy. The strategy highlights the Open Championship returning to Hoylake in 2006, after an absence of more than 40 years, and the Liverpool's European Capital of Culture status in 2008, as major opportunities for the development of tourism in the Northwest.
  
- The project also supports the Northwest Development Agency's "Great Destinations" guidance note and Merseyside's "Visiting Merseyside" tourism strategy, helping the region to become a major short-break tourism destination in the UK.
  
- A 3 year synopsis bid ( 2006 to 2008) is currently with Government Office Northwest, to further market Wirral, and hopefully awaiting approval...
  
- For information on the Wirral Bus Tour and all other attractions and events, the public can contact Birkenhead Tourist Information Centre on 0151 647 6780 or email [touristinfo@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:touristinfo@wirral.gov.uk).

## **Wirral: Home of the Open 2006**

Released by:

Jenny Grimshaw 0151 691 8088

## Section 5: Local Updates

Media release

Wednesday 4th May 2005

### WIRRAL lends a hand to residents

#### At a glance...

- ❑ Wirral Council's handyerson Scheme dramatically cuts waiting times for home safety improvements
- ❑ Service open to over 55s in the five renewal areas at a minimal charge to the individual
- ❑ Residents have peace of mind as a safe and reliable tradesperson does work in their home

The Scheme is funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and the Housing Market Renewal Initiative and charges just £3.50 for the first hour and £7 per hour after that. Most of the calls only take one to two hours with the payment going directly back into the service. The team also fit Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Smoke Detectors without charge.

Tony Watkin, Handyerson Supervisor, said: "The scheme was launched in February with three of us attending calls each day in the renewal areas of Birkenhead, Seacombe, Tranmere, Bidston and Liscard. The service is open to over 55s with a lot of people being referred by Social Services' Occupational Therapy Team."

Margaret Campbell, Occupational Therapy Assistant, added: "It's a brilliant service. Grab rails could take months to be fixed up. Now our Handyersons do them and clients are getting their jobs done within a week of their assessment."

All the team are time served so customers are confident to have them in their homes and know the work will be to an excellent standard. Mrs Jacqueline Wilson used the service and was very impressed:

"I wanted some pictures and mirrors putting on the wall and couldn't do it myself so the Social Services OT gave me a leaflet about the scheme. I was so pleased to have someone do the job who was trustworthy, reliable, friendly and caring. The fact that they were recommended by Social Services gave me extra peace of mind but I think the service is too cheap!"

If you are over 55, live in the eligible areas and have a job that the Handyerson Scheme can help with, please call Joanne on 691 8371.

Committed to Supporting and Protecting Vulnerable People

Released by:

Gill Rutter. 0151 691 8570

**Wirral: Home of the Open 2006**



## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **ABC Together**

ABC Together is in the process of setting up a scheme to recycle previously un-recycled cardboard from WBC into hypo-allergenic horse bedding.

This bedding will be sold and then picked up when soiled and recycled into high quality compost.

The Company is a social firm whose foremost goal will be to assist people with mental health problems reintegrate into mainstream employment.

There are few therapeutic facilities for people with mental health problems extant on the Wirral and Merseyside at present especially those which lead to real job opportunities.

We will be creating a vibrant social network and have several schemes we are hoping to set up in the first two years of our operation such as a therapeutic garden and a community kitchen.

We have forged links with many other environmental and mental health action groups and have attracted substantial funding already from CRED and MSEI.

We intend to also provide an educational and information service to local schools and businesses to increase awareness of environmental and mental health issues. Initially we will be benefiting around 30 people but as we have just mentioned our project will eventually be of benefit to a much wider section of the community.

ABC Together aim to create varied and therapeutic work opportunities for people who are presently excluded from society, especially those with mental health problems.

By integrating people into the mainstream we will be reconnecting people into society and enhancing their prospects of real recovery. By offering contact to carers, who also find themselves isolated, we aim to encourage active involvement and respite for this previously marginalised group.

We aim to do this by creating an essentially crucial environmental project that will considerably improve existing recycling objectives on Wirral and Merseyside.

Our project is being developed by current carers and service users with a committee including key members of relevant organisations.

We have been working towards this aim for the last 3 years.

[derryhunter@hotmail.com](mailto:derryhunter@hotmail.com)

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **Future Presentations**

There may be requests from Education & Cultural Services to discuss some of the major service changes, with the Area Forums, however once a request is made I will inform the forum. If there are any matters of priority for forum members please get in touch, to see if it is possible to arrange a presentation / information about the matter.

It may be useful to decide presentations on the basis of priorities identified within the area plan. We try to have presentations at all our Area Forums. These presentations are informative and interesting to the community within our Ward boundaries.

### **Community Safety Programme**

The Fire Service would like to come along to a future Area Forum and do a presentation about their Community Safety Programme.

Keith Phillips Community Fire Safety, Wallasey Fire station, Mill Lane, Wallasey 0151 5419/5420

### **Future Area Forums**

- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2005 – venue to be confirmed
- Tuesday 28th February 2006 – venue to be confirmed

## **Section 5: Local Updates**

### **METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL**

### **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE**

**12 APRIL 2005**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES**

### **HIGHWAY STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2005/06**

#### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents to members the Highway Structural Maintenance Programme for 2005/06. Members are asked to endorse the report and refer it to Cabinet for approval.
- 1.2 This is a key decision which was first identified in the Forward Plan in 1 November 2004.

#### **2.0 REPORT**

- 2.1 As last year, I present to members one unified programme as attached as Appendix A. That programme has been prioritised and details of the proposed works are included together with draft estimates. At this stage detailed design (if appropriate) and final estimates have not been prepared.
- 2.2 In identifying schemes and producing the prioritised programme I have used the agreed assessment criteria including:
- (i) Schemes highlighted from previous UKPMS surveys using CVI (Course Visual Inspection).
  - (ii) Schemes highlighted from this year's UKPMS survey using CVI (Course Visual Inspection) and DVI (Detailed Visual Inspection). The higher the ranking number (maximum 100) the greater need for works to be done.
  - (iii) Schemes highlighted by Members, Area Forums, the general public and my own staff which have been assessed for urgent attention in 2005/2006 are highlighted in the appendices with an asterisk.
  - (iv) Areas of constant repair mainly due to vehicle override and damage included from Highway Inspectors' safety inspections.
  - (v) The programme has been formulated taking into account the principles of an integrated approach to highway maintenance work. Issues concerning safety and the Environment as well as structural needs have been taken into account.
- 2.3 In addition a number of schemes have also been included as a result of the Open Golf returning to Royal Liverpool in 2006. A figure of £500,000 has been provided via the Council's capital programme specifically for these schemes. The schemes identified

would not normally warrant inclusion within the programme due to their overall ranking, however, in recognition of the importance of the event a specific allocation of funding has been provided to allow these locations to receive attention. A similar provision also exists for other Open Golf improvements and associated support costs.

- 2.4 All works identified in the programme will be subject to either individual tender or the use of existing competitive term maintenance contracts.
- 2.5 The programme includes a greater number of schemes than the budget will sustain. This will allow maximum flexibility to manage disruption to the proposed programme as a result of Statutory Undertakers works or other unforeseen events.
- 2.6 Subject to approval by Cabinet the programme will be immediately circulated to the Statutory Undertakers to allow the necessary adjustments to be made as a result of their proposals.

### **3.0 AREA FORUMS**

- 3.1 All Area Forums were given the opportunity to contribute to this year's programme and submitted lists of work they considered to be local priorities. The programme clearly identifies those schemes included and they are marked "F" on that programme.
- 3.2 I propose to report back to the Area Forums on their suggested priorities and the reasons either for inclusion or otherwise.
- 3.3 Subject to members' approval I would propose the process of involving the Area Forums in the determination of local priorities should continue.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 In producing one prioritised programme I have sought to maximise all of the available financial resources contained within the Department's budgets.
- 4.2 It is proposed to undertake the programme in priority order (subject of course to the Statutory Undertakers activities) and complete as many schemes as possible from within the identified resources.

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no specific ethnic minority implications. Maintaining the highways in good condition is of particular benefit for pedestrians who are elderly, have disabilities or are pushing prams.

### **6.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no planning implications.

### **7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no community safety implications arising directly out of this report. The condition of the highway and street lighting network has some influence on community safety. There is a need to provide safe footways and carriageways for users.

## **8.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **9.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The environmental impact of the proposed construction methods and processes contained within the programme are evaluated on a site by site basis.

9.2 Wherever possible the use of recycling processes are encouraged to reduce the tax burden through landfill and aggregate levies and to promote sustainable initiatives and benefits to the environment.

## **10.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT**

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

## **11.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 Relevant wards are shown in the appendix.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1 That the Structural Maintenance Programme for 2005/06, shown in Appendix A, be endorsed and referred to Cabinet for approval.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR  
TECHNICAL SERVICES

Barcombe Road	All	Heswall	100		£64,000	Structural footway	P/L kerbs as req'd Reconstruct flexible footways
Briar Drive	All	Heswall	83	*	£49,000	Structural footway & carriageway	P/L kerbs as required Reconstruct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Bufs Lane	All	Heswall	83	F	£1,000	Surface Treatment to footway	
Dalesway	All	Heswall	83		£1,500	Surface Treatment to footway	
Dee Park Road	Part	Heswall	83	F (200/04)	£20,000	Structural carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Forest Road	All	Heswall	83	*	£48,000	Structural footway	P/L kerbs Reconstruct flexible footways
Latchford Road	All	Heswall	83	*	£15,000	Surface Treatment to carriageway	
Latchford Road	Part	Heswall	83	*	£8,000	Structural carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Phillips Way	All	Heswall	83		£1,600	Surface Treatment to footway & carriageway	
School Hill	All	Heswall	83	*	£35,000	Structural carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Cestrian Drive	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83		£28,000	Structural footway & carriageway	P/L kerbs as required. Remove flags & construct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Overdale Avenue	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83	F *	£5,000	Surface Treatment to footway & carriageway	
Pensall Drive	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83		£9,500	Structural footway	P/L kerbs as req'd Reconstruct flexible footways
Pensall Drive	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83	*	£2,500	Surface Treatment to carriageway	

Private Drive	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83	F *	£8,000	Surface Treatment to footway & carriageway	
Somerset Road	All	Pensby & Thingwall	83	F *	£81,000	Structural footway & carriageway	P/L kerbs as required Reconstruct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Sandham Grove	Part	Heswall	66	F (2003/04) *	£10,000	Structural carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Barnsdale Avenue	All	Pensby & Thingwall	43	F Petition *	£60,000	Structural carriageway	P/L kerbs as required Resurface carriageway
Holmesway	All	Pensby & Thingwall	--	To complete scheme	£6,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Ridgewood Drive	Part	Pensby & Thingwall	--	To complete scheme	£28,500	Surface Treatment to carriageway	

SURFACE TREATMENT PROCESSES TO BE USED

- (1) SLURRY SEAL                                      THIN VENEER BITUMINOUS OVERLAY THAT FOLLOWS EXISTING PROFILE OF SURFACE  
(2) MICRO ASPHALT                                      A SURFACING MATERIAL THAN CAN REGULATE SMALL DEPRESSIONS
- (3) SCHEMES IDENTIFIED WITH AN ASTERISK \* HAVE BEEN ASSESSED FOR EARLY ATTENTION.



**Minutes - Area Forum (Heswall and Pensby & Thingwall) Meeting –  
3 February 2005**

Present	
Chair	PSC Johnson
Ward Councillors	IJ Mackenzie , Mrs J McKelvie , SL Rowlands
Community Representative	Mr M James
Area Service Co-ordinator	Jan Evans (Area Forum Co-ordinator)
Merseyside Police	Inspector Len Gill , Cons. Mark Parry
Council Officers	Malcolm Alexander (Assistant Director - Drainage and Coastal - Technical Services , Chris Batman (Education and Cultural Services Dept) , Phil Black (Technical Services) , Phil Miner (Street Scene Area Manager)
In attendance:	Allison Cooke (Chief Executive) , Stephen Hesford MP , Ritchie Humphreys (DAAT)
Apologies	O W Adam , A Garrett (Heswall Community Representative) , AC Hodson

**Index to Minutes**

- Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions
- Minute 2 - Minutes of the last meeting
- Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators report
- Minute 4 - Public question time
- Minute 5 - Open discussion on the de-criminalisation of parking
- Minute 6 - Community Safety update
- Minute 7 - Primary Care Trust update
- Minute 8 - Date of next meeting
- Minute 9 - Any other business

**Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions**

The Chair opened the meeting and asked members of the panel to introduce themselves. There were 26 members of the public in attendance.



## **Minute 2 - Minutes of the last meeting**

There was one matter arising from the minutes of the last meeting. The public toilets in Banks Road have now been demolished. There are plans, subject to the funding being available, to install new pay-as-you-enter toilets at locations throughout Wirral.

A member of the public asked if there were plans to install toilets in the bus station at Heswall. It was explained that these premises are the responsibility of Merseytravel and it would be up to them to provide toilets facilities.

Members of the public are able to use toilets in Heswall Hall and Heswall Library. There will also be public toilets available at Heswall Police Station in about a months time once renovation work has been completed.

## **Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators report**

The area co-ordinator informed the meeting that during 2004/05 there was £12,607 of Community Initiatives Funding (CIF) available to this area forum.

The CIF panel met on 10th January, 2005 to consider the 23 applications received and the panel's recommendations will be submitted to Cabinet on 16th February, 2005. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application at the end of February.

It is anticipated that a further round of funding will be advertised towards the end of April, 2005.

The area co-ordinator informed the meeting that she would report back at each meeting on any outstanding queries from the last meeting. The updates this meeting included:

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.

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 the Planning Committee. 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

Overgrown trees near Caldby crossroads – after the last area forum work was undertaken to cut back the trees and over the weekend of 22nd January work was undertaken in Caldby to trim some overhanging bushes.

Possible future use of building formerly used as public toilets at Banks Road - the Banks 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.

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

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

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 met on Thursday 27th January 2005 and Bebington and West Wirral board met on 1st February 2005.

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.

The area co-ordinator was thanked for her report.

#### **Minute 4 - Public question time**

Several members of the public commented on the general lack of public toilets and felt this was at odds with the image promoted of Wirral as the 'leisure peninsular'. The point was made that now Banks Rd toilets have been demolished there are no toilets the length of the Wirral Way except in the visitor centre. It was felt that a leisure peninsular should have facilities for people at leisure.

A member of the public raised the issue of cars parked on a long term basis in a local lay by. The cars have 'for sale' advertisements attached to them and have previously been reported to the council but nothing appears to have been resolved and the cars are still there.

The Street Scene manager reported that the Technical Services department are aware of the situation and have been out to the location and posted notices on the vehicles asking the owners to refrain from leaving the vehicles there. However, the vehicles are swapped about and the phone numbers on them changed on a regular basis. As the cars are parked in a lay by and not on the highway the action that can be taken is limited. It was acknowledged that a Suzuki car is one of the main vehicles in question and the Street Scene manager agreed that someone would visit the location again.

Stephen Hesford MP commented that cars for sale in roads and on lay-bys is a significant issue in Wirral. The Clean Neighbourhood Bill mentioned in the Queen's speech is a new law being introduced to deal with situation. It is currently going through the Commons and if passed should close the loophole.

Councillor Johnson asked who would be responsible for enforcing it and Stephen Hesford MP confirmed that it would be the Council.

The Street Scene manager confirmed that they only become involved if the vehicle is untaxed or causing an environmental health problem.

It was agreed that further clarity would be given at the next meeting about the powers relating to the new law.

A member of the public raised the issue of cars being able to get through a gap onto the basketball court at Fishers Lane play area.

Councillor McKelvie reported that the designated play area is officially at the other side of the centre. There are plans to re-develop the centre and move the basketball area to the other side where cars would not be able to access it.

Poor lighting at Pensby shops was raised as it an area where large groups of youths gather and it has a cash machine which people do not feel safe using. Cllr McKelvie undertook to look into this and get in touch with the member of public who raised the matter.

Inspector Gill said there had not been any incidents at that location but agreed that the area would benefit from better lighting. The Police are aware of the local situation in relation to youths congregating and do pay attention to the area.

A member of the public raised the issue of poor parking at the Tesco store in Heswall which in turn causes problems in Poll Hill. The Council have no jurisdiction over this and it was suggested that the matter be taken up with the store.

Councillor Johnson reported that car parking facilities were being taken into consideration when looking at planning applications for further stores in the Heswall area.

A member of the public commented that during the re-surfacing of Gills Lane the white lines in the centre of the road had been eliminated. The road itself is busy, narrow, not well lit and there seems to be speeding traffic. There have been several traffic accidents recently.

The Street Scene manager said that the traffic division would collect data about the incidents. This will be looked into and reported back at the next meeting.

A member of the public asked whether there is going to be a greater effort to prosecute people for using their mobile phones whilst driving.

Insp Gill said that only the Police have powers to stop vehicles. The amount of resources available means they are more focussed on anti social behaviour and crime. However, there have been several prosecutions and many warning letters have been sent out.

The Police are currently seeking volunteers as part of the Road Watch scheme. They are trained to use speed cameras and whilst undertaking these duties they can also spot other things like mobile phone use and warning letters can then be issued. Thornton Hough has 9 volunteers. The scheme is about eighteen months old, posters have been distributed to advertise it and it has had local newspaper coverage. Anyone interested should contact Insp Howard Fazackerly at Heswall Police Station.

#### **Minute 5 - Open discussion on the de-criminalisation of parking**

Phil Black from the Technical Services Department gave a presentation on the de-criminalisation of parking covering the following points:-

Enforcement service managed by Parking Services Team - Technical Services Dept

DPE is bringing parking enforcement under local authority control

Uses civil rather than criminal law

Allows Police to concentrate on other priorities

Benefits for Council

Better able to deliver policies on transport and road safety

Better outcomes from schemes

Fewer complaints from the public

Flexible and responsive enforcement to meet local needs

Benefits for Wirral residents

Reduced congestion on busy routes  
Better access for disabled drivers  
Less inconsiderate parking in residents parking zones and outside schools  
Improved access for emergency service vehicles, delivery vehicles, refuse wagons etc  
More reliable public transport  
A Penalty Charge Notice issued if contravening parking regulations

Operation of DPE in Wirral  
Five year contract with National Car Parks Ltd  
Council in-house team to manage contract and process Penalty Charge Notices and appeals  
Sophisticated IT system to keep track of the penalty notices, photographs, payments and appeals  
Payments facilities at all One Stop Shops, by telephone and through the internet

What motorists can expect:  
Only affects motorists who contravene parking regulations  
A greater presence of parking attendants  
Regular foot patrols in busy areas  
Mobile patrols in other areas  
A consistent, firm but fair approach to enforcement  
Policies set by Council  
Quality driven contract not based upon targets  
Smartly dressed Parking Attendants trained to national standards

Enforcement powers under DPE

Included -  
Yellow lines, limited waiting/ parking places and loading restrictions  
Pay and Display car parks and other off-street car parks with orders  
School zig-zag marking (with orders)  
Disabled persons parking bays (with orders)  
Residents only parking schemes

Not included -  
Footway/verge parking (unless adjacent to yellow lines)  
Pedestrian crossing zig-zags  
Obstruction offences  
All moving traffic offences  
Removal of abandoned vehicles

Common Myths

Parking Attendants/NCP receive a bonus for each notice issued – not true  
Attendants have daily or weekly targets etc – not true  
Parking attendant could cancel a notice if they wanted to – not true

Value added benefits

Parking Attendants an extra pair of eyes on the street  
Primary function is parking enforcement  
Assist and direct public  
School crossing patrol relief duties  
Streetscene - reporting of defects, dangers to the public and crime  
Reporting of untaxed vehicles - assist in the fight against abandoned vehicles

Future possibilities of combining with other enforcement activities ie. litter, dog fouling, unlit skips etc

Phil Black was thanked for his presentation.

A member of the public asked whether the Council is making a profit out of the scheme. Technical services replied that it is quite expensive to administer but any profit is has to be re-invested in the highways.

A member of the public asked why the charges to park are different throughout the borough. Technical services replied that the system is historical, however the Council is currently reviewing this.

A member of the public asked if NCP makes a loss this will be a burden on council tax payers. Technical services replied that before the transfer to NCP a robust financial model was put in place which had to prove the new system would at least break even, so a loss is not anticipated. The Council audits and monitors this.

A member of the public asked whether it is possible to keep the pavements free of parked cars as this causes an obstruction. The Street Scene manager said that they can only act if there are yellow lines.

A member of the public raised a question about parking in bus stops. The Street Scene manager replied that they can take action if it is clearly marked as a bus stop. He requested that people inform him of problem areas so that they can investigate and take action.

A member of the public asked what powers parking attendants have to ask for ID from disabled badge users. Technical services replied that they do not have the authority to ask for ID however a heavy line has been taken recently to tackle mis-use of the blue badges. There has been an issue about the badges not being displayed properly. Social Services are considering overhauling the system for issuing blue badges.

A member of the public raised the issues of problem parking on the pavements in Ashlea Road, in particular HGVs. Technical Services replied that if the vehicles are HGVs then they can act, however private light goods vehicles are not covered. Also HGVs are allowed to deliver to adjacent properties.

A member of the public asked what could be done about parking on grass verges. The Street Scene manager replied that they have no powers to stop people parking on grass verges, however if they can prove that damage has been caused they can take action. Normally where parking on the grass verges is a problem the owners of the vehicles will be issued with a letter to ask them to stop and householders given information about making access to their property wider.

It was acknowledged that there is a problem with cars parking on the pavement/verges outside a local car showroom and an enforcement officer visited them last summer.

#### **Minute 6 - Community Safety update**

Ritchie Humphreys gave an update on the work of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) which bring partner organisations together to combat

drug use. It is part of a 10 year government strategy focussing on stopping young people from taking drugs, reducing supply and treatment..

Prolific offenders all of whom have drug problems are being targeted as they are responsible for a lot of local crime.

Councillor Rowlands congratulated the DAAT on their work and asked Insp Gill if he felt it had made a difference in this area. Insp Gill said that locally the drug use is mostly soft drugs whereas the DAAT focuses on hardened drug users. However, the DAAT has helped to reduce crime ie. burglary, by dealing with the persistent offenders who often target the more affluent areas.

#### **Minute 7 - Primary Care Trust update**

Allison Cooke, the Chief Executive of Bebington and West Wirral Primary Care Trust gave a presentation on the Public Health Annual Report entitled, 'Keeping Well'. The information in the document is vital to enabling the PCT to plan and enhance its services for the local population based on their health needs. The report is prepared each year by the Director of Public Health whose role it is to protect, maintain and improve the health of people who live in Bebington and West Wirral.

Leaflets on the report were available at the meeting. Copies of the full report are available on the website [www.bwwpct.nhs.uk](http://www.bwwpct.nhs.uk). Paper copies and copies of the statistical appendix which accompanies the report were available from local libraries.

A member of the public asked about podiatry services. It was explained that after consultation new criteria have been set and the service will only deal with 'treatment' of foot problems. This has meant that some people who could previously access the service i.e. for toe-nail cutting, can no longer do so.

#### **Minute 8 - Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 21st June, 2005 at St Peter's Primary School, Heswall.

#### **Minute 9 - Any other business**

The area co-ordinator drew attention to 'Merseyfest', a Christian event taking place week commencing 14th August, 2005 when a significant number of young people will gather in Croxteth Park. As well as the spiritual activities the intention of the initiative, which is being supported by all Merseyside local authorities, is to send groups of these young people out to deliver a number of projects which have been submitted for inclusion in the week's programme. It is likely that these projects will comprise in the main environmental cleanups and the like. Anyone interested in submitting a project should contact Tom, Abbi or Mike on 0151 282 8054 ([www.merseyfest.com](http://www.merseyfest.com)).