

Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

28th February 2006

Area Co-ordinator - Janet Triggs

0151 691 8149 janettriggs@wirral.gov.uk

Contents

Page No.

Section One

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising 3

Section Two

Local Updates 11

Section Three

Area Forum Funding 31

Section Four

Local Area Plan 32

Section Five

Youth Update 34

Section Six

Streetscene 35

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes - Area Forum (Heswall and Pensby & Thingwall) Meeting - 19 October 2005

Present	
Chair	O W Adam
Councillors	AC Hodson , PSC Johnson , IJ Mackenzie , Mrs J McKelvie
Community Representatives	J Birch (Pensby and Thingwall Community Representative) , P Duffy (Heswall Community Representative) , A Garrett (Heswall Community Representative)
Lead Officer	Chris Batman (Education and Cultural Services Dept)
Area Co-ordinator	Janet Triggs
Bebington & West Wirral PCT	Geraldine Murphy-Walkden
Merseyside Police	Inspector Howard Fazakerley , Sergeant Chris Hitchell
Council Officers	Ian Ramsden (Senior Group Leader - Technical Services)
In attendance:	Carl Rainbird (Merseyside Fire Service)
Apologies	Cllr Les Rowlands

Index to Minutes

Minute 1 - Welcome and Introductions

Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinators Report (incorporating an update on Community Initiative Fund and Area Plans)

Minute 3 - Public question time

Minute 4 - Presentation: Community Fire Safety

Minute 5 - Primary Care Trust update

Minute 6 - Presentation: Working together for Wirral's Children & Young People

Minute 7 - Dates of future meetings / presentations

Minute 8 - Any other business

Minute 1 - Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Oliver Adam welcomed 30 members of the public to the meeting and introduced the Forum members.

Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinators Report (incorporating an update on Community Initiative Fund and Area Plans)

Janet Triggs stated that everyone should have a copy of her report, and that all should sign in, and pass any questions to her prior to public question time. There were several items she wished to draw attention to, as follows:

- i. Section Two, Page 13 contains several updates, particularly Page 20 concerning the rights of way network within the Borough.

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Janet suggested that a member of the Forum or a member of the public joins the Merseyside Local Access Forum and reports back.

ii. Section Three. The Community Initiatives Panel agreed these recommendations, and cheques have been sent out. All funds have been allocated.

iii. Section Four. The draft plan has been circulated, but the first meeting on 14th October was postponed.

Janet returned to the matters arising from the previous Minutes:

There are plans to install CCTV where the children cross near The Glegg Arms, and this will be monitored by the Traffic Division during school drop off times.

The footpath in Heswall Mount causing concern is scheduled for total reconstruction, subject to funding availability, for 2005/2006.

Janet asked Councillor Hodson to report on the three items he had dealt with, as follows:

i. The Caravan Park. Mrs McGurk who had raised the issue was not present, but Councillor Godson reported that he had spoken to the caravan park owners and he showed plans of the proposals, which showed 26 new caravans on a hard standing, proper roadway and landscaping. All the old caravans will be removed, and each new caravan will be connected to the mains Electricity and sewage system. The number of caravans proposed is less than the existing. Tony Garrett asked whether there was a time limit on this; Councillor Hodson replied that it will go to the Planning Committee fairly soon.

ii. The Boys Camp, Broad Lane. Councillor Hodson reported that a letter went out from Lockwoods Construction, based in Liverpool, informing residents that work will commence in the next two months. There will be fee-paying residents who required drug rehabilitation, and it is anticipated that they will remain on site during their treatment. Councillor Hodson showed the plans, and concern was voiced that it was considerably larger than that which had received Planning permission. Councillors' Hodson and Johnson stated that these were the plans that had been approved in 1993 and that an application for a further extension had been refused. The question was raised about vandalism on the site, but it was stated that the owners of the site were responsible not the Council. The question was also raised about the security on the site, but this is also the responsibility of the owners.

iii. A gentleman not affiliated to the Boatyard runs the Heswall

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

slipway, and the mud being removed from the slipway is being dumped on the shore and this, together with anchors etc. is beginning to make the whole area an eyesore. There will be a meeting on Monday next, with an official from the Council, English Nature and Councillor Hodson and all involved to sort this out. It was reported that cars are still driven along the shore, and it took months to remove an abandoned vehicle, and this will also be discussed on Monday.

iv. Cars being parked on the highway marked For Sale, particularly in Greasby. It was reported that the Council now has new powers to remove them. A request was made for a telephone number to be made available, because the practice is spreading, especially in Pensby Road near the Doctors surgery. The question was asked 'Why can't there be a limit on parking time' and then the Police can take action. Ian Ramsden replied that this is possible, but the problem is that so many are requested and these have to be prioritised. The Environment and Transport Committee considered a report on 18th October regarding cars for sale on the highway. Cabinet and the Licensing Committee will now consider this and subject to their approval it should lead to action being able to be taken in the near future. Alan Dyer said that this was surely the Police responsibility, but their responsibility is to deal with wilful obstruction of the highway and no licence or tax. It was felt that these sales were unreasonable use of the highway.

Minute 3 - Public question time

Mrs Valerie Pritchard raised the question of the dangers faced by people living in Downham Road South. She has lived there for thirty-eight years and over that time the road surface has been improved, but because of this it is now used as a racetrack with cars travelling at great speed. There was a mirror on the very bad corner near the entry to Whitfield Common, which did help to detect that there was an oncoming vehicle. Could this be replaced or a 20 mph speed limit or road humps?

Maxine Joynson, Community Planning reported that they have sent out a request for people to report roads in their area that need repairing or reconstructing.

Mrs. J. Skillicorn requested that she be allowed to present a petition. The Chairman agreed as it relates to the traffic conditions in Downham Road South. Mrs Skillicorn stated that she was speaking for the majority of householders in the road and many parents of children at Heswall Primary School. Over a period of several years since 1994, she has details of five individual log numbers from Heswall Police, of accidents reported. She asked to

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

present a petition with a covering letter to the Council. Even the children of Heswall Primary School have submitted their own poster because they cannot sign a petition, this was attached to the petition. Mrs Skillicorn stressed that both young and old have great fears for safety along this road and everyone is at risk. She made a plea that a 20-mph speed limit, traffic calming humps and /or a one-way system be installed.

Ian Ramsden stated that a petition had been received last year and it was reported to the Committee and the road had not been prioritised. There are many roads throughout the Borough where the safety of children has become a major concern. He will take the petition away and it will be split into two elements. The first element will be traffic calming ideas, but this year's budget has been set but he will try and see if something can be done before then. Secondly, as a result of the petition, the lead petitioner will be contacted and met and possible measure such as signing and lining will be considered in advance of next years traffic calming programme. Mr Ramsden has the Police records for this road with the history of traffic and personal injury accidents. Mrs Skillicorn had a letter from the Director of Technical Services suggesting improvements to the lights and she had photographs showing where a car had hit the wall of a house and damaged the owner's car. One actually caught an old lady's handbag as she walked on to the pavement, she is now in need of constant care.

There was total support for the petition and Mrs Skillicorn's impassioned plea.

Mrs Pritchard did say that she hoped the bus that passes down and around Heswall would be retained, but the use of double deckers down this road is ridiculous. Mrs Fielding gave her total backing to the request and said that something must be done before there is a fatal accident. Mr Garrett did point out that he was sympathetic but that if speed ramps were put in the bus service will cease. Mrs Skillicorn said that it was agreed that an eight-seater bus only must be used in this road. Mrs Pritchard said that this service (175) was very valuable to the local community and that it required a larger vehicle. Councillor McKelvie stated that the service, which was deemed no longer commercially viable by the operator, was now operated under subsidy from M.P.T.E. and was contracted to continue until April 2006.

Mr Kinlan asked why the gates of Irby Road cemetery are left wide open, many youngsters congregate at the entrance and leave cans and litter. Twelve months ago there was a great deal of damage done to over 100 gravestones. Inspector Fazakerley will hold meetings with local residents and Councillors over the next three months to discuss the area and to assess what and where steps need to be taken and which are required urgently. He will also

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

request the Neighbourhood Action Group to give their views. The community should advise him where the problems are as they do move to different locations. It was also stated that more police are needed in the area.

Minute 4 - Presentation: Community Fire Safety

Carl Rainbird from the Mersey Fire and Rescue Service gave a very clear insight into the tremendous job the Fire Service is carrying out in the area with their work. They are carrying out more than simply fitting smoke alarms free of charge, and he requested that anyone who knows of a vulnerable person should report to the Fire Service, who will visit and check on their safety and that of their property.

Before 1999 twenty to twenty five people died in accidental fires, and in 2003/04 the figure was nine. The average house fire cost about £25,000. This community policy is to be extended all over the country and the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service is the best in the country with a gold award from The Audit Commission, and they are in fact going all over the country to show what they are doing.

Minute 5 - Primary Care Trust update

Geraldine Murphy-Walkden reported an initiative launched by the Government about the structuring of the NHS bodies. They questioned whether Bebington & West Wirral PCT is big enough, and whether the PCT's cover the same area as the council boundaries, and they do not. There will be public consultation if it is decided that the PCT needs to be bigger, possibly through merging the two Wirral PCT's.

In order to make the service more patient focussed, an initiative called Choosing Booth is being implemented and introduced throughout GP practices. This will allow patients to choose where and when they see a specialist.

Mr. Garrett raised the question of a site for the West Wirral Practice, as the one in Rocky Lane is very difficult for disabled patients to enter. There has been mention of The Warrens Nurseries as a possible site, but he felt that apart from the fact it is in the Green Belt, the entrance and exits could cause a danger to the traffic on an already busy road. A site near Pensall House was mentioned, but this would not be big enough. Paul Duffy raised the question of the site where the James Edwards garage is in Heswall, however this site is already let.

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Mr. Hewitt stated that for several years a site has been searched for, and it is the intention of many to present a petition in favour of the site of the Warrens Nurseries. Discussion is needed with the Council and all concerned to resolve this problem. Councillor Adam requested a list of the sites, which had been considered.

Minute 6 - Presentation: Working together for Wirral's Children & Young People

Chris Batman gave a brief talk on the new Consultation paper for the provision of children's services in Wirral. He had brought copies of this with him for anyone who might wish to take one. He explained that Parliament felt that the deaths, during the last few years, of vulnerable children were unacceptable. It was believed that different departments did not connect and information was not always available to all those who needed it, and if there was a central pool this might save a child's life. This led to the Children Act 2004 - Every Child Matters. The Children's Act 2004 contains five goals –

- That they should be healthy
- They should be safe
- They should enjoy and achieve
- They should be able to make a positive contribution to our society
- They should be able to achieve economic wellbeing.

The core is that every Local Authority has a lead responsibility to create a Children's Service Department with a Director who will be accountable and responsible for the services in the area. This means that there is one file and one team of people looking at a child, so that all the agencies know what each child needs. We have very good schools here on Wirral, but not every child achieves the best that he or she could. The Government wants to know what are the problems envisaged and how do we in Wirral meet those challenges. It is intended that there will be eleven groups of people in Wirral, covering areas similar to the Area Forums, with key staff able to respond to the needs of children with special needs. Some services will be at Wirral level, but as much as possible will be at a local level for local people.

One member of the public said that Social Services are under funded. This is right across the country and he is worried about how it is going to be financed. Mr Batman replied that Social workers are difficult to retain due to the excessive workloads imposed on them after only being employed for a short time. As a career the terms of employment must be made more attractive to them, as it is at present a stressful occupation. Mr. Batman is

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

hoping these teams working together will make their profession more attractive and stable. The funding is a major problem, and there are occasions when a child has to go outside the Borough to receive the necessary care and education. It costs £3,000. per child in Wirral, but if they have to go outside the Borough it could cost between £50,000 and £100,000.

Minute 7 - Dates of future meetings / presentations

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th February 2006 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter's C. of E. School, Heswall.

Minute 8 - Any other business

Councillor Adam congratulated Mr Kinlan on having become a Great Grandfather

Matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting.

Minute 3 - Irby Road Cemetery

There have been two particular incidents involving vandalism to headstones over the past two years. On both occasions a number of headstones were pushed over and some of them were damaged. Fortunately there have been no similar incidents for the past 12 months.

There is however a continued problem with youths congregating in the cemetery. Local residents and our cemetery staff have reported this.

In regard to security of the site the maintenance access used by our staff has a metal gate fitted which is locked closed when our staff are not on site.

The public entrance has vehicle and pedestrian access. The vehicle entrance has a timber field type gate which is not in use and the pedestrian entrance does not have a gate.

Gates could be fitted but we could not undertake to lock and open them on a daily basis. Community patrol has on occasions done this for us on other sites but for a limited period only. Unfortunately they do not have the resources to do this on a regular basis.

- Downham Road South

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

A meeting has been arranged for January between Mrs Skillicorn & Streetscene, to discuss the situation further.

Service 175. Mrs Pritchard expressed concerns about bus route 175, which she feels is a vital service for local people. This issue was raised with Merseytravel who provided the following information. Until 24th July, the then weekday service was operated by First on a commercial basis, numbered 75, with the Saturday service being a Merseytravel contract numbered 175. First then withdrew the weekday service, and Merseytravel arranged an emergency contract to replace it, on the same route and timetable as the Saturday contract. The emergency contract has been extended to 2nd April 2006, and we have not yet assessed what we will do about continuing the service.

We specify a MINIMUM capacity on this service of 20 seats plus one wheelchair, which should be suitable for operation on the route. As First were awarded the contract, they should know what is acceptable. Since DDA was enacted, there have been problems with operators obtaining suitable minibuses, and have increasingly being using larger single deck vehicles.

Cars Parked for Sale on the Public Highway.

There have been two developments since this issue was raised at the last Area Forum, they are the introduction of the Clean Neighbourhood & Environment Act and a proposal by Wirral Council to make every road in the Borough a 'Consent Street'.

This will mean that for anyone selling goods on the highway, they shall require a permit. Failure to obtain a permit will result in a fixed penalty. It is hoped that this will come into effect by April, when the necessary consultation procedures have been completed.

It is intended that every vehicle dealer within the Borough will receive notice of the changes.

Other issues which have been raised since the last meeting.

Mr Kinlan has expressed concern over the condition of trees in Greenbank Drive, Pensby where he stated that contractors have tarmaced over tree roots. The roots are now growing through the tarmac and are a hazard. A visit by the tree preservation officer has been arranged.

Mr Garrett raised an issue regarding Heswall Station Car Park, as he feels that the car park is being used for fly tipping and that residents parking within the car park is preventing rail commuters from doing so. Mr Garrett has been advised that enquires concerning Heswall Rail Station should be taken up with Network Rail and Arriva Wales whom lease the land from Network Rail.

Section 2

Local Updates

Section 2 Local Updates

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

Wirral has been chosen as a pilot area for the next round of LAA's. The purpose is to build much stronger links between central government and local partners with outcomes, objectives and targets set for the next 3 years. Key priorities for Wirral have already been established within the Community Strategy and partners own plans and strategies such as the Council's Corporate Plan, and the task now is to draw these priorities together and establish if there are any gaps and include some new additions if necessary.

The aim is to bring together LAA's and Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs) to deliver local solutions to local issues. There is NO additional money with the LAA (apart from a reward grant for delivering 'stretch' on certain targets which replaces the previous LPSA regime) but this is an opportunity for Wirral to achieve more with given/current resources. Basically, the aim is to 'pool' or align current resources across partner organisations. Within the LAA, Government have identified four 'Blocks' as priority areas, and the Council – with their partners in the LSP – have identified key officers to lead on each one, they are:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • Safer and Stronger Communities | Alan Stennard |
| • Healthier Communities and Older People | John Webb |
| • Children and Young People | Chris Batman |
| • Economic Development and Enterprise | Kevin Adderley |

Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership (a partnership of key members from the council, police, health, private and voluntary and community sectors) has a lead role to play in supporting the delivery of the themes listed below and in planning existing services better to deliver their vision for the people of Wirral.

They have undertaken a lot of work over the last 12 months to ensure that they are focusing on those area that matter most to local people. They have updated their first community strategy to keep it in line with the views and priorities of local people, focusing on those issues that you have said will make Wirral a better place both now and in the future.

Wirral's second community strategy "*Getting Better Together 2005 - 2008*", sets out all that they will be doing over the next three years to make Wirral a better place where people will want to live, work, visit and invest.

Based on your views they have agreed to focus on the following four main themes, and these will be adopted by the area forums to enable them to link into the community strategy:

Section 2

Local Updates

- ◆ **Worklessness** – *We want all residents of Wirral to have access to well paid jobs. We want to ensure a range of opportunities and training are open to all of our communities, supporting work as an option and the development of an enterprise culture where local businesses are supported and entrepreneurship is encouraged.*

- ◆ **Cohesive and Sustainable Communities** – *We want to make Wirral a place that people are proud of, where all of our communities are safe and supported and where our young people are given the best possible start in life to achieve their potential and secure their futures.*

- ◆ **A Quality Environment** – *We want to make Wirral a clean, green, attractive borough, and through working with, and supporting our local communities, we will protect and improve the built environment, ensuring Wirral is a place where people want to live, work and visit.*

- ◆ **Access and Equity** – *We want to make Wirral a place where all people can easily access services and local facilities such as shops and healthcare. We want our communities to be empowered and involved in local decisions affecting local services and where all people in all areas have similar life chances.*

- **Worklessness**



The Access to Learning & Employment Project

A4e have recently secured ESF Funding to provide training in the pathways areas – these include: NVQs in : Business Admin, Elderly Care, Retail, Customer Service, Horticulture, Warehousing & Distribution and Childcare. We also offer Health & Safety Training and IT Training. We offer practical work experience in numerous locations including private, public and voluntary sector.

The programme is aimed at any unemployed person aged between 16 and 63 whether or not they are in receipt of benefits: persons who are already volunteering could benefit from NVQ to prove their competence. Anyone who has been long term unemployed could build up their confidence and motivation by learning new skills and meeting people in a friendly relaxed atmosphere. They could be placed on work experience close to their home in the heart of the community. If successful in obtaining employment the training does not stop until they achieve their goals. This is a two year programme, purely voluntary and last a minimum of 6 hours and maximum of 15 hours .

We are able to pay expenses for travel and childcare if appropriate

For more information call the ESF Project Team on 0151 652 8373
(some eligibility restrictions may apply)

Wirralbiz - Open for Everyone

22 September 2005

BUDDING entrepreneurs throughout Wirral will gain a helping hand in setting up their own business as a new start-up service was officially opened on 20th September.

Wirralbiz developed from a Business Start programme last year by Wirral Waterfront, with funding from the Northwest Development Agency, has proved so successful that it has been extended throughout Wirral, after attracting further support from Merseyside's Objective One Programme and Wirral Council.

The wirralbiz programme is provided free-of-charge to anyone who wants to start their own business in Wirral, regardless of their employment status, age, sex, disability or ethnic origin, and will be delivered from the new wirralbiz centre at Egerton House in Tower Road, Birkenhead.

The service provides full support beginning with awareness events for those with no experience of running their own business. This is followed by informal workshops and

Section 2

Local Updates

one-to-one advice to build business skills.

Based on an individual's specific needs and the proposed location of the new business, grants of between £500 and £2000 are also available. After the business has started trading, further mentoring and monitoring is provided, to help it develop as planned for the first 18 months.

Wirral's Mayor, Councillor Chris Meaden, is looking forward to officially opening the service. She said: "Wirral has always been a hotbed of new business ideas, and wirralbiz is just what is needed to help our next generation of entrepreneurs onto the road to success. I am delighted to have been invited to open such an exciting initiative."

Mike Raworth, who will be leading the delivery of the wirralbiz programme, added: 'This is a great opportunity for anyone in Wirral with a business idea to turn their dream into reality.'

And Phil Smith, General Manager of Egerton House, described the new wirralbiz centre "as an exciting time for Egerton House to again be the centre for Wirral business development."

The office alterations and the opening event have been sponsored by Egerton House (Wirral) Limited.

For more information, telephone wirralbiz on 0845 456 1796 or call in to Egerton House.

• Cohesive and Sustainable Communities

Merseyside Policing - Project Update

Introduction

The Chief Constable, Bernard Hogan Howe, has called for a review of Merseyside Police's current Neighbourhood Policing model in order that we develop it to meet the needs of the community, and ultimately become the best police force in the country.

In 2001 Merseyside first started to adopt a Neighbourhood model of policing with the aim of putting local, identifiable communities at the heart of our business. We now need to take this philosophy a step further. The review has been asked to pay particular attention to the following-

Project Objectives

- Deliver Neighbourhood Policing through values, citizen focus, standards and performance
- Rewrite the Force Crime and Anti Social Behaviour Strategy (Can Do) to encompass appropriate standards for service delivery

Section 2

Local Updates

- Deliver on our calls for service through a clearer call grading policy and a Neighbourhood aligned response function
- Ensure every community of Merseyside has an identifiable officer who is contactable, locally knowledgeable and accountable

National Drivers

Nationally the Home Secretary Charles Clarke MP has stated that the country needs “a much more responsive police service with neighbourhood policing at the centre”. Merseyside is committed to becoming a more responsive police force and already has Neighbourhood Policing at the heart of our business.

To improve our responsiveness to citizen and community needs the review will also involve implementing the Home Offices Quality of Service commitment that sets out five key goals

1. Making it easy to contact the police
2. Providing a professional and high quality service
3. Dealing with initial enquiries from the public
4. Keeping people informed
5. Ensuring the public voice counts

Benefits to Public and Partners

The current plans involve developing the following improvements to our service-

- Police Officers will be dedicated to each electoral ward of Merseyside. This will give the public and local partners a greater level of service and contact than at present.
- Greater number of officers dedicated to responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for service.
- A police service that is based on values, performance, communities and standards that is meaningful to the public because they help set them and hold us to account.
- The policing of Merseyside will centre on achieving a professional service that promotes and builds public confidence and satisfaction.

The review is currently consulting with groups across Merseyside in order that we capture opinion from all communities. We will update you in the near future about the findings of this consultation and go into greater detail about how Merseyside Police is changing to improve its service.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in the Wirral

Our activities in the Wirral are very wide reaching and include many productive partnerships. We are, of course, still responding very effectively as an emergency service through our response from six community fire stations, nine fire appliances and one aerial appliance. Birkenhead Community fire Station is one of two operational bases in MF&RS that holds and mobilises our specialist equipment.

Section 2

Local Updates

The senior management team on the Wirral strive to apply the Fire Service strategy within the various objectives of Wirral Borough Council.

Of the four blocks within the new pilot of Wirral's Local Area Agreement we contribute at a strategic level not only to safer and stronger communities but healthier and older communities and we have activities which effect the remaining two blocks of children and young people and economic prosperity.

There are general partnerships that all stations on the Wirral participate in. Wirral Heartbeat is present in all Fire Stations (except West Kirby) and provides equipment for the gymnasiums. As a charitable organisation it provides keep fit facilities for cardiac recuperation. This is a very popular partnership on the Wirral and other districts in the Service wish to follow suit.

All station managers attend neighbourhood action groups. The District Manager chairs the Joint Action Group and participates in many council working groups and the Crime and Disorder Governance group.

Birkenhead Community Fire Station:
Fire Support Network use the station as their HQ for the Wirral. They provide volunteers to support community safety activities.

We have developed links with the PCT who now use the station for lifestyle groups, Start Right and Expert Patient.

The police will soon be using the station for their outreach work for volume property crime.

And we have set up a partnership with Tranmere Alliance.

Upton Community Fire Station:
We have set up a partnership with Helping Hands and have done work with the Beechwood Estate, particularly the winter emergency for the elderly project.

A new community garden has opened at the station that is being used for meetings and events by both the Fire Service and the community.

Wallasey Community Fire Station:
Practice Managers from across Wallasey are using the fire station for their monthly meetings.

PlayLikeBrazil' is Wirral's first Brazillian Soccer School and Coaching Academy.

The idea is the brainchild of two local Wirral businessmen, Allan Maldon and John MacCarfrae, who have devised an ingenious way to help develop the education, skills and talents of local youngsters. Along with their team of professionally qualified coaches and training team, they offer a soccer-themed educational programme

Section 2

Local Updates

designed to build strong and positive relationships and promote good citizenship in the local community.

The exciting and flamboyant Brazilian style of football is embodied in the art of Futebol de Salão and this forms the basis for their innovative, soccer-themed educational package that is designed to engage young people aged between 5 and 15. By taking part in a programme of activities, boys and girls not only have the opportunity to develop their soccer skills, but also to attain Key Stage & Key Skill units linked into the UK National Curriculum that can be delivered in curriculum or non-curriculum time.

'PlaylikeBrazil' are collaborating with local schools and community groups across Wirral to help build strong and positive relationships and promote a sense of belonging, including Wirral Wardens, Beechwood Community Centre and representatives from Wirral Borough Council, Community Sports Development Unit. For further information about the PLAYLIKEBRAZIL product offer, go to their website at www.playlikebrazil.com or contact Allan Maldon on 0151 630 2368 or John MacCarfrae on 07939 201206.



CSV Environment
St Peter's College
College Rd, Saltley
Birmingham, B8 3TE
T 0121 328 7455
F 0121 328 7455
E naseem@csvenvironment.org.uk
www.csv.org.uk

- **A Quality Environment**

Environment Agency Action Earth 2006

1st January – 30th June 2006

Dear Colleague / Supporter

Environment Agency Action Earth 2006

We have great pleasure in announcing that the Environment Agency will, for the 3rd year running, be sponsoring the Action Earth campaign in 2006. CSV Environment is looking forward to this continued partnership, which will help support hundreds of practical environmental projects in England and Wales.

This year, thanks to the generous support from the Environment Agency, our national environment campaign will run from 1st January 2006 until 30th June 2006.

Planning an Activity

Section 2

Local Updates

If you are planning an environmental project (that will take place between 1st January 2006 and 30th June 2006) or think you can come up with a good project idea, then please take part in the campaign. Last year, over 15,000 volunteers were involved in tasks such as clearing woodland, litter picks, planting trees and bulbs, creating footpaths, building bird and bat boxes, recycling schemes and a whole range of other environmental activities. This year we are looking for 750 projects in England and Wales to join us and get involved in improving the environment.

We are particularly keen to encourage projects from socially disadvantaged groups in both urban and rural areas or projects that target volunteers from such communities.

We offer

- Grants of up to £50
- Promotional material including posters, stickers, flyers, certificates for volunteers and protective tabards
- Media toolkit
- Advice & support

Make a Promise for World Environment Day

Last year, over 3,000 Action Earth volunteers made pledges for World Environment Day. They were joined by thousands of other supporters in England and Wales who together have made real environmental changes.

As well as registering for Environment Agency Action Earth, why not make a "promise" to do something practical for World Environment Day 2006. World Environment Day is a people's event with global participation, it is held on 5th June each year. All over the world the day is celebrated with activities including street rallies, recycling and clean-up campaigns, concerts and tree planting.

The Environment Agency will be asking businesses and individuals to make an environmental promise and they want your help. Details about how 'you can promise the earth' will be sent to you soon so please pass the message on and together we can make a difference!

So what are you waiting for?

Fill in your project registration form and return it as soon as possible. You will be notified if your application for a grant has been successful within 3 weeks of receiving your application. The aim is to provide grants to all Action Earth projects but if response is high, grants will be allocated on a first come first serve basis, so please register your project quickly. (This letter and Project Registration Form can be photocopied and passed onto another group). **Please ensure that the Project Registration Form is completed fully.**

If you do not get a response within 3 weeks of sending your registration form then please call 0121 328 7455. If you have any questions or wish to discuss project ideas then please contact me on 0121 328 7455.

Section 2

Local Updates

Best wishes

Naseem Akhtar

Action Earth Co-ordinator, Environment Agency Action Earth
T: 0121 328 7455 E: naseem@cvenvironment.org.uk

Organised by

Supported by



We want to make Wirral a clean, green, attractive borough, and through working with, and supporting our local communities, we will protect and improve the built environment, ensuring Wirral is a place where people want to live, work and visit.

Helplist - Assistance to elderly/disabled people who are unable to carry their full recycle bags? Streetscene do offer a service to register you need to contact Streetscene and ask to be put on the “help list” 0151 606 2004 or email streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

Collection Days - The following link provides an online database of collection days, simply enter the road name and it will give the option of paper, garden waste or refuse collection days. It will show a collection calendar for the particular service which can then be printed out by clicking the print button to the top right of the calendar. www.wirral.gov.uk/be/recycling or 0151 606 2004 or streetscene@wirral.gov.uk Cheshire Lines Building Canning Street, Birkenhead CH41 1ND

Wirral Council - has expanded its kerbside collection services over recent years with the introduction of the Garden Waste Collection Service and the Tranmere/Rock Ferry Box Scheme. In the next 12 months things are set to be further improved with the construction of a new integrated waste facility being developed by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority on the former incinerator site at Bidston. The facility is set to transform the way in which residents in the area dispose of their waste. The new integrated the facility will be the first of its kind for domestics waste on Merseyside and will comprise of the following:

Materials Recycling Facility - A new facility that will be able to sort and separate dry recyclable materials (paper, cardboard, plastics, cans, glass etc..) The separated streams of materials can then be further processed into recycled products.

In-vessel Composting Facility - In-vessel composting takes place in sealed vessels where the temperature and humidity are controlled to produce compost from garden waste. The vessels will also be able to process unwanted kitchen food waste.

Section 2

Local Updates

Household Waste Recycling Centre - a new centre will provide the public with access to recycle a range of household items. This facility is already available to the public.

Visitor Centre - A centre that will provide educational and awareness programmes for local schools colleges and the local community. The new facility should allow Wirral Council to collect recyclable materials from Wirral residents 'co mingled' in one container. The materials that will be included for kerbside collections are likely to be glass, cans, paper, card and plastic.

Wirral Independent Re-cycling Enterprise

Furnishing Lives...

WIRE - Wirral Independent Recycling Enterprise - based in Wallasey, is a new and exciting social enterprise which aims to use unwanted furniture for the benefit of people across Wirral.

How? WIRE works by collecting items of unwanted furniture, free of charge, from any residence in the Wirral. The items are then taken to the WIRE warehouse in Kelvinside where their condition is assessed and any items that need it are repaired or restored.

This work is undertaken by furniture restoration experts who are also qualified trainers. They lead a team of trainees – many of whom are long-term unemployed - who benefit by learning valuable, new skills and getting crucial work experience. Together, the team brings items up to a usable standard.

The furniture is then made available to individuals and families who are referred via Social Services, Sure Start, the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Catholic Children's Society, the Ark Homeless project, the Citizen's Advice Bureau and up to sixteen other agencies that are in touch with socially and economically excluded people right across Wirral.

Providing this furniture has a remarkable impact on the quality of life of Wirral residents who would not otherwise be able to acquire decent furniture. For them, it turns a flat, room or house into a real home.

Laurence McIver, Operations Manager for WIRE said: 'With WIRE everyone wins - Wirral residents who have no further use for their furniture but have limited options as to how to dispose of it, disadvantaged people who have similarly limited options for creating a comfortable home and those looking for a way back into work whose options are limited due to lack of experience, illness or disability. WIRE helps to tackle all these issues in one project – it is joined-up thinking in action!'

Section 2

Local Updates

WIRE is aiming to become integrated with Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council's ERIC service, which is the Council's own Bulky Household Waste collection service, in order to help meet the recycling targets set by European and National directives. This integration will mean an estimated increase of up to 30% in the amount of bulky household waste being diverted away from landfill – making a significant improvement in the protection of our local environmental resources.

In order to help to raise funds, items of furniture are offered for sale to members of the public at a very reasonable cost, which aids families and individuals on low or fixed incomes but who are not eligible for support by Social Services or the charitable sector to gain access to quality furniture which would otherwise be out of their reach

For more information regarding the activity of WIRE, then please contact WIRE on: 0151 638 6691. You can also e-mail: info@wire-ltd.com or visit the organisation at Units 12 – 14 Kelvinside, Wallasey CH44 7JY.

Letssalvageit.com

DON'T TRAVEL TO TIP – SURF TO SALVAGE!

November 9 2005

LETSSALVAGEIT.COM SAVES UNWANTED ITEMS FROM BECOMING UNNECESSARY LANDFILL

letssalvageit.com, a website which advertises unwanted items for free for others to pick up and re-use has proved a hit with the environmentally-conscious, just one week after its launch. So attractive is this alternative to paying the council for removal, taking the items to the municipal dump or trying to sell them for a minimal return that nearly 100 people registered on the site within two days of it going live. The first item was salvaged within an hour of it being added to the site's inventory.

Elaine Clark, founder and director of Letsdev Limited who set up the site, believes that letssalvageit.com provides a welcome solution to a common problem. "Whether as a result of moving house, fitting a new kitchen, clearing out the loft, buying new furniture or treating yourself to a new television, there are always items that become unwanted or unnecessary.

"At this time of year especially, with Christmas on the way, people often get new furniture delivered or need to clear some clutter to make space for all the presents that they and their family will receive.

"More often than not, all of these items still have life left in them, or would at least be good for parts. And more often than not, they end up as landfill – with their owners having paid the council to take them away.

"letssalvageit.com is a greener, cheaper and hassle-free solution – advertise items for free and let someone take them away, perhaps for re-use, perhaps for re-

Section 2

Local Updates

invention. And, of course, while people are visiting our site, they might find something they need or could put to good use.”

In its first week the site was responsible for helping a disabled lady find a washing machine. Her machine had just broken down and, with a large family and Christmas coming, she just couldn't afford to buy another one.

Any item can be advertised on the site from toasters, kettles and curtains to white goods, brown goods and interiors, such as doors, windows and fire surrounds.

Because letssalvageit.com is internet based, its audience is national, providing for a wide variety of items and a massive amount of potential salvagers. The site is not an internet messageboard, and protects its users' privacy, ensuring that only the potential salvager contacts the advertiser.

Visit www.letssalvageit.com For further Information contact: Elaine Clark, Letsdev Limited, 07840 755258 or mail elaineclark@letsdev.com

Update on recyclable waste, provided by Derwent Derbyshire - The Bidston Material Recycling Facility (MRF) is on schedule to open fully in April 2006 for the reception of recyclable waste including plastic, cardboard, paper, glass and cans. The new Bidston household waste recycling centre is now open to the public 7 days per week including bank holidays 8am - 5pm.

The Bidston site is already accepting residual household waste through its new waste transfer station, from Wirral refuse collections for bulking and shipment to other waste facilities for disposal following the closure of Bromborough Dock Landfill Site.

In-Vessel Composting:

The completed site at Bidston will include an in vessel composting plant that can convert waste food into high quality garden compost. During March and April 2006, Wirral Council will be converting 20,000 households across the Borough from garden waste bags to the new organic waste bins. The new organic waste bins will be similar to existing wheeled bins and they will be for the disposal of garden waste and food waste together. Households will be supplied with a small lidded, kitchen caddy container to collect food waste prior to disposal into the organic bin. The mixed waste will be collected fortnightly and taken to Bidston where it will be mixed with wood waste and processed through the composting plant. The conversion process will take around two weeks and the plant has the capacity to process around 10,000 tonnes of waste per year. The finished product will be suitable for use in the horticultural industry and for landscaping and will be marketed as a growing medium and soil improver. This scheme has the potential to divert around half a tonne of waste per household per year away from landfill and to convert it into a useful product.

Garden Waste Collection:

This is set to continue through Autumn and Winter.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

February 2006

Area Forum

Proposed Supplementary Planning Document
Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Operators

1. Introduction

A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) can provide advice on adopted planning policies in the Unitary Development Plan and the emerging Local Development Framework. Once adopted it would be a material consideration when determining planning applications.

Following initial consultation during November and December 2005, the Council is now in the process of preparing a draft Supplementary Planning Document to provide guidance on how policy for mobile phone masts and other telecommunications apparatus will be implemented.

2. The Proposed Supplementary Planning Document

It is intended that the draft SPD will be structured to provide advice under six main topics:

Legal Background;

Policy Context & Objectives

Siting, Appearance & Design;

Health Issues;

Pre-Application Discussions & Consultation; and

Information to be submitted with Applications.

Section 2

Local Updates

The first two sections would identify the legal parameters, the policy context and local objectives that would be relevant for determining proposals by mobile phone operators.

The section on siting, appearance and design would provide advice on how the policy requirement for keeping the environmental impact to a minimum would be implemented.

National planning policy in relation to health issues is outlined. The Government's firm view is that the planning system is not the place for determining health safeguards. Nevertheless, applicants will be expected to certify that all new base stations would comply with guidelines set by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection.

The SPD would also identify information that should be produced by operators for pre-application consultation and when an application is made.

Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report

This appraises the potential effects of introducing the proposed SPD on the social, economic and environmental objectives.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

A more intensive check on the environmental consequences that may arise from introducing the proposed SPD has been undertaken, in consultation with English Heritage, English Nature, the Environment Agency and the Countryside Agency.

Following advice from the Countryside Agency, the Council has determined that a full environmental report is required into the effect on the SPD on the Borough's Landscape.

Consultation Arrangements

When the draft SPD has been prepared, all addresses on the Council's Local Development Framework data base will be contacted, along with members of the Area Forums, local amenity societies and the telecommunications operators.

Section 2

Local Updates

There will be a local press advertisement and a six week period will be given for public comment in writing.

The results of the public consultation will be used to inform the process of preparing the final document and reported to the Council before adoption of the SPD is approved.

- **Access and Equity**

Vital transport funding is announced for Wirral

VITAL funding has been secured by Wirral Council to support transport improvement schemes across the borough over the next 12 months.

More than £5m has been awarded to the local authority from central government following a successful bid from the Merseyside Local Transport Plan which covers the period from 2006 to 2011. The annual settlement pays for schemes aimed at improving transport and supporting the economic regeneration of Wirral.

A total of £3.215m will enable junction and traffic management improvements and enhanced facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. An additional £2.5m has also been allocated to Wirral for the resurfacing and upgrading of roads, pavements and bridges as part of the borough's annual structural maintenance programme for next year.

Last year's funding has already seen a number of key schemes, including the signalising of Arrowe Park roundabout, being given the go-ahead in the borough. In addition the completion of Saughall Massie Bypass and improvements to the junction of Thornton Common Road and Clatterbridge Road, were among recent work carried out by Council highway engineers.

Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council, David Green said:

"The Local Transport Plan is already bringing about improvements to our transport network. This money will now provide us with a guaranteed income to continue the good work over the next twelve months.

Major schemes under consideration for development over coming years include the electrification of the Bidston to Wrexham Borderlands railway line. A road safety scheme is also being drawn up for the introduction of a roundabout at Thurstaston crossroads.

Equally as important as these large schemes are the smaller projects. Future LTP projects in the region will put an even greater emphasis on helping people make

Section 2

Local Updates

everyday journeys more easily – whether by bus, train, car, bike or on foot. Work is also anticipated to start in 2006/07 to improve the management of traffic at the junction of Gorse Lane and Dock Road in Wallasey.”

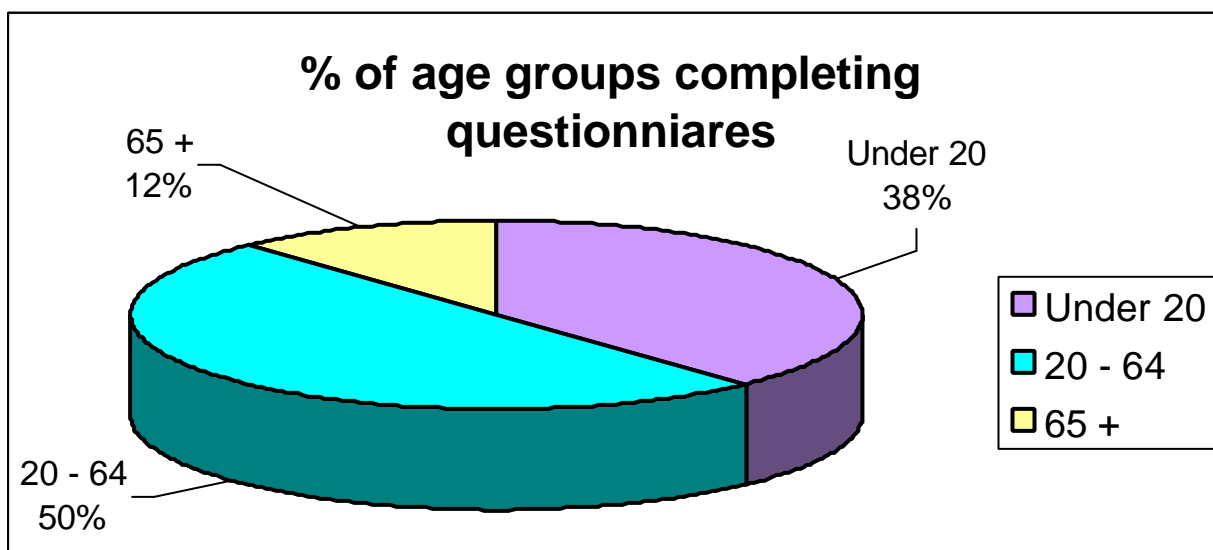
Results from consultations carried out in 2005

The Community Planning Team produced a questionnaire for distribution at the Tranmere Show, Wirral Show and the Wirral Voluntary & Community Sectors Network (WVCSN) Annual Conference held in 2005. The purpose of the questionnaire was to find out people’s views on the local area where they live, there was also a questionnaire to find out the views of visitors to Wirral (for the Wirral Show).

We received 611 completed questionnaires, 116 from the Tranmere Show, 451 from the Wirral Show, and 44 from the WVCSN Conference. 36% of these were completed by Under 20’s, 53% were completed by 20-64 year olds and 11% were completed by over 64 year olds.

9% of those completing the questionnaires requested further information on community representatives, and 20% requested information on area forums.

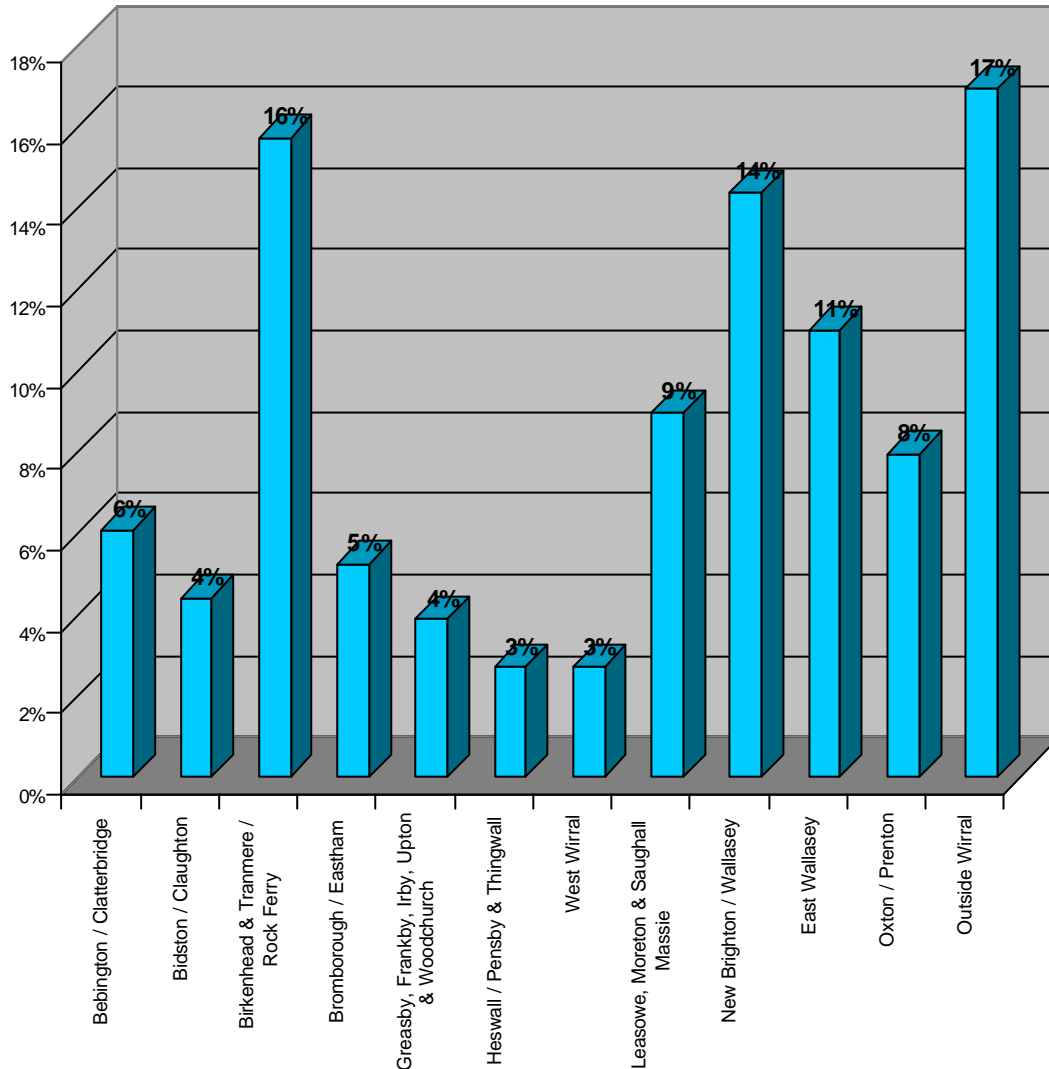
The results from these questionnaires show that overall most people consider Wirral in a favourable light. Further detailed results are attached.



Section 2

Local Updates

% of questionnaires completed by the forum areas



Section 2

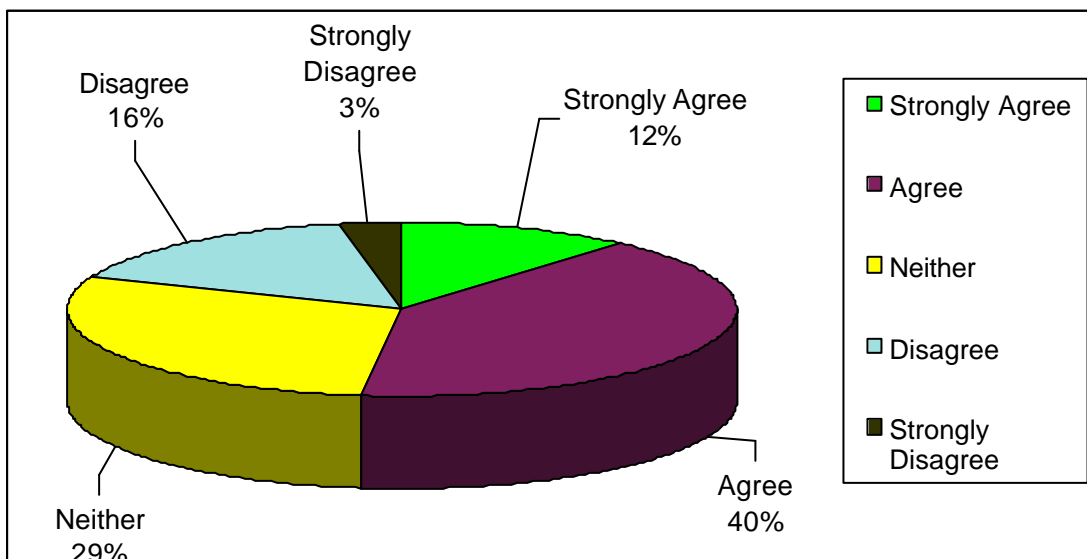
Local Updates

Results of questionnaires, for all age groups, to the following:

How well do you think the area where you live (within 10 minutes walk of your home) is for....

	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Transport (buses and trains etc.)?	39%	47%	5%	7%	2%
Local Services (shops, libraries, doctors etc.)?	36%	50%	8%	4%	1%
Jobs and Training (access to local jobs, variety of training courses available etc.)?	14%	39%	33%	12%	2%
The Environment (parks, open spaces, clean streets etc.)?	26%	43%	12%	15%	3%
Your Safety (crime levels, anti-social behaviour, road safety etc.)?	17%	42%	17%	17%	7%
Community Facilities (playschemes, youth clubs, luncheon clubs etc.)?	16%	37%	23%	16%	8%

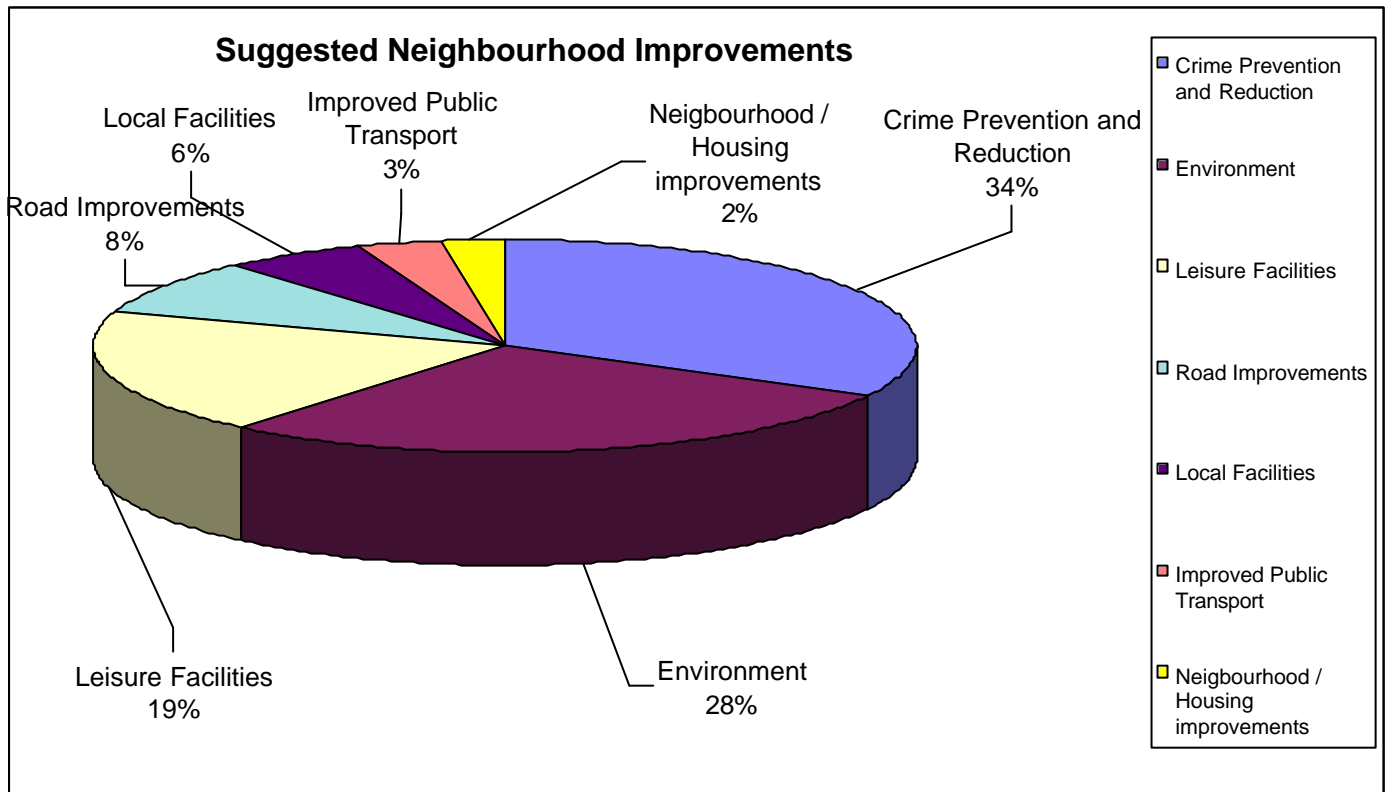
Would you say that your neighbourhood has improved as a place to live over the past two years?



Section 2

Local Updates

What do you think would be the best improvement to make your neighbourhood a better place to live?



Results of questionnaires from the Heswall / Pensby & Thingwall Forum area to the following: How well do you think the area where you live (within 10 minutes walk of your home) is for....

	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
<i>Under 20 year olds</i>					
Transport (buses and trains etc.)	78%	11%	11%	0%	0%
Local Services (shops, libraries, doctors etc.)	78%	11%	11%	0%	0%
Jobs and Training (access to local jobs, variety of training courses available etc.)	44%	0%	22%	33%	0%
The Environment (parks, open spaces, clean streets etc.)	17%	33%	33%	17%	0%
Your Safety (crime levels, anti-social behaviour, road safety etc.)	22%	56%	11%	11%	0%
Community Facilities (playschemes, youth clubs, luncheon clubs etc.)	11%	67%	22%	0%	0%

Section 2

Local Updates

20 – 64 year olds	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Transport (buses and trains etc.)	0%	33%	0%	50%	17%
Local Services (shops, libraries, doctors etc.)	17%	83%	0%	0%	0%
Jobs and Training (access to local jobs, variety of training courses available etc.)	0%	67%	17%	17%	0%
The Environment (parks, open spaces, clean streets etc.)	0%	67%	11%	22%	0%
Your Safety (crime levels, anti-social behaviour, road safety etc.)	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Community Facilities (playschemes, youth clubs, luncheon clubs etc.)	0%	50%	17%	33%	0%

Over 64 year olds	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Transport (buses and trains etc.)	33%	33%	33%	0%	0%
Local Services (shops, libraries, doctors etc.)	75%	0%	25%	0%	0%
Jobs and Training (access to local jobs, variety of training courses available etc.)	33%	33%	33%	0%	0%
The Environment (parks, open spaces, clean streets etc.)	25%	50%	0%	25%	0%
Your Safety (crime levels, anti-social behaviour, road safety etc.)	0%	75%	25%	0%	0%
Community Facilities (playschemes, youth clubs, luncheon clubs etc.)	0%	50%	25%	25%	0%

Section 3

Area Forum Funding

Heswall / Pensby and Thingwall

13 December 2005

Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
£1,000.00	Helplink Community Support	To provide services, including transport, shopping, advice, support, diy & gardening services, to extra clients on our waiting list.	Report received from Helplink Community Support - September 2005: We have purchased a folding wheelchair along with other equipment required to enable provision of easy access for clients. We have increased our client list and our support network.
£100.00	Wirral Family Friends	To purchase a laptop and TV/Video/DVD player.	Report received from Wirral Family Friends - September 2005: The funding was used to purchase a tv/dvd/vcr that has been put to great use in training sessions with our volunteers. The remainder was used towards the purchase of a laptop, and has been used to deliver PowerPoint presentations which were well received.
£380.00	Juice (Children's Club)	To purchase a portable AMP / Speakers and an OHP for the club.	Report received from Juice (Children's Club) - October 2005: Thanks to the funding we have now purchased the equipment and will begin using this when the club resumes after half term.

Local Area Plan

A Sub - group has been formed with the intention of updating and refreshing the Area Plan. The plan will be re-formatted to include profiles of Area Forum Members.

The Issues section of the Area Plan will now be arranged under the 4 Main themes of the Local Area Agreement, which are:

- **Safer & Stronger Communities**
- **Economic Development & Enterprise**
- **Children & Young People**
- **Healthy Communities & Older People**

In addition there is a cross cutting theme of Transport, Roads & Highways.

Membership of the Sub - group consists of;

Councillor Oliver Adam

Councillor Les Rowlands

Councillor Jacquie McKelvie

Councillor Ian MacKenzie

Janet Lees (Bebington & West Wirral PCT)

Inspector Howard Fazakerley (Merseyside Police)

Mr Tony Garrett (Community Representative)

Janet Triggs (Area Co-ordinator)

The Sub Group has met on two occasions and has prioritised identified several themes for action. They are;

- **Establish a 'Friends of Gayton Park' Group** (This will be included as an agenda item at the next Area Forum Meeting, when Councillor Rowlands will raise the issue).
- **Improve School Transport provision & look at School Travel Plans.** (Councillor Rowlands has requested information about the quality of the vehicles provided for school bus services). There is also an issue about parking around schools at drop off and collection times. (Contact has been made with the Merseytravel 'Travelwise team who look after School Travel Plans and who have expressed a wish to become involved with the Sub-group).
- **Care of the elderly within their own home.** Concern has been expressed regarding the standard of care in some areas. Care is provided by private companies, however, service users do not know whom to contact in the case of a complaint. The following information has now been obtained;

Section 4

Local Area Plan

Social Services clients are issued with a care plan. Within this plan is a contact number for the covering the area in which they live. If they are not able to get satisfaction through their Domiciliary Care Team, there are also three Domiciliary Care Managers, Covering three geographical areas of Wirral, whom they can contact.

If this does not resolve the matter, they can contact;
Commission for Social Care Inspection
3rd Floor, 10 Duke Street
Liverpool L1 5AS
Tel - 0151 705 2000
Fax - 0151 705 2046
<http://www.csci.org.uk/>

Section 5

Youth Update

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CRIME:

VICTIM INCLUSION PROJECT

Are you a parent of or do you work with children / young people that have been affected by crime aged 8-13? If so the VIP may be able to offer support. This is a voluntary project, that has been set up to support young people affected by anti social behaviour, crime, domestic violence & bullying among other issues. Any one involved with the young person who feels they would benefit from this service can refer to us.

If the service is accepted the young person will be allocated a Victim Inclusion Worker. The young person will receive one on one support, with an individual programme designed to meet their needs.

If you would like more information or a referral form please contact Eddie Patterson on 929 7756

This service is offered through Wirral Youth Offending Service and the Children's Fund.

Youth Inclusion Support Project

Are you a parent of or do you work with children / young people that may get involved with crime or anti social behaviour aged 5-13? If so YISP may be able to offer some support.

This is a voluntary project, set up with Wirral YOS and the Children's Fund. It has been set up to prevent young people getting involved in crime / anti social behaviour. Anyone living or working with a child / young person who feels this service would benefit them can make a referral.

If the service is accepted by the family / young person, they will be allocated a YISP key Worker who will see the young person once a fortnight, and offer support. The young person will have an individual programme designed for individual needs. The support on offer is time scaled to fit their needs.

If you would like any more information or a referral form please contact Eddie Patterson on 929 7756

Section 6

Streetscene Update

Arrowe Park roundabout scheme

Reasons behind the scheme

An independent traffic study carried out in 1999 identified concerns about the capacity of Arrowe Park Roundabout.

The location has experienced significant peak hour traffic congestion.

This has had a detrimental effect on emergency vehicles going to and from Arrowe Park Hospital.

Pedestrians, particularly the elderly and those with limited mobility, have had difficulty crossing nearby roads.

The Council has received many requests for controlled crossing facilities in this area.

The scheme will be completed before The Open golf championship comes to

Hoylake in July 2006. However it must be stressed that this event is not the justification for the scheme. It is being introduced in the interests of road safety and reducing congestion.

Why does the roundabout need to be replaced?

This scheme has not been considered in isolation. It will also address road safety and traffic congestion issues at the nearby Landican cemetery entrance, the Cherry Orchard and Arrowe Park Hospital.

Accident records show there have been 23 incidents in which people have been injured within the last three years. Studies show 14 of these might have been prevented if traffic signals were in place at the roundabout.

Improvements to the existing roundabout were ruled out because it would increase the speed of traffic through the junction and worsen pedestrian access.

Signalising the existing roundabout is not possible as there is insufficient land to accommodate a safe and reasonable design.

Benefits of a signal controlled junction

A signal controlled junction improves traffic flow and offers enhanced facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and buses.

Timings of the traffic signals can be controlled and adjusted from a computer system to meet the demands of the traffic.

This is the most cost effective means of reducing peak time traffic congestion.

There are no issues regarding the purchasing of land.

Landscaping

We appreciate that members of the public remain concerned about the removal of the roundabout and the perceived loss of what is considered to be an attractive local feature. However the proposed scheme does include larger areas for potential landscaping, in excess of those currently present. We aim to make the best use of these areas to compensate for the loss of the existing planted roundabout feature.

Wirral Council has consulted widely on these plans throughout June and July. This consultation included extensive coverage in regional and local press, a mobile 'roadshow' visited by more than 600 people, presentations at community meetings

Section 6

Streetscene Update

including Area Forums, a letter drop to over 200 community representatives in the immediate area and displays within the hospital.

Plans were well received during the consultation period. Just 26 comment forms and two letters were returned – 17 of these expressed support for the scheme, four requesting more information and five objecting.

The proposed scheme was approved by the Council's Environment and Transport Select Committee on August 1, 2005 and Cabinet on September 22, 2005.

Traffic management

The road and roundabout will remain open to traffic at all times during the work. There will be some disruption, but traffic management plans have been put in place to advise motorists about alternative routes. Access to and from the motorway network is recommended either via Clatterbridge or Moreton Spur whenever possible.

Scheme costs

The Arrowe Park Roundabout improvement scheme will cost an estimated £1.1m. The project is being financed from central Government funding allocated as part of Wirral's Local Transport Plan settlement.

New powers to tackle street trading

Enforcement officers have announced new plans to stop goods being sold illegally at the roadside.

The Council is seeking powers that could see all roads designated as needing consent from the local authority for street trading. Certain areas in central Birkenhead are already designated prohibited streets, from legislation approved back in the 1980s. Enforcement officers now hope to extend these powers to cover all streets across the borough under Schedule 4 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982.

Street trading covers a variety of activities – including cars for sale at the roadside, the sale of cooked food and drinks from mobile catering units the sale of meat, dairy products, household goods, flowers, plants, Christmas trees, etc. from vehicles parked on the road.

These problems are ones that the Council has been trying to address for a number of years. If approved, the new system will see the introduction of a street trading policy and businesses operating in a road without Council consent will face enforcement action and be liable to a fine up to £1,000.

The move comes after a review into the enforcement service, carried out by highway officers and Council solicitors. Proposals are now due to be considered by Members at the next meeting of the Environmental and Transportation Select Committee.

Section 6

Streetscene Update

Shaun Brady from Highway Maintenance is currently working on a wider enforcement strategy for the Council. He said: "We share the concerns of Wirral residents over cars for sale on the road and other street trading activities. We have a responsibility to keep our roads clean, safe and well maintained – and cars for sale have proved an environmental nuisance that we are not prepared to tolerate.

"Previously the Council has been limited in its powers to take action against offending car owners. We have looked long and hard at the legislation we already have in place. The authority is within its rights to prohibit the sale of any goods on the public highway without Council consent."

'Zero tolerance' approach to litter dropping

Wirral Council has issued approximately £13,700 in fines for 274 litter dropping offences within the last 12 months.

A further £1,850 in fines have been handed out by the courts for a combination of fly-tipping offences and failing to pay the Fixed Penalty Notices for litter dropping.

The latest fines to be handed out by the courts were issued on October 13. George Booth from Harrowby Road, Birkenhead was fined £500 plus £150 costs at a hearing before Birkenhead Magistrates. The court heard how Mr Booth had been caught on CCTV fly-tipping at Old Gorsey Lane in Wallasey last January 31, 2005. Natalie Hyland from Bedford Road in Rock Ferry was also fined £100 plus costs, after leaving a box of rubbish in an entry by Corinthian Street and Bedford Road on June 7 this year.

Director David Green said: 'We have adopted a 'zero tolerance' approach to litter louts and have a team of enforcement officers patrolling the borough's streets in a bid to catch and fine those responsible for such behaviour.

'Our officers will use the full weight of the law to stop people dumping rubbish, and would-be perpetrators should be warned that we have a variety of tools at our disposal to stop the culprits, including surveillance equipment in known hotspots for litter louts and illegal dumping. Anyone who has dropped or dumped rubbish in the past should think very carefully about doing it again. It will only be a matter of time before they are caught out by our enforcement officers,' he added.

The Council is considering plans to further expand its enforcement team, giving more of its patrol staff powers to issue FPNs.

Cycle network expands

More commuters can cycle to work thanks to the launch of two new cycle routes in Wirral.

The new signed routes run between Wirral International Business Park in Bromborough and the Merseyrail stations at Eastham Rake and Port Sunlight. Primarily designed to link commuters with their places of work, they will also link in with routes to Eastham Country Park for leisure use. A third route running from Bromborough Rake station is also nearing completion.

Section 6

Streetscene Update

Dave Green said: "These routes are another step towards integrated transport on Wirral, helping to provide real alternatives to the car and improve safety for cyclists." The new routes have been welcomed by the Wirral branch of Merseyside Cycling Campaign which has congratulated the council on the new signage in particular. Engineers worked in consultation with Eastham Village Conservation Trust, using cast iron finger posts signs to fit in with the historical local character. Recycled materials were used for parts of the route.

For more information about this, or other cycle routes in the borough, please contact Wirral Council's cycling officer Cathy McNulty on 606 2368.

Plans to remove footbridges

WIRRAL Council is starting work on a £1m package of environmental improvements for the A41 corridor, including major schemes in the Eastham and New Ferry areas.

The project includes proposals to remove two steel footbridges in Mill Road, Bromborough and Carlett Park, Eastham. Built in the 1960s, the Council faces costs of up to £70,000 to repair the two structures.

Officers have been monitoring the two bridges and have determined that both now have low pedestrian usage. A recent traffic study has shown nearby pedestrian crossing facilities are being used in preference to the footbridges. The structures are also perceived by some people to be unsightly and may have the potential for attracting anti-social behaviour.

Vital funding is secured for transport schemes (Further details on page 24)

Having a say on Rights of Way in Wirral...

TECHNICAL Services is encouraging more residents to 'have a say' about the Rights of Way network in the borough.

Walkers have access to more than 70 miles of public footpath in Wirral. A Merseyside-wide forum has now been established to help make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable. The Local Access Forum meets every three months and includes representatives from the local authority, land managers and user groups.

Jim Donaldson from Highway Maintenance division explained: "Together, with land owners, the Council shares a joint responsibility to look after Wirral's Rights of Way network.

"We already have good contacts with the Ramblers Association and the British Horse Society - and through this new Forum we hope to reach wider audiences and encourage more people to make use of the many countryside footpaths we have here in Wirral. We welcome feedback from members of the public to register concerns over surface conditions, overhanging trees and hedges, mud and water problems, blocked ditches or obstructions. This helps our Rights of Way officer to identify if we need to take enforcement action or include a maintenance scheme in our improvement plan."