

**Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall**

**Area Forum**

**Area Co-ordinator's Report**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

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## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

### Minutes - Area Forum (Heswall and Pensby & Thingwall) 18 October 2006

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Present                          |  |
| Chairman                         | Councillor Mrs J McKelvie  |
| Ward Councillors                 | AC Hodson , IJ Mackenzie , SL Rowlands   |
| Community Representatives        | J Birch (Pensby and Thingwall Community Representative) ,<br>A Garrett (Heswall Community Representative)    |
| Lead Officer                     | Chris Batman (Education and Cultural Services Dept)  |
| Area Service Co-ordinator        | Janet Triggs   |
| Street Scene Manager             | Phil Miner   |
| Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service | Sara Lawton  |
| Council Officers                 | Tara Dumas (Recycling Officer) , Jim Thompson<br>(Community Safety Team)                                     |
| Apologies                        | Inspector Kate Cunningham , Councillor PSC Johnson ,<br>Geraldine Murphy-Walkden (Wirral Primary Care Trust) |

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#### Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions

Cllr. McKelvie opened the meeting by welcoming members of the top table and approximately 50 members of the public, and provided information on fire procedures and emergency exits. Cllr McKelvie introduced the Minute Clerk – Mrs Mary Johnson, wife of Councillor Peter Johnson. Janet Triggs advised those present that a hearing loop was in use.

#### Minute 2 - Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Cllr. McKelvie advised the forum that the figures given for the numbers of houses on Page 11 were incorrect. They should have read that of 140,000 households, there had been 1511 burglaries, of which 150 were from this forum area.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

a) Refurbishment of Heswall Railway Station. Cllr. McKelvie reported on a meeting held with Arriva North Wales. Arriva have given assurances that work will be starting here shortly, to include new fencing & shelters, particularly as some areas are considered unsafe.

b) Minute 5 – need for dropped kerbs. Cllr. McKelvie reported that she had visited Old Wood Road and identified several kerbs that need to be dropped. Some of these will be included in this year's budget, and the remainder put forward for next year.

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- c) Minute 4. Heather Jones asked about the small brown bins, Tara Dumas confirmed that these were in stock and agreed to investigate what is happening with them. \*
- d) Minute 3. Mr. Garrett reported that the former cashiers' office in Heswall library is not yet being used. Janet Triggs will investigate.
- e) Concern was expressed by a member of the public that some of the low bridge signs erected at Clatterbridge have been incorrectly positioned and that some have still not been erected. Phil Miner agreed to look into this.
- f) Minute 9 - Peter Williams raised concern over response from Inspector Cunningham re: motorists using mobile phones whilst driving and justifying their actions by saying it had been an emergency call. Sergeant Kendrick assured Mr Williams that Police treat such offences seriously and confirmed that the current £30 fine is to be increased. Cllr. Hodson reported that this had been brought up at the last Police Forum, where it was confirmed that motorists will be prosecuted. Jim Thompson reported that many motorists are seen using mobile phones, but terminate the call when a police car is visible, making it quite hard to catch people committing this crime.
- g) Minute 8. Primary Care Trust. Jonathan Birch asked whether any progress had been made on finding a site for the Doctors' Surgery. Geraldine Murphy-Walkden had advised at the previous meeting that this item went to the Cabinet and no decision has yet been reached. Cllr. McKelvie reported that when a further planning application is submitted a separate Area Forum meeting will be held regarding this item.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved that:

- (i) Tara Dumas to investigate when small brown bins will be distributed.
- (ii) Janet Triggs to request further information about the former cashier's office in Heswall Library
- (iii) Phil Miner to investigate situation re: signage at Clatterbridge.
- (iv) Cllr. McKelvie to arrange meeting to discuss site for Doctors surgery when a further planning application is submitted.

### **Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators Report, including Area Plan and Community Initiative Fund Updates**

The Area Co-ordinator gave an overview of her report, including local updates; Area Forum Funding; Local Area Plan; Youth and Streetscene updates and asked everyone to look at the Area Plan.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved that the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for her report.

### **Minute 4 - Streetscene Update**

Phil Miner reported that Biffa has been awarded the Contract for refuse collection and that staff are going through a major training schedule. Under the new contract collections will be made on Bank Holidays, with the exception of Christmas Day and Boxing Day and the collection dates will be amended to ensure all bins are emptied.

A trial programme of road surface dressings has been undertaken in Willaston Road, Clatterbridge and Denning Drive, Irby.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved that Phil miner be thanked for his update.

### **Minute 5 - Recycling Presentation**

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Tara Dumas reported that Wirral Council is gradually introducing their recycling scheme, this has already started in Prenton, and will be rolled out to the rest of the Borough from February.

Wirral is still very low on recycling performance rates, currently 12% when it should be 20%. Local Authorities will be fined if the vast majority of waste is not recycled. Therefore under the new scheme there will be a green bin for household rubbish, a brown bin for garden waste and a grey bin for paper and packaging materials. Tara gave answers to three of the most common questions which are asked:-

a) "What will happen if I haven't got room for three bins?"- If there is a genuine lack of space you may be offered narrower bins. The volume of the waste for the paper and packing will be equal to the other bins.

b) "I never have any space left in my green bin"- The green and grey bins will be collected on alternate weeks. The amount of general refuse will be substantially reduced as the quantity of recyclable waste increases.

c) "What if I make a mistake and put the wrong thing in the bin?" -The Council will put a policy to the Cabinet very soon, to encourage members of the public to recycle as much as possible. Fines would not be issued if people made an effort to recycle, and would only be used when people refused to recycle as contamination could cause serious problems. The bin will arrive with an information pack on how to minimise waste and highlights what can and cannot go in the bin. At this stage no plastic bags are to go in. The recycling plant based at Bidston is automated and can only separate certain items, however some contaminated rubbish can be removed such as metal. This is one of the easiest systems for recycling in the country. Tara then asked if anyone had any questions:-

Q. Brian Grey - was particularly concerned about contamination ie mixing glass and paper in the same bin\*

A. Tara - this system has worked well in America, and they are satisfied with the quality of the paper produced. The programme will be rolled out gradually in order to anticipate any problems and to make any necessary changes for the future.

Q. Val Curtis, Thingwall - when will communal areas receive grey bins, as I live in a block of flats?

A. Tara - due to the lack of space the programme may take longer to roll out to communal living areas. However, this will be monitored by a Council Officer. The existing bin stores may be able to take the extra bins but where space is limited, they will be revised. The roll-out should be about March 2007.

Q. Arthur Edwards, Thingwall - there has been confusion over times and dates of deliveries. Given that everyone wants their bins emptied, can the public be assured they will be collected? Mr. Edwards was also concerned about food being left in bins for two weeks and reported that the blue bag collection does not always work well.

A. Tara - it is difficult to give full assurances as sometimes all the bins are full, and it is not possible to collect more than the wagon will hold, so it may be necessary to return the following day. The green bin will be collected every other week, and booklets will be sent out giving tips on how to dispose of waste.

Sue Proudlove, Pensby stated that the blue bags would work if they were put through the letter boxes and not left on the grass. Tara responded that it was not practical to do this as some houses had large gardens.

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Q. Cllr. Rowlands – asked Tara why there was not a local composting site in Wirral as currently compostable waste is being transported to Hapsford.

A. Tara - at present a site is being looked for to increase the efficiency of the service, and there might be the possibility of a transfer station. It was mentioned that if people had gone to the Warrens last Sunday, they could have had free compost, provided they took a bag.

Q. Frank Kinlan, Heswall - we should have a recycling plant similar to the one at Neston where there is also a container for bottles.

A. Tara responded that the site in Neston is operated by a different organisation. Sites in Wirral are operated by the Merseyside Waste disposal Authority.

Q. Albert Owens, Thingwall - why are envelopes not to be included in the paper waste?

A. this is because of the gum used on the plastic windows. Shotton can now take the envelopes as long as the plastic windows have been removed.

Q. Willow Colios-Terry (PA to Stephen Hesford) asked what materials are going to go through the recycling plant at Bebington.

A. Paper will go to Shotton paper mill, but as yet not sure where cardboard will go. Plastic is going to a company at Sefton and glass to St. Helens, the steel and aluminium cans will be sold to a company to melt them down.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Tara be thanked for her presentation.

### **Minute 6 - Primary Care Trust Update**

There was no representative from the Primary Care Trust present at the meeting.

### **Minute 7 - Partner Updates - Fire and Rescue Service - Police - Community Safety**

Fire and Rescue Service

Sara Lawton of Mersey Fire and Rescue Services reported that the local Fire Station is now being managed by non-uniformed Station Managers, there will be four Managers across the Wirral. Sara is responsible for Heswall, Bromborough and Birkenhead.

Police

Sergeant Kendrick reported that the Road Policing units are now up and running. Speed is one of the major targets across Wirral and he asked that residents contact the police if they have a particular worry about speeding and they will send out a unit. It was pointed out that motorists always slow down where there is a police presence.

The Section 30 Order, which was put in place to reduce anti-social behaviour, has had an effect and it is being looked at throughout the Wirral. The Order can be used to disperse large groups of people (usually young people) to prevent them from causing a nuisance.

The skateboard park is now open in Gayton. There have been no problems so far with just one minor accident.

Q. member of the public - can anything be done about cars going the wrong way into Aldi's car park and would it be possible for parking attendants to intervene?

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A. Sergeant Kendrick - am aware of this problem, however only the Police have powers to address the situation.

Q. Mr. Robinson, Lower Heswall - reported that the Delavor Road area has become increasingly dangerous due to development work and members of the public parking to drop children at school. It is becoming increasingly difficult to pull out at the top of the road, would it be possible to make part of the road one-way, especially since it has become a rat run through the Lower Village up to join Telegraph Road?

A. Sergeant Kendrick - there is no justification for this, as there are not many accidents at that junction. There would not be a roundabout because of the dangerous bend at the bottom of Dee View Road.

Councillor Hodson added that unfortunately parents do not make their children walk to school, causing considerable congestion. There are also problems at Heswall Primary School in Whitfield Lane, and it was suggested that people write to Sergeant Kendrick personally when they feel there is a danger.

### Community Safety

Jim Thompson reported that, on the whole, Wirral is an extremely safe place to live and Heswall is one of the safest. Out of the 140,000 households in Wirral, only four are burgled on average per day. The highest proportion is on the Mersey side of the Peninsula. Overall serious crime has not increased on Wirral.

The Local Authority has to approve Section 30 Orders, and is looking at ways to encourage children to stay off the streets, and provide alternatives such as Youth Clubs or involving them in tasks in the community. Voluntary or community groups in Wirral can apply for Community Safety Funding for projects involving young people where they are becoming a nuisance or causing excessive noise, the closing date for applications is 30th October 2006.

Q. Mrs Rafferty - parts of Pensby are a problem, and there was a murder in Barnston, but there is no mention of this in the Area Plan.

A. Janet Triggs - the figures had probably been prepared before the murder had been recorded.

### Minute Decision :

Resolved that Sara Lawton, Sergeant Kendrick and Jim Thompson be thanked for their updates.

### Minute 8 - Older Peoples Parliament

Councillor McKelvie informed the forum that application forms for the Older People's Forum were available at the meeting, and felt this would provide a new dimension at each Area Forum. She asked members of the public to fill in the application forms and send to Tracy Smith at Wallasey Town Hall. The first meeting will probably be held early in the New Year, the minimum age is over 50.

Councillor McKelvie also mentioned that the Young People's Parliament was held this week, was attended by representatives from secondary schools, and the whole day was a great success.

### Minute 9 - Public question time

Q. Mr Garrett - has a planning application been received for the Deeside caravan site in Broad Lane?

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A. Councillor Hodson - Martin Brassey (the Architect) has reported that the Council want the site closed for several weeks of the year however the owners want it open all year round and this needs to be resolved. They are proposing to have 22 caravans on the site. If there is no sign of a clean up within the next 21 days a Section 79 Notice will be served, however the owners may claim the cost of renovation from the Council if the planning situation has not been settled.

Q. Mr. David Hall - Raised serious concern that there would be serious impact on the environment if permission is given for the Warrens to be the site for the new health centre many trees will be destroyed and rare species of plants will disappear, some of which are not even at Ness Gardens. It is a strong horticultural site, and would cause a further loss of a green site in the area.

A. Cllr. McKelvie – responded that as she has promised earlier, there will be a Special Area Forum meeting about this and such concerns should be raised there. This meeting will be arranged after a planning application has been received.

Q. Mr. Kinlan - raised concern that the closing date for objections regarding recent proposals for the Tesco application for a car wash had been changed from the 28th October to the 21st, not allowing much time to act.

A. Councillor Hodson - reported that the residents of Dale Court had contacted him with concerns on this, and he had spoken to Head Office about these, particularly about the deliveries coming before 7 a.m. (which was not in their original consent). Councillor Hodson confirmed that he will be speaking against the application. Tesco was due to send their community officer to a meeting, however they didn't appear.

Q. Mr. Kinlan - the ambulance station is worried about the traffic, and the fact that they might not be able to get out of the station.

A. Councillor Hodson - I have spoken to the ambulance station and the police about this.

Q. Mr Graham Davies - raised concern over issue of different deadlines being published for commenting on planning applications and requested that this be addressed (objections for Sheldrakes should be in by the 30th October, but it stated in the paper that these needed to be in by 4th November) as this can lead to objections being submitted too late.

A. Chris Batman agreed to contact the Planning Office for a response on this.

Q. John Hebron - would it be possible to have the libraries open again on Wednesday and at lunchtime, as they are not providing the services needed by the public. Alternatively, could they close on different days so that it was possible to access some libraries on a Wednesday.

A. Chris Batman agreed to look into this and report back.

Q. Member of public - thanked the Council for providing the skateboard park, but asked whether video cameras can be installed and mentioned that the bins are regularly overflowing (these issues have been raised with Steve Beal).

A. Councillor Hodson - have arranged for the bins to be put on the emptying list. CCTV will be put up, and will incorporate the front door of the squash courts and the park area.

Q. Sue Proudlove - raised concern over limited access to shops in Heswall and asked what progress can be made on access? (I am unable to enter some due to steps at the entrance, and have had to be served outside the shop on a couple of occasions. When raised this issue with the shop assistant was told that they weren't aware of any legislation/regulations



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regarding access).

A. Phil Miner - informed the forum that improvements to the shops are being looked at. Councillor McKelvie - agreed to contact the Access Officer, Steve Foden, to find out what is happening on this.

A member of Heswall Business Association reported that the issue of access was discussed 12 months ago, and that it is not actually the Council but the business owner's responsibility. There have been some seminars and information has been provided on this.

Councillor Rowlands informed the forum that the Council is due to publish its Disability Equalities Policy on 6th December.

Mrs Rafferty raised concern over articulated lorries still using Barnston Road, some of which are difficult to identify, but many are basically large white wagons. Tesco and the Dutch flower wagons are easily identifiable and possibly some of the others may be going to Aldi. Some lorries have been seen in the early hours of the morning. Mrs Rafferty also asked what is happening to Barnston's identity (somebody has decided to split it so that half is in Wirral West and half in Wirral South and it needs to be put back on the map)? Councillor McKelvie has made sure that Barnston is in the Area Plan. Mrs Rafferty would like Barnston to be included in the name of the Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forum.

Q. Mr. Garrett - raised concern re: the 276 bus service, which is about to be stopped.

A. Councillor McKelvie - the service been reprieved until January 2007.

Mr Garrett urged that this service, and the 166 / 167 Easy Bus services be used more otherwise they will be lost, and he thanked Heswall Churches for supporting the petition. Only 15 services start in this area and there are 67 on the whole of Wirral.

Councillor Hodson thanked Mr Garrett for all his work collecting the signatures for the petition, and confirmed that Merseytravel is currently reviewing all services.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved that:

(i) Councillor McKelvie to arrange a special Area Forum to discuss the PCT plans for the new Health Centre at the Warren's site, once the planning application has been received.

(ii) Chris Batman to contact the Planning Office for response re: issue over deadlines for submitting comments on planning applications and report back on this.

(iii) Chris Batman to investigate issue of opening times of the libraries and report back on this.

(iv) Councillor McKelvie to contact the Council's Access Officer re: access to shops in Heswall.

### **Minute 10 - Dates of Future meetings / Presentations - 27th February 2007**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th February 2007 at Pensby Recreation Centre.

### **Minute 11 - Any other business**

Councillor McKelvie informed the forum that Mr Paul Duffey has resigned as a community representative on the area forum, as can no longer attend the meetings because of business commitments. He has been sent a letter to thank him for his services. Councillor McKelvie

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requested that anyone interested in becoming a community representative for the Pensby Thingwall are, complete an application form, available from the Area Co-ordinator or from the Community Planning Team at Wallasey Town Hall.

As there was no further business Councillor McKelvie thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.10 pm

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Mr Duffey's resignation from the forum be noted.

### **Matters arising:**

#### **From October Forum issue raised that have had responses:**

d) Minute 3. Mr. Garrett reported that the former cashiers' office in Heswall library is not yet being used. Janet Triggs will investigate.

Response: After Cashiers vacated Heswall Library the space was empty until recently when we have moved the One Stop Shop further down the Library to go into that vacated space and leaving more space for the Library.

#### **Minute 9 - Public question time**

Q. Sue Proudlove - raised concern over limited access to shops in Heswall and asked what progress can be made on access? (I am unable to enter some due to steps at the entrance, and have had to be served outside the shop on a couple of occasions. When raised this issue with the shop assistant was told that they weren't aware of any legislation/regulations regarding access).

Response: The council does not have any enforcement powers on making shops accessible to all. It is for the individual disabled person to take action under the Act.

The shop owner is only required to make the premises reasonably accessible under the Act and they should prepare an access improvement plan for the way they deliver the service. The test of reasonableness is dependent upon the size of the organisation what is reasonable for say Marks and Spencer's is not the same as a small one person shop.

It all depends on the small easily achieved steps such as large print menus, note pad by the till for people with hearing impairment, large price labels and a grab handle by the door etc. It would not be reasonable say for a small business operating on the first floor to install a lift however it would be reasonable to ensure the stairs have handrails and the edge of the steps were highlighted.

Any alterations in future should be checked against the access improvement plan to see if they could improve access to the premises.

Q. John Hebron - would it be possible to have the libraries open again on Wednesday and at lunchtime, as they are not providing the services needed by the public. Alternatively, could they close on different days so that it was possible to access some library's on a Wednesday

Response: Chris Batman will give a verbal report at 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007 meeting.

**Safer & Stronger Communities****Community Volunteers, Special Constables and Police  
Community Support and Traffic Officers, Required****Roles As Unique As You Are - HELP MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY SAFER****VOLUNTEERS:**

Making our community safer is something that everybody can help to do. It's not just about policing – there is a huge need for a new injection of voluntary help and we're looking for people of all ages, races, genders and educational backgrounds to meet it.



Opportunities for Volunteers are diverse and can include: -

- Assisting Front Office Counter enquiries
- Speedwatch - Monitoring of traffic speed in response to community concerns
- Leafleting crime prevention information
- Assisting with Wirral Watch schemes
- Presenting crime prevention advice to vulnerable groups within the community
- Assisting police staff in administrative or communication work

We will provide you with the necessary training, support and where appropriate reimburse expenses - to enable you to undertake your voluntary service effectively.

Personal benefits of volunteering will also include:

- Helping your local policing team to make your local community safe
- Meeting new people and learning new skills
- Experiencing policing at first hand
- Providing an opportunity for personal development and achievement
- Evidence for your curriculum vitae
- Offering you a potential career path to the Police Service

## Section 2

## Local Updates

### **SPECIAL CONSTABULARY:**

Members of the Merseyside Police Special Constabulary are volunteers, who, in their spare time provide valuable assistance to their regular colleagues, support staff and members of the extended police family.



They are men and women from all walks of life, varied ethnic backgrounds and all sections of the community – shop assistants, electricians, sales persons, students, teachers, police support staff, business managers or at home bringing up a family. They are ordinary people who want to make a difference in improving the quality of life for their communities.

Merseyside Police Special Constabulary is looking for new recruits. If you are interested in joining, or would just like to talk to someone to get more information, call Shirley Greenwell on 0151-777 8244 or via e-mail at [Shirley.Greenwell@merseyside.police.uk](mailto:Shirley.Greenwell@merseyside.police.uk).

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND TRAFFIC OFFICERS:**

Merseyside Polices' focus is to put the community at the heart of everything we do, providing a service that our public has confidence in, and becoming a centre of excellence for community safety on Merseyside.

#### **The role of the Police Community and Traffic Support Officer:**



The roles of Police Community Support Officers and Traffic Community Support Officers has recently been reviewed by the Workforce Modernisation team. As a result, the roles of the Police Community Support Officer and Traffic Community Support Officer will now be combined. The 'dual role' will play a crucial role in building trust and confidence in policing and community safety.

Being an intrinsic part of neighbourhood policing, Police Community and Traffic Support Officers are managed and led by neighbourhood police teams at a local level. Their role is to tackle anti-social behaviour and contribute to improved reassurance in the community by:

- Engaging with the community to improve public reassurance and quality of life issues
- Increasing visibility in public places through foot and cycle patrol
- Supporting our response to calls for service

## Section 2

## Local Updates

### Police Community Support and Traffic Officers – Designated powers:

The Chief Constable has designated the below powers to Police Community Support and Traffic Officers to deliver effective policing through:

- Confiscating alcohol from young persons (under 18)
- Confiscating tobacco from young persons (under 16)
- Removing abandoned vehicles
- Taking the names and addresses of persons acting in an anti-social manner.
- Power to detain a person for failing to give a name and address when requested
- Traffic Warden powers (minus yellow line offences which are managed by Local Authority wardens)

Interested in making a difference in your community? - We're waiting to hear from you. How to apply: Call the Extended Police Family Co-ordinator for Wirral on 0151 606 5448 or e-mail [kate.roberts@merseyside.police.uk](mailto:kate.roberts@merseyside.police.uk) with your details, or apply in writing to:

**Volunteer Recruitment Co-ordinator, Merseyside Police, Wallasey,  
Police Station, Personnel Unit, Manor Road, Liscard, Wirral, CH44 1DA**

## Merseyside Fire Service

### WELL DONE EVERYONE 😊

Wirral and our partners received 3 Community Fire Safety awards for recognition of all the hard work that is undertaken to ensure Wirral is a safer and healthier place to live, work and enjoy. Firstly the Wirral section of the Fire Service Network received recognition for all the volunteer support for community well being and life saving work they give on the Wirral. Kathy Gill on behalf of Poppin also received an award for their support to community fire safety.

For the second year running a Wirral Station received the Merseyside Community Fire Station of the Year. The award went to Bromborough for their ground breaking Market garden and integration with the commercial community in the area. These achievements could not have made without the help from all of our colleagues who work close with us. Your continuing innovation, support and tireless effort is making a difference.

Daryl Oprey, Wirral District Manager, <http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk>

## Council issues urgent warning about bogus doorstep collections

## Section 2

## Local Updates

Wirral Council's Trading Standards Team are warning Wirral residents not to give to a bogus Third World Clothing Appeal.

The scamsters are giving residents a leaflet asking them to leave their unwanted clothes which they then sell for their own profit.

The leaflet claims to come from a legitimate steel business called ASD Ltd who are not involved in the scam.

The leaflet contains limited company registration numbers for two companies, Olonex Ltd and Help Line UK Ltd, both of which are no longer operating and cannot legally trade.

John Malone, Wirral Council's Trading Standards Manager said: "I strongly advise the public not to leave any clothing in response to this request.

There are plenty of genuine, local charities who would be more than happy to receive your unwanted goods. These charities often deliver collection bags."

### **Residents warned against bogus tree fellers**

Wirral Trading Standards have issued a warning to the public about itinerant tree fellers operating in the borough following recent stormy weather.

John Malone, Trading Standards Manager warned: "Recent storms will have caused damage to householders' trees. They should be wary about traders who knock on their doors offering to trim and remove any damaged trees."

"We have received complaints from older residents who have been verbally quoted a price of £30 but were charged £180 when the work was completed. The trader dropped a leaflet through the door stating SPECIAL RATES FOR OAPS, unfortunately the special rate was an excessive charge." Wirral's Trading Standards recommend that residents get quotations from local traders before agreeing to have any tree work carried out. Itinerants who can only be contacted by mobile telephone are unlikely to return to sort out any problems

## Healthier Communities & Older People

**PCT update on:** *Practice relocations (developments or plans for GP practice or health care provision within each area forum locality). (No update currently)*

**PCT response to any queries/concerns, which arose from the last Area Forum.**

Question: No questions arose at this area forum.

**“Wirral’s Public Health Report”** presents the state of Wirral's health and well-being in an electronic format. It demonstrates the breadth and depth of our intelligence regarding the health of Wirral's population and the complexity involved in reducing health inequalities and improving life expectancy for our residents.

At the forum, there will be an opportunity for forum members to gain a snap shot overview of the health of their area through an interactive presentation. The full report can be accessed at - <http://nww.wirralpct.nhs.uk/>

**Did you know that from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 England is to become smoke free?**

**What does this mean for you?** From 1st of July 2007, virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England will become smoke free. This includes pubs, restaurants, bingo halls and shopping centres. All no-smoking premises must display no-smoking signs. A smoke free England will ensure a healthier environment, so everyone can socialise, relax, travel, shop and work free from second-hand smoke.

Who's going to enforce the smoke free regulations? Local Environmental Health Officers, who will be able to issue fixed penalty fines to anyone who is committing an offence, will enforce the law. However, we know from the experience of other countries that smoke free legislation is largely self-enforcing. There will be a phone-line created to support local authorities in their compliance work and further details will be made public in due course.

**What are the penalties for breaking the law?**

- Smoking in a smoke free building: *fixed penalty notice £50*
- Failure to display no-smoking signs in smoke free premises: *fixed penalty notice £200*
- Failing to prevent smoking in smoke free premises: *a fine up to £2500*

**What is happening on Wirral?**

The Local Authority and Wirral PCT are working in partnership to plan for the implementation of the new legislation. The aims are to:

- Ensure Wirral businesses are sufficiently prepared to meet the new smoking legislation
- Ensure that the Wirral public and business sector develop a culture of co-operation with the legislation through effective communication and enforcement

This process has already begun and Smoke Free Wirral has engaged with Pub watch to provide information on the forthcoming legislation and is about to meet with personnel managers from local businesses.

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Leading up to implementation there will be widespread media coverage including TV adverts from March 2007. If you require any further information on the legislation, you can visit [www.smokefreeengland.co.uk](http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk) or you can contact Mike Donnelly from Smoke Free Wirral if your business needs assistance in preparing for smoke free legislation.

**Wirral PCT want to support you in taking the first steps towards giving up smoking, for further information contact Wirral SUPPORT Intermediate Advisors in Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall Practices**

|                           |                         |  |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Heswall Health Centre     | Telegraph Road, Heswall | Angela Harrison 342 2230               |
| The Surgery               | 349 Pensby Road, Pensby | Sally Graham, Carol Walker<br>648 1193 |
| Irby Surgery              | 33 Thingwall Road       | Nicci Stonley 342 2557                 |
| Winterdyne                | 8 Rocky Lane, Heswall   | Janet Adams 342 2557                   |
| Silverdale Medical Centre | Mount Avenue, Heswall   | Nicky Hennessy 342 6128                |

**Did you know that you can go to your pharmacy for advice on stopping smoking and Nicotine Replacement Therapy (patches) on prescription at:**

|         |                  |   |   |          |
|---------|------------------|---|---|----------|
| Heswall | Tesco            | 141 Telegraph Rd                              | Chris Fielding, Lynn Jones<br>Liz Kirkham, Mel Oldham<br>Julia McMillan | 801 7049 |
| Heswall | Boots            | 218-220 Telegraph Rd, Heswall                 | Carol Walker, Christine Millington, Julie Hellon                        | 342 2663 |
| Heswall | CUBBINS Pharmacy | 119 Brimstage Road, Heswall Hills<br>CH60 1XF | Jack Birchall   | 342 4385 |

### **Government inspectors recognise improving services for vulnerable people in Wirral**

Improvements in services for vulnerable people in Wirral have been officially recognised by the Commission for Social Care Inspection, CSCI.

Following the annual review of performance by CSCI, Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services has received a rating of two stars, an improvement on the one star rating for the combined adult and children's Social Services Department last year.

This means that, once again, Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services has improved its services and outcomes for the vulnerable adults of Wirral who need care and support.

Inspectors from CSCI were particularly impressed by the Department's work in consulting people who use its services, the strong leadership evident within the organisation and partnerships with other agencies including market providers.



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Wirral's Director of Adult Social Services, Kevin Miller, said: "This rating is well-deserved recognition for staff who work directly with those vulnerable people in achieving the outcomes they need. I'd like to place on record my thanks to them all for their hard work and commitment. "Of course, while we celebrate this achievement, we won't be resting on our laurels. Further improvements are in the pipeline in terms of both practice and efficiency.

These improvements will hopefully result in even better services for the people who use the Department's services and will provide evidence for the major inspection of Older People's Services that is due in the New Year."

### **Council named as one of top training providers by Government watchdog**

Wirral Council's Lifelong and Family Learning Service has today been named as one of the top training providers in the country. The announcement was made by the Adult Learning Inspectorate, the Government body responsible for the quality of education and training for adults and young people. The report highlighted the service's effective partnership working and praised the ability to reach hard to reach groups. Wirral were one of only three local authority adult learning services to be named in the report. Head of Wirral's Lifelong and Family Learning Service Sarah Howarth said: "We are really thrilled to be named in the report. All the learners and staff work really hard and they deserve to be recognised.

"We aim continue to continue to work closely with local people and communities to provide a good adult learning service." At the launch of his annual report for 2005-2006 Chief Inspector David Sherlock named the service as being one of only 151 organisations to receive 'good' or 'outstanding' inspection grades for every aspect of its training.

David Sherlock said: "I am delighted to be able to name Wirral Council as one of this year's outstanding providers. They have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to achieving the very highest standards in the quality of adult and family training they offer. "Learners can be confident that they will receive first-class support to reach their full potential. To be one of the top providers in the country is a tremendous achievement and a great credit to the team at Wirral."

Wirral Lifelong and Family learning Service offers part-time courses for adults across Wirral. Courses are offered in the main centres in Leasowe and Rock Ferry and in schools, Children's Centres and community venues. The service has around 4,000 enrolments a year and courses range from basic computers, family learning, literacy and numeracy for adults, arts and crafts, languages and a wide range of other subjects. The Chief Inspector continued: "This year we can celebrate a phenomenal improvement in the performance of the learning and skills sector. Learning provision for adults is better, more varied, more closely linked to achieving fulfilment in life and work and more inclusive of our people than ever before. That is the stuff of delight. It should give intense satisfaction to all who have contributed to its realisation, but most of all to the providers themselves."

**For further information contact Nikki Mullineux, Press and PR Officer, Wirral Council, 0151 691 8360.**

**Older Peoples Parliament Update**

As you will be aware the council has been supporting the establishment of an Older People's Parliament for Wirral. The initiative is being led by the Wirral Senior Citizen's Forum led by Jack Cuffe and Ken McDermott. The process which the Forum has adopted it to invite applications for membership of the Parliament from interested people from across the Borough. It is the intention to bring all the applicants together in January 2007 to establish the Parliament and determine how it will work.

**Still a few vacancies for Wirral's Older People's Parliament**

Are you an older person with something to say? There are still a few vacancies for Wirral's new Older People's Parliament. The Parliament, which has been set up in partnership with Wirral's Senior Citizens' Forum, will give older people an opportunity to have their say on Council decisions that affect their lives.

Membership of the Parliament will be organised around the areas covered by Local Area Forums, with each Forum having four representatives. Attendance at the Forums will be on a rota basis with each Forum having two places available for older people.

**People over 50 who are interested in joining the Older People's Parliament, should phone Tracey Smith on 0151 691 8026 or email [traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk) for an application form**

**Involvement in Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services**

As government policy increasingly reinforces the need for significant involvement from people who use our services and carers, there is a need for a clear, straightforward and simple strategy across the whole Department that establishes good practice in relation to Involvement.

The Department has shown its dedication to involvement by creating a full time permanent post to co-ordinate the Involvement agenda across the whole Department. The Involvement Officer happens to be a user/survivor of Mental Health Services, which further demonstrates the Department's commitment to meaningful and proactive involvement and inclusion.

The first task of the Involvement Officer is to engage with people who use our services, carers, staff and the community and write an Involvement Strategy that will give us direction for the next three years. Once the Strategy has been drafted, we will consult with people for their comments and feedback, through the Area Forums. Through our strategy the Department wants to work in partnership with other stakeholders and contribute to the overall progress and advancement of involving people who use our services and carers in Wirral.

As a Department we want to

- Present a firm, coherent and principled value-base in relation to involving people who use our services and carers
- Present good quality ideas, good practice guidelines and practical examples of involvement
- Celebrate what has been achieved as regards our current position of involvement
- Lay out a vision for future involvement

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- Establish our standing as a leading edge organisation with a strong commitment to involvement.

We will be exploring and experimenting with ways to move on and achieve these goals. An excellent practical example of this is our groundbreaking work re-writing all our policy and procedures. We have set up Policy Boards to write our 8 pillar policies, one of which being Involving People.

There are people who use our services and carers on each of the policy boards as well as representation from the voluntary and community sector. This innovative piece of work has been so successful that similar Boards will be set to write the associated procedures that will come from policies.

Involvement has many benefits in addition to improved and responsive services. For some people, being involved is an important part of a recovery process, as they find their confidence builds. Involvement gives people opportunities to become reacquainted with their skills, while offering new avenues for learning. In turn, people feel valued, accepted and respected.

Along with the camaraderie that can only come from people who are living through similar experiences, people find that through involvement they make steps towards recovery and well-being. This form of self recovery is not often available through traditional services and support.

Enough said, watch this space for further developments.....

For further information please contact

Nici Campbell, Involvement Officer, 0151 666 5149

[nicicampbell@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:nicicampbell@wirral.gov.uk)

Wirral Hospital   
NHS Trust

**Engagement Strategy** - *The aim of this report is to ‘set the scene’ for presentations by the Trust at future forums, as part of our ongoing engagement strategy, at which more detail will be communicated about the Trust’s plans for the next five years.*

**Wirral Hospital: into a new era** - The development of our Engagement Strategy marks the second phase in meeting our commitment to engage more closely with the communities we serve.

The first phase of this ongoing process came in February 2006 when we undertook a massive consultation programme in relation to our application for Foundation Trust Status “A Change for the Better”. This consultation laid out our service plans for the next five years, which were then published as a formal part of our application to become a Foundation Trust. We are now half way through our application to become a Foundation Trust and feel that this is the right time to again engage with the communities we serve.

In the coming months, we will be talking – and listening – to people like you about our plans for the future. Hospital services are changing right across the country and it is important that we keep you up to date on developments. At future presentations we will be in a position to tell you more about our plans.

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**Agenda** - Our aim for this brief report is to set the scene and remind you about:

- **who we are**, because sometimes there is confusion about who provides which health service
- **why we are changing** – we have to move with the times and respond to changing needs and demands, which I want to talk about
- and finally, **how we are changing**.

**Who we are** - Wirral Hospital NHS Trust manages two hospitals, providing services for approximately 320,000 people. Arrowe Park Hospital in Upton has around 900 beds and provides a complete range of acute health services. Clatterbridge Hospital in Bebington has around 200 beds for elective surgery (planned operations), rehabilitation services and care of older people. The Trust also manages the X-ray facilities, outpatient services and day hospital at Victoria Central Hospital and the Radiography Department at St Catherine's Hospital. The Trust budget is c£220m and we employ around 6,000 staff across all our sites.

**NHS Foundation Trust** - All hospitals have to become FTs by 2008. NHS FTs are a new kind of NHS organisation. They are accountable to their Membership and to Parliament, rather than to the Department of Health. An independent regulator, Monitor, makes sure they meet requirements and reports on this to Parliament. FTs have Members and Governors – unlike current NHS trusts. Members elect Governors to represent them and to set direction for the organisation. The establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors is a key part of our ongoing engagement strategy. We are aiming for at least 13,000 public members – currently we have 6,000.

### **An NHS FT:**

- provides free NHS services on the basis of individual need and not ability to pay
- has to meet NHS standards in everything that it does and will be inspected by the Healthcare Commission and other national bodies
- employs NHS staff on their current terms and conditions of employment
- is accountable to local people through a Council of Governors elected by its members
- has Members who provide a strong link between the services it provides and the local communities it serves
- has to provide real opportunities for staff, service users and carers to influence decision making
- is part of the NHS and cannot be privatised - the level of money it can earn by doing private health work is capped by law
- has to maintain good working relationships with other health and social care organisations

**Changes in NHS nationally** - The NHS has seen a massive increase in funding in recent years, which has brought significant improvements to the way in which patients receive their care and treatment. The dramatic reduction in the maximum waiting times for planned operations (18 months to 6 months) is just one example. As well as improving services for patients the increase in funding has also enabled significant increases in salaries for doctors and nurses both in hospitals and in primary care.

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The Government has introduced a number of strategies to enable the NHS to maintain its progress and achieve further improvements both in terms of services to patients but also in terms of the efficiency with which these services are provided. These include:

- changing the way in which NHS trusts are funded. No longer do they receive an annual allocation at the start of the year, but instead are paid according to the number and type of patients they treat (Payment by Results)
- giving patients a choice of which hospital to attend, encouraging trusts to raise standards in order to attract patients through their doors
- offering services, which traditionally were provided in hospitals, closer to people's homes in community settings and developing community services to avoid some patients having to go into hospital
- ensuring NHS trusts become more efficient by requiring them to meet a 2.5% efficiency target by matching the best national or international levels of performance

**Five year plan** - Over the last 10 years Wirral Hospital NHS Trust has become one of the most successful NHS trusts in the country. It has a tremendously strong track record of robust financial management that has enabled the expansion of the range, quality and availability of services to patients. As well as reducing waiting times and balancing our books we have also been able to develop services locally that previously had only been provided in Liverpool. We need to make sure we keep improving and developing services while making realistic financial assumptions and meeting national efficiency requirements. To do this we have developed a five year plan which includes:

- Our plans to treat many more patients and so reduce waiting times to 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment by December 2008
- Our plans to spend over £10M a year on better equipment and facilities such as more single rooms and ward upgrades, parents accommodation and a new heart treatment laboratory
- Our plans to develop more specialist services locally to avoid patients having to travel to Liverpool

Achieving our plans will cost a lot of money and will require us to improve the way we provide services. Treating additional patients will bring more money into the Trust (our income is forecast to go up by around £40M over the five years) but this will not cover all of the extra costs we will face. Comparing ourselves to other hospitals suggests we can do things more efficiently. We have developed plans to improve the way we provide services by reducing the need for patients to come into hospital the night before their operation and making sure they can go home the day they have their operation. We are also planning to improve our elderly care and rehabilitation services, alongside developments in services in primary care, so that patients can be discharged earlier than they are now. We are also looking at the possibility of providing some services in partnership with other NHS organisations or other public sector providers.

Our proposals aim to treat many more patients but to reduce the Trust's running costs by just over £20 million over the next five years by providing services more efficiently for example by:

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- Reducing our numbers of surgical beds by admitting patients on the day of their operation and converting beds into day-case beds so that more patients to go home the same day
- Reducing the number of beds we need for patients who do need to stay overnight, by working with primary care services to develop community services and by improving our discharge procedures

Moving forward together - The Trust has engaged with the local community regarding its application to become a Foundation Trust but clearly this has to be an ongoing process. As we are now half way through our Foundation Trust application it seems appropriate to undertake further engagement, which will then feed into and hopefully our ongoing strategy and the establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors. Over the coming months and at future meetings we will be talking in more detail about our plans.

## Children & Young People

### Wirral Youth Service

Provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. The Service's age range is 13-25 years; prioritising young people aged 13-19 years. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

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

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

The Service is flexible and able to respond to the needs of young people and offers opportunities that are both universal and targeted. Youth work on Wirral is delivered through joint working between the Local Authority, voluntary organisations and other agencies. Youth workers work with young people in many different localities in Wirral. Having a variety of youth clubs and street work projects allows youth workers to work with young people in their neighbourhoods, meet their specific needs and respond to issues that are important to them.

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

**Response** is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex

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

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

**Duke of Edinburgh's Award** The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 450 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels. The Award is available to all young people aged between 14 and 25 with the emphasis being the development of young people's leisure time. By taking part in the Award, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

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

**The North End Young People's Project** is working with the Claughton Residents Association to promote a Friday evening sports session at the all weather pitch at Birkenhead Park Rugby Club.

**The Fender Youth Action Project** undertakes work with young people on the Beechwood and Ballantyne Estates. The Wednesday night sports session at the recreation centre is well supported.

**Charring Cross Methodist Y.C.** (Open. Monday and Wednesdays 6.30 – 9.30pm. Thursdays 7–10pm. Saturday 4-7pm). Took part in the Methodist association of youth clubs "Break Out" event which was a successful residential weekend experience. Six young people achieved the 100hrs millennium award as the unit continues to support volunteering and community service. Project work has been carried out on issues of health and well being, rights and responsibilities, relationships, community awareness, music and creative arts, fitness and sport, gym painting and an anti bullying.

**Cavendish Youth Club** Open Monday and Wednesday 7-10pm. As well as the usual programme Members have been involved in the packing and delivery of food parcels to the elderly in the area. A partnership with the Youth theatre has now developed a bid for Funding to youth forum.

**Beacon Open Day**

With the Beacon status comes the responsibility for organising an 'Open Day' and other learning opportunities for colleagues and partners both within Wirral and in other local authorities. The day aims to be a two-way sharing of good practice. In preparation for the day every Lead Member for Children's Services in England received an individual Invitation to attend in person or send an officer in their place.

All eight Positive Youth Engagement Beacon Councils have to put on an Open Day, so attracting delegates can be a challenge; the majority tend to be from the immediate area. Wirral's Open Day welcomed a very pleasing total of 128 delegates registered on the day. These delegates represented the Authority's departments, partner organisations, elected members and organisations from across the country. In addition to delegates from Wirral, other areas represented were: Cumbria CC, Northwest Regional Youth Work Unit, South Tyneside, Oldham, York, East Riding of Yorkshire, Salford, Warwickshire, Sefton, Warrington. The day comprised a series of workshops and displays, with entertainment provided by pupils of Ridgeway High School and young people from Forum Housing.

The workshops were:

- Charter of Participation (attended by all delegates)

The following six themes, from which delegates chose two:

- My Ideal Social Worker/My Ideal Foster Carer
- Delivering the Citizenship Curriculum
- Preventing Homelessness among the Young
- Don't Give Up! – Maintaining contact with Young People
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue – Early Interventions
- Health Promoting Schools

Feedback from the delegates, both during the day and afterwards - has been almost entirely positive. A sample few from the many delegates from outside Wirral are:

- 'Varied programme of workshops, entertainment and inputs. Good involvement by young people. Evidence of energy and commitment from all of those involved in planning and delivering the day. Excellent welcome and staff and young people were available throughout the day to help. Well done – an excellent day!'
- 'As a new lead Member for Children's Services, I learnt a lot and picked up some good ideas.'
- 'I already have some new ideas to take back to my services, to get them to think differently!'
- 'It's been a great day and I enjoyed it immensely. It was good to see people working together to ensure that participation happens.'
- 'One of the best conferences I have ever attended.'
- 'A very informative day in all aspects. I hope to have the opportunity of attending again in the future. Can we have more events like this?'
- East Riding of Yorkshire: 'Excellent day! Thank you!'



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Follow up to the day is a commitment to peer mentoring and learning sessions, either with groups or one-to-one. All out-of-area delegates have already been contacted asking them if they would like any follow-up support. These sessions have been planned to take place early in the New Year when there will be greater capacity within the service to meet the potential increase in workload. The range and scope of these learning activities will depend on the degree of uptake from delegates and others.

### Youth Voice Conference & Youth Parliament 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006

The following themes identified from Youth Voice Conference Workshops, Hot Seating and the Round Table Discussion at Youth Parliament. The issues to be followed up can be addressed on a thematic basis as follows:-

**Environment** Choice of bins for recycling, Leaflets to be less confusing, More education on recycling, Recycling bins for schools, Schools to be included as part of official collection system, Energy Conservation to be promoted, Too much lighting in some places and not enough in Arrowe Park or Victoria Park

**Transport** Cost of transport for 16 yr olds, Attitude of staff to young people, more frequent buses and trains, State of railway stations, Prices for students too expensive, Security/safety at stations and on buses

**Community Safety** Focused policing more structured approach to communities, Bring adults and young people together, Police and young people use of ASBOS, section 30s and moving young people on, Impact of Section 30s when separating groups of young people, Need more Community Safety Officers on Street Safety in schools, Security at railway stations, How to break down barriers between police and young people?

**Places To Go and Things To Do** Youth Shelters requested youth provision in affluent areas, Extend school facilities across Wirral for weekend and evening use, Weekend provision, Appropriate places to go for like-minded people, Need to consider needs of 15-18yr olds when planning for provision. Safe places where young people can drink. (NB need to highlight here that L.A. cannot break law). Link to health agenda. Cost of leisure facilities for young people, Venues for band performances. Lighting at football cages .Recording studios for local bands, possible discount passes and swipe cards for use in leisure facilities. Play spaces with lighting and consultation at all levels. Opportunities to be advertised.

**Learning & Achievement** PSHE classes to be more than just information. Considerations to be given as to who does this teaching. Timing of education in schools which tackles drug and alcohol misuse. Work on inter-generational understanding and racial understanding to be provided at a young age. Schools are a resource which could be utilized at the weekends. In School Counselling for support during stressful periods.

**Making a Positive Contribution** Youth Parliament to include homeless and gypsy young people. Advertise youth forums. Promote the existence of and opportunity to be involved in the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. Student Councils - concerns raised. How to respond to views of young people.

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**Leisure** Young people being moved out of parks. Cost of Leisure facilities too high for young people. Lighting in Parks – Paths to be lit up. Litter in the park and general maintenance. Free Leisure entrance for all under 16s. Parks being used inappropriately by gangs drinking there. Provision of music venues for bands. Lower costing of facilities at specific times. Discount passes and swipe cards for young people. Special rates for different ages on different days.

**Housing Support** for vulnerable young people who are homeless at 16 Support for homeless young people who have drug-alcohol problems. Homelessness prevention. Place of safety for U16 who are homeless. Link between mental health and homelessness.

### Report of Youth Parliament & Youth Voice Conference 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006

The Youth Voice Conference and the Youth Parliament took place at Wallasey Town hall on 9 October 2006. This was the fourth Youth Voice Conference and the first Youth Parliament. The purpose of both events was to gather the views of Wirral's young people on issues that were important to them.

**Youth Voice Conference** The number of schools involved in this event has increased with 26 out of 27 secondary schools having an input and 24 out of 27 actually attending the day. The 3 secondary schools that did not attend were Kilgarth, Foxfield and Wirral Hospital School – in all cases staffing issues prevented the schools sending participants. 117 young people in total attended the Youth Voice Conference.

**Youth Parliament** The Youth Parliament was planned around two sessions. The first session was a round table discussion over tea. Young people and Councillors were assigned a table and asked to agree on the three key issues most important to the young people. If possible the Members and young people were asked to identify possible solutions. The second session took place in the Council Chamber. This session was used to allow Councillors Phil Davies, Tom Harney and Sheila Clarke to respond to the points raised and to say how they would be progressed within the Council 68 young people attended the Youth Parliament, 6 Youth Service Units were represented and 19 out of 27 secondary schools attended

**Issues Raised** Numerous issues were raised by the young people. The issues raised during all the discussions linked into Health, Leisure, Community Safety, Careers, Enjoy & Achieve and Making a Positive Contribution.

**Feedback** Comments from the young people were very positive, in addition we have had positive feedback from elected members and other staff present at both events.

**Next Steps** All points raised have been gathered into one document and listed under themes. Not all issues raised are the responsibility of the local authority however it is essential that those organisations concerned are given the opportunity to respond. The thematic list will go to the external organisations and they will be asked to advise the Authority of how they intend to respond. Those issues that are the responsibility of Wirral

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Council will be referred to Cabinet with proposals regarding how they will be progressed. One of the proposals will be to involve young people in identifying solutions.

All young people who participated will receive a joint letter from the Lead Members. This letter explains the next steps and the young people are invited to comment on the contents of the thematic list. In addition the issues will be discussed at the Youth Forums in January. The young people have also been advised that Members will hold a formal feed back session with the young people at a meeting to be arranged at Wallasey Town Hall week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

There is an intention to hold another young persons participation event in Local Democracy week in October 2007. Members are keen that young people are involved in planning for this. The planning process for this will start at the next round of Youth Forums and young people will be asked to form a planning group. To ensure as wide a reach as possible, partner organisations will be asked to identify young people who might like to be part of the planning group.

### **Council links with Rovers to get young people playing for success**

Tranmere Rovers and Wirral Council have unveiled their new study support centre. The centre at Prenton Park was officially opened on Thursday.

The purpose built on-site classroom is part of the 'playing for success scheme' which has seen similar programmes set up in other areas of the country. Pupils from Wirral's primary, secondary and special schools attend out-of-hours lessons four evenings a week at the centre.

The study centre is a newly refurbished ICT suite where the students who use the facilities can develop literacy, numeracy and computer skills using state of the art equipment.

The programme aims to raise pupils levels of motivation and self-esteem using the environment of football as a stimulus as well as club resources and player involvement. In addition, the ICT suite is used by the club's youth scholars as part of their ongoing education programme.

Chairman Lorraine Rogers said: "We are delighted that the Rt-Hon Frank Field MP was able to officially open our Study Support Centre which is an integral part of the club, giving local children aged 9-14 years the opportunity to take part in after school learning in a fun, informal environment."

**Economic Development and Enterprise****Millions Get the Message after Wirral's Open Championship Commands Positive Media Attention**

Wirral's hosting of the most successful Open Golf Championship ever staged in England gave the region a positive media profile worth millions of pounds, according to new research published today. The survey of how British based broadcasters and publishers reported the event staged at Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake in July, reveals that overwhelmingly positive messages about the region and the event reached huge audiences in the UK alone. The Mersey Partnership (TMP), Wirral Council and the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) commissioned today's report, which was prepared by International analysts TNS Media Intelligence.

Key findings include:

- The value of UK newspaper space devoted to coverage exceeded £4.2m
- As well as hole-by-hole coverage of the Championship, UK Broadcasters devoted more than £1.25m worth of airtime to events at Hoylake
- 92% of UK TV and Radio coverage monitored was positive
- The region's Tourism offer was the key issue communicated in broadcast coverage
- TV commentators broadcast a total of 27 minutes of positive comments about the event and its location
- England's Golf Coast secured valuable exposure
- TMP, Wirral and the NWDA wanted to assess how staging the event influenced perceptions and opinions of the region. To achieve this, TNS Media Intelligence were briefed to monitor coverage dealing with all aspects of the event other than the Championship itself.

Martin King, Director of Tourism at The Mersey Partnership, said: "After winning The 2006 Open, Tiger Woods described it as one of the best Championships ever staged, and there is no denying that it was. What this research does is help us all understand the enormous added value brought to Wirral, Merseyside and the wider Northwest by staging a truly world-class event in such a successful way."

He added: "Really positive messages and images portraying the attractiveness of this part of Merseyside filled the airwaves and pages of our newspapers for more than a week. These findings tell us the real value of that exposure – but this is only the start of the good news. We have not yet assessed the international impact. The same images and messages were beamed all over the world. The total value of the positive exposure in terms of international media profile is almost immeasurable. And the even better news for

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us as a destination is that we can look forward to the similar levels of interest in 2008 when Sefton and Royal Birkdale hosts The Open once again.”

All coverage monitored was classified under a range of topics which included Art and Culture; Economic Development; Employment; Engaging the Community; Business Growth; Inward Investment; Tourism, Transport and Regeneration.

Martin King added: “Breaking the coverage down like this underlines just how valuable the spin offs from an event like this are. For example, the fantastic planning and delivery of the public transport arrangements by Merseytravel made a huge contribution to the positive messages. That’s as important to a day visitor travelling by train from Southport as it is to a potential investor from outside Merseyside who sees our region’s integrated transport infrastructure.”

Emma Degg, Head of Tourism and Marketing for Wirral Council said: “This report confirms that The Open Championship in July firmly placed Wirral on the national and international map. The partnership effort that delivered these outstanding results is a credit to all concerned and we are now working hard to ensure that Wirral continues to reap the benefits of the greatest championship ever staged.”

Peter Mearns, Director of Marketing and Communications at the NWDA said: “The positive coverage generated by the Open will not only benefit Wirral and Merseyside, it will also help to strengthen the image of England’s Northwest and cement the great reputation that the region has for hosting major events. Developing sport is an excellent way of improving the image, economy and tourism potential of the Northwest.”

The report concludes: “The region enjoyed high impact exposure during breaks in play when the coverage focussed on areas surrounding the course and commentators provided positive comments about what was being shown. “ TNS Media Intelligence studied 113 individual items of broadcast coverage and almost 800 separate newspaper articles. A summary of the TNS report can be viewed in the Press Room at [www.merseyside.org.uk](http://www.merseyside.org.uk)

### **Wirral to get share of £36.5million Government funding**

The Merseyside Local Transport Plan, LTP, Partnership has been awarded more than £36.5 million by the Department for Transport – and recognised as one of the best in the country. This includes millions to be invested in Wirral.

The Department described the Plan as “excellent” – the highest possible assessment. Delivery of the first 2001-2006 Merseyside LTP was also described as “excellent”. Merseyside is the only metropolitan area in the country to achieve this double success. As a result funding for the next financial year, in the settlement announced today, has been increased by more than £3 million to £36.504 million.

Neil Scales, Chairman of the LTP Partnership and Chief Executive and Director General of Merseytravel, said: “This is tremendous news for Merseytravel and our five district partners. “Merseyside has also been recognised with Centre of Excellence status for transport planning and accessibility. This increased settlement is a massive vote of

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confidence by the Government in our ability to deliver an integrated public transport system that is accessible to all – and one of the finest systems in the country.”

The Merseyside LTP Partnership consists of Merseytravel and five local authorities of Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral. It provides the transport framework essential to the regeneration of Merseyside. The level of economic growth taking place across Merseyside means the transport network must connect people to jobs, training and education, and allow goods to reach their destination efficiently.

### **The key achievements in Wirral under the first LTP include:**

- Nearly 30km of cycle routes including the improvements to the Wirral Way between Thurstaston and West Kirby, which has helped to attract an estimated 7,500 extra users per year.
- Over 50 road schemes including junction improvements at Thornton Common Road/Clatterbridge Road, Arrowe Park and Leasowe Road/Gardenside.
- Resurfacing of approximately 100 km of carriageway and over 35km of footway and strengthening of 11 bridge structures to improve the Borough’s existing highway assets.
- Installation of nearly twenty 20mph zones to improve the quality of life for residents.
- Installation of electronic message signs to inform drivers of disruption across the docks between Birkenhead and Wallasey to reduce congestion.

### **Further schemes planned in Wirral in the second LTP include:**

- Development of the electrification of the rail line between Bidston and Wrexham.
- New and improved routes for cyclists in Wirral district centres, and along the Wirral Way towards Heswall.
- Support for community-led transport schemes to solve local problems, including demand responsive flexible minibus services serving areas where public transport is not available.
- Continued bus priority schemes to improve bus journeys, and park & ride schemes at rail stations to encourage people to ‘let the train take the strain’.

David Green, Wirral’s Director of Technical Services said, “Wirral has seen some significant improvements in local transport over the last few years. Working with TravelWise and through delivery of the second LTP we hope to continue this trend. “This next stage of funding will help us to continue works to reduce congestion, increase road safety and provide improvements to make public transport, cycling and walking more acceptable, especially for short journeys. We need to encourage people to use their cars less to make sure Wirral’s roads do not get grid-locked.”

**Half a million pounds boost to employment, education and training in Wirral**

A new, confidential advice and guidance service has been set up for people in Wirral who have experienced problems in accessing employment, education and training.

Wirral's new 'Reach Out' project will be launched this Friday, September 29. It will target help, support and advice to people in six neighbourhoods across Wirral to enable them to gain employment or access education or training.

The 'Reach Out' project, which is being managed by Tranmere Alliance, will employ two Guidance Workers based within each of the following neighbourhood areas, Tranmere and Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Bidston and St James', Seacombe and Egremont, Leasowe and Moreton East and the Woodchurch Neighbourhood area.

The Guidance Workers will aim to make direct contact with clients by firstly delivering leaflets to their houses and then following up with a personal visit. They will then help clients to resolve any problems they are experiencing, either by sign-posting them to another service-provider or offering help with practicalities, such as filling in forms.

One 17-year old girl from Tranmere & Rock Ferry received a door knock from the Reach Out team. She had just finished Sixth Form College and was unsure of what to do next. The Guidance Workers introduced the project and discussed her needs and her barriers to moving forward into further education or employment.

During the home visit, the girl's mother was concerned that if her daughter started work it would affect the benefits, the guidance workers discussed the options and how employment would affect them both. Contact was made with Job Centre Plus to investigate job vacancies. Guidance workers supported her with completing both application forms and interviewing skills. This resulted in an offer of part time employment.

The Chief Executive of the Tranmere Alliance, Justine Burns said: "I have no doubt that the Guidance Workers will make an enormous difference to the lives of people in the Neighbourhood Renewal areas. It can be very difficult for some people to find out what they're entitled to and which services are available."

The 'Reach Out' project has been commissioned by Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership – which includes Wirral Council - using Government Neighbourhood Renewal Funding of approximately £500,000 over two years, from 2006 to 2008.

**Wirralbiz celebrates 350 business start ups**

Business start up team wirralbiz are celebrating helping their 350<sup>th</sup> new Wirral business to begin trading in only 15 months. This extremely successful and unique programme was launched in August 2005 with a target of starting 160 new businesses by November 2006 and in starting 350 businesses by December 2006 has exceeded all expectations. Said wirralbiz director Mike Raworth: "Many skilled and competent people fail within their first

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year of self-employment due to a lack of knowledge in areas outside of their experience and expertise. wirralbiz aims to provide clients with the knowledge and expertise they need to make their new business an ongoing success.”

The high quality wirralbiz programme consists of four inter-related elements:

**Awareness Sessions** These are held twice a month and are available either morning or evening. **Training Sessions** The six informal training sessions are held at two per week over a three week period and are available either day or evening. These workshops cover vital subjects such as sales and marketing, business planning and financial planning and control. **Counselling & Mentoring** One-to-one counselling is available before and after business start-up. Mentoring and other support services, such as a graphic design service, are available during the first 18 months of trading. **Grant Opportunities** A discretionary grant ranging from £500 to £2000 is available depending on each new business's requirements and each individual's circumstances.

During the past 15 months over 1200 budding entrepreneurs have attended a wirralbiz awareness seminar at the company's centre in Egerton House, Birkenhead. This seminar is a three hour informal session that highlights the essential information required to become self-employed and start a new business. Assistance is also provided in other areas, such as putting together a realistic business plan. This is as a blueprint for the first year's activities of the new business, and provides evidence to potential fund providers of trading potential and sustainability.

The facilities at wirralbiz centre include two training and seminar suites, meeting rooms and six internet linked computers. Discounted design and printing services, and free accountancy advice are all available. The wirralbiz programme is free to Wirral residents and to those living outside the area but wishing to start a new business in Wirral. Most types of business are eligible for the programme, although there are a few exceptions and prospective applicants are advised to check eligibility when making their initial enquiry. The programme is managed by and part funded by Wirral Waterfront Regeneration Initiative with additional funding from European Objective One Programme and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

**wirralbiz plus** is an additional service recently introduced to offer advice and assistance to established businesses based in the Neighbourhood Renewal areas Bidston, Birkenhead, Leasowe/Moreton, Seacombe/Egremont, Tranmere/Rock Ferry and Woodchurch. Existing businesses in these areas can access free support aimed at increasing competitiveness and profitability. This support is non-prescriptive and will be delivered using various methods including one-to-one sessions with an accountant, marketing specialist, business adviser or solicitor or participation in short seminars. wirralbiz plus is managed by Wirral Waterfront Regeneration Initiative and funded through Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

For any further information or to book yourself onto the next Business Start Awareness Session telephone 0845 456 1796, drop into wirralbiz centre, Egerton House, 2 Tower Road, Birkenhead, open 10am-6pm Mon-Thu & 10am-4.30pm Fri or email [info@wirralbiz.biz](mailto:info@wirralbiz.biz)



**Cross Cutting (across all themes)****Wirral receives major American honour as new Heritage Trail is announced**

WIRRAL is to announce plans for a new and exciting heritage attraction - the Maritime Heritage Trail - as it prepares to receive American Civil War designation from the Civil War Preservation Trust, USA. The official designation recognises Wirral's historical importance in the American Civil War, when the Argyle Rooms, Birkenhead, were an important meeting place for the anti-slavery lobby, and as the birthplace of the CSS Alabama and CSS Shenandoah, two ships which played a significant part in the war.

The launch of Wirral's Maritime Heritage Trail and celebration of the designation will see famous American Civil War historian Edwin Bearss speak and present Wirral with its award on November, 29 2006. Emma Degg, Head of Marketing and Tourism said, "The Wirral Maritime Heritage Trail, which incorporates our peninsula's American Civil War designation, will form a key regional, national and potentially international tourism offer, as part of the Implementation Plan of Wirral's Tourism Strategy.

She continued, "Existing and potential visitor research, currently being undertaken, as well as the fantastic news of the proposed £4.5 billion Wirral Waters development by Peel Holdings Limited, highlights Wirral's coast as our key attraction for both visitors and investment. The Trail will be one of a range of activities helping us to positively highlight our unique asset."

The Trail will commemorate many significant areas of Wirral from Priory Ferry, the oldest known ferry service in Britain run by Benedictine Monks, founded in Birkenhead around 1150 AD. The priory, still open to the public, is the oldest standing building on Merseyside to Eastham Woods which are mentioned in documents as early as 1347! The trail is to open early next year.

Howard Mortimer, of Wirral's Special Initiatives Team, said, ""Wirral Council recognises the important role which tourism plays in the future, in terms of the continuing regeneration of the Borough, and in particular of its magnificent waterfront. The current Woodside proposals reflect the recognition of the crucial role of the visitor economy in re-shaping key sites in a sustainable way whilst at the same time reflecting and nurturing their historic nature and value." It is hoped this great honour will build on Wirral's tourism profile which saw a massive American audience tune in, this summer, to The Open Championship

**The new Bishop of Birkenhead is to be the Revd Keith Sinclair, currently Vicar of Holy Trinity in Coventry city centre.**

A married father-of-three, he worked as a solicitor before taking holy orders. The London-born priest will begin preparations within the next few weeks for his role as a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Chester. He is due to be formally consecrated as Bishop of Birkenhead at York Minster on 8 March, 2007. His appointment was formally announced on Thursday 14 Dec 2006 by the Prime Minister's office with a simultaneous public launch at the Town Hall, Wallasey, Wirral.

Mr Sinclair, who was at the Town Hall on Thursday (14 Dec) to meet local church and civic leaders, said: "I'm looking forward to coming here very much. Let me say a word of greeting to everyone, through the media – 'greetings in Christ's name'.

Please pray for me and my family as we arrive. "My wife and I at different times were in Merseyside during the 1980s and have really good memories. Please pray to God to use us, with you, to bring good things to the region in all its diversity. I pray that the good partnerships between different agencies continue to flourish; and that the churches, Anglican and other, continue to grow through the Spirit in works of faith and labours of love."

In his new role, Mr Sinclair will assist the Bishop of Chester in leading the Diocese of Chester, and particularly the western half, stretching from Warrington to Wallasey and including Runcorn, Chester and rural areas as far south as Malpas. The Bishop of Chester, the Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster, said: "Keith Sinclair will bring to Wirral and to the Diocese of Chester a rich experience of ministry in Birmingham and Coventry. He will bring a particular expertise in urban ministry but will be well placed to contribute to the whole life of the Diocese. I welcome his appointment and look forward to his consecration in York Minster on 8 March."

The Mayor of Wirral, Cllr Peter Johnson, political leaders and Wirral Council's Chief Executive, Stephen Maddox, welcomed the new bishop at the Town Hall, Wallasey.

Mr Maddox said: "As a council we are delighted at the appointment of Keith Sinclair as Bishop and want to wish him a very warm welcome to the borough. It is clear that, like his predecessor, the new Bishop will want to ensure that he plays a full and active role in the development of our borough and we welcome that unreservedly."

Keith Sinclair, aged 54, was trained for church ministry in the early 1980s and worked as a curate at Christ Church, Summerfield, Birmingham, from 1984 to 1988. He was also a chaplain at the Children's Hospital, Birmingham. He was Vicar of Aston, Birmingham, between 1988 and 2001, where he worked on urban renewal, evangelism and justice issues in a multi-cultural parish. Since 2001 he has been vicar of a city centre church in Coventry, where he has worked to develop youth ministry and promote good community relations. Born in Westminster, central London, he grew up in south London, the son of a banker father and a drama teacher mother. He is married to Rosemary, aged 45, a family

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law lecturer. They have three children Peter, 14, Anna, 13, and David, 10. In addition to his priestly duties, Mr Sinclair has been active in urban regeneration as chair of the Interim Partnership Board, New Deal for Communities, Aston Pride. In that role he worked closely with local government, civil agencies and leaders of Birmingham's multi-ethnic and multi-faith community. He is a sports fan, particularly keen on rugby union and for relaxation he enjoys walking and watching films.

Mr Sinclair succeeds the Rt Revd David Urquhart as the Bishop of Birkenhead. Bishop David took an active role in the community life of Wirral. He was chair of the Wirral Local Strategic Partnership and was recently given the Freedom of the Borough of Wirral. He is now Bishop of Birmingham.

### Wirral awards to be presented by Mayor

**A special reception is to be held in the Mayor's Parlour**, Wallasey Town Hall, on Thursday 18th January in honour of this year's recipients of the Wirral Award. The presentation will take place at 7pm followed by a dinner in the Round Room at 7.45pm.

**The Mayor, Councillor Peter Johnson will present Wirral Awards to the following:-**

**Mr. Ken Whittle** - For services in the field of youth training & environmental work

**Mr. Max Roy** - For services to boxing

**Mr. Edward Fry** - For services to the Bebington Sea Cadets

**Mr. David Diffin** - For services to the 10th Birkenhead Scout Group

**Mr. Herbert Taylor** - For services with the Wirral Housing Association

**Mrs. Audrey Bamber** - For services to people with learning difficulties

**Mrs. Jean McIntosh** - For services in founding Wirral BNBEAG (Bidston and North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group)

**Mr. Martin Hesketh** - For services to the Viking Youth Club

**Mr. Ken Harrison** - For services as Chairman of Liscard Community Facilities

**Mrs. Barbara Ellis** - For services to the environment in the Saughall Massie and Upton area

### Not sure when your bin or recycling is collected?

The new bin collection day search engine is up and running on this website. We've improved the search facility on the website for checking your collection days for bins and recycling. If you're not sure when your day is or the changes for the New Year just pop in your road name and all the correct details will come up.

**Just follow the home page 'waste and recycling' link:**

- [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) (Home Page)
- Scroll Down and click on "Waste & Recycling Link" on the right hand side of the page
- There you will find information on the following:
  - **Wirral Refuse & recycling Collection**
- **Related Links:**

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- Get Composting
- Grey Bin FAQ
- Interesting Fast
- Glossary of waste & Recycling Terms
- What is Global Warming
- History of disposing of our rubbish
- So what is landfill
- Collection Calendar

### Free funding info site expands

Improvements to a FREE online funding information service have been announced by Wirral Council, in partnership with Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network (WVCSN). There are hundreds of grants available to support local voluntary and community groups, from Government, Lottery and trust funding sources.

Groups in Wirral can find relevant funders quickly and easily by clicking on the Wirral 4 Community or Wirral 4 Social Enterprise logos on the left hand column of the main page of the council's website [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) or the Network's website [www.wvcsn.org](http://www.wvcsn.org). Alternatively, you can go direct to: [www.open4community.info/wirral](http://www.open4community.info/wirral).

The site has been hugely popular since its launch 6 months ago and feedback from customers has led to two new features to support the funding portals and the users who benefit from them. From this January the site also includes pages on 'Funding Success' which highlight organisations that have been successful in obtaining funding.

Users will now be able to sign up to a funding and grant alert newsletter providing information on funding and new grants from the site's news section. Existing users who have already indicated that they do not mind being contacted on the registration page will automatically receive newsletters and new users will be given the option to sign up.

The newsletter aims to encourage users to return to the site regularly.

**Website:** <http://www.open4community.info/wirral>

## Section 3 Area Forum Funding Progress Report

### Heswall / Pensby and Thingwall Area Forum Funding Progress Report

| Amount Awarded | Received From  | Details  | Progress Report  |
|----------------|--|--|--|
| £1,118.00      | Heswall Squash Rackets Club                            | To purchase equipment and run courses to encourage sport and fitness in adults and school children in the local community. | Report received from Heswall Squash Rackets Club - October 2006: Many thanks for funding the programme to introduce mini squash to three local primary schools (St Peters - Heswall; Gayton Primary; and Ladymount - Pensby). The programme is now complete with about 180 children and 6 adults taking part actively in squash. |
| £500.00        | Wirral Tikes - Heswall                                 | To continue to support a 'Carer & Tots' group and purchase relevant equipment for under 5 year olds.                       | Report received from Wirral Tikes - Heswall - September 2006: Thank you for the award that was used to cover training costs, storage, equipment and toys for the group. We have completed our Road   |
|                |  | Safety   | courses and recently had a subsidised summer activity day out.   |
| £110.00        | Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) | To purchase answerphone / fax machine and ink roller.  | Report received from Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) - September 2006: We thank the panel for the grant, the new answerphone / fax machine has improved and extended our office communication and also our services for voluntary and community groups in the area.                                       |

### Section 3 Area Forum Funding Progress Report

| Amount Awarded | Received From   | Details  | Progress Report   |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| £500.00        | Wirral Tikes - Pensby   | To continue to support a 'Carer & Tots' group and purchase relevant equipment for under 5 year olds. | Report received from Wirral Tikes - Pensby - September 2006: Thank you for the award that was used to cover training costs, storage, equipment and toys for the group. We have completed our Road Safety courses and recently had a subsidised summer activity day out. |
| £1,500.00      | Alpha 8 (A8) Cycle Training   | To purchase cycles, equipment and an off road cycle.   | Report received from Alpha 8 (A8) Cycle Training - October 2006: The money was greatly received and will make a huge difference to working with youths and also promoting safe cycling.   |
| £1,000.00      | Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) - Playschemes - Heswall & Pensby | To contribute toward playschemes run for four weeks over the summer holidays.                        | Report received from Heswall & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) - Playschemes – Heswall & Pensby, November 2006: Thank you for your support of our playschemes.   |

## **Section 4**

## **Local Area Plan Update**

### **Update**

The purpose of the area plan is to give you an understanding of the local area in which you live. It also gives information about Wirral, what is in your area, statistical information and it also identifies local issues that have been raised and includes those nationally agreed Local Area Agreement priorities.

A lot of hard work has gone into the plan by the area co-ordinator, area plan sub-group and members of the community.

Thank you very much to everybody for all their hard work and support in development the area plan.

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

Area plans will be refreshed on annual basis to take account of changing priorities and the changing policy environment within which our local services operate. It will be the responsibility of the area forums to refresh their area plan and to report on progress to their local community.

Area plans are being developed across all 11 of the area forums currently operating in Wirral and will feed into the annual refreshment of the local area agreement and the overarching community strategy for Wirral.





## Streetscene and Waste Update

**Disc Zone Parking, Birkenhead** The Streetscene and Transport Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on October, 4 2006 approved the replacement of the current Disc Zone Parking in central Birkenhead with on-street parking. Tenders for the necessary work have now been let and are due to commence late February. The new pay meters will be installed on a rolling programme to be complete by April 2007.

**The Local Transport Plan (LTP)** for Merseyside includes a number of commitments and objectives from the member authorities in relation to traffic management and parking. The LTP 2006-2011 vision is “a fully integrated safe transport network for Merseyside which supports economic and social regeneration and ensures good access for all and which is operated to the highest standards to protect the environment and ensure quality of life”.

The new on-street parking regulations will bring Birkenhead in line with other major town centres, help control the growth of congestion within the town centre, encourage use of the public transport network and provide for an improved enforcement of street parking.

**Hoylelake Improvements** Following agreements with traders and residents, work recommenced early on Hoylelake 1b improvements.

**Leasowe Road/Gardenside Roundabout** The new roundabout, which has improved road safety on a busy junction, has now been completed on time and within budget.

**New Chester Road, New Ferry** Work is currently in progress on major footway improvements in the New Ferry shopping area. This work is being funded through the Wirral Waterfront Partnership which will undertake further environmental improvements along the A41 corridor; currently trees are being planted along several areas.

**Laird Street/Park Road North Junction Improvement** The new signal improvement has now been completed, which will significantly improve road safety at this very busy junction.

**Traffic Safety Schemes** Since the last Streetscene review further safety schemes have been completed in the Borough.

**New Refuge** Woodchurch Road/ Heathfield Road Borough Road/Kings Lane and Well Lane/Albany Road

**Traffic Calming** Twickenham Drive, Eastham Rake, Trafalgar Road area and Willmer Road area

**New Puffin Crossing** Park Road South and Bromborough Cross and Wallasey Village

**Crossing Improvements** A41/Old Hall Road

### Future Works Planned

**Signal Improvement** Conway Street/Exmouth Street and Hoylelake Road/Reeds Lane

**New Puffin Crossing** Duke Street

**New Refuge** Port Sunlight Station and Bebington Station

**Traffic Calming** Greenfield Avenue/Dawpool Avenue

**Traffic Improvement** Dock Road

## **Major Surfacing Schemes**

The Highway Maintenance Division has been very busy since the last review with the following surfacing schemes undertaken:

Greenfields Avenue, Eastham, Eastham Rake (part), Wallasey Bridge Road outside recycle plant, Borough Road (part), Park Road North/Laird Street junction, Aspendale Road, Tranmere

Major patching has also been undertaken on Station Road, Clatterbridge.

As part of Wirral Council's pro-active approach to maintenance, carriageway surface treatment works have been undertaken in:

Coniston Avenue, Irby, The Chase, Cottage Close, Keith Drive, Westhouse Close Lawns Avenue/Mere Crescent, Chorley Way, Woodkind Hey, Downes Green, Sealy Close, Reade Close, Bolde Way, Oxford/Eton/Rudley Drive, Buffs Lane, Heswall, Park Road, Long Lane, West Kirby, Brancote Road, Grange Farm Crescent

Also footway surface treatment works have been carried out on Birkenhead Road, Meols (part) and Barnston Road, Barnston (part).

### **A number of footway improvements have also been completed:**

Stanhope Drive, Bromborough (part), Teehey Close, Bebington, Boundary Road, West Kirby, Boulton Avenue, West Kirby, Hoscot Park, West Kirby, Lingdale Road North, Claughton, Adelaide Road, Birkenhead

### **Future planned footway works:**

Heswall Mt, Thingwall, Rullerton Road, Wallasey (part), Downham Road, Tranmere (part), Orchard Road, Moreton, Parkway/Parkway Close, Irby, Moseley Avenue, Wallasey

### **Further carriageway resurfacing works are planned in the last quarter of the financial year:**

Trinity Road, Wallasey, Wright Street, Wallasey, Kinglake Road, Wallasey (part), Eddisbury Road, Wallasey, Lingdale Road North, Claughton, Adelaide Road, Birkenhead, Byron Close, Prenton

### **Future Programmes, Future major works planned for this last quarter.**

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| A41/Eastham Rake             | Environmental Improvements |
| Thermal Road, Bromborough    | Landscaping                |
| Darmonds Green               | Footway Improvements       |
| A41/Bromborough Village Road | Junction Improvement       |

The Area Forums have submitted roads to be considered for inclusion in future structural maintenance programmes. These are currently being assessed along with the streets identified by Wirral Council's Course Visual inspection.

## **Highway Maintenance Contracts**

An extensive procurement exercise is currently taking place for the future provision of all Highway Maintenance works. This includes all footway and carriageway works, traffic signals, gully cleansing and street lighting. It is hoped this exercise will be complete for tenders to be issued before the end of this year.

Areas of Highway/Environmental Enforcement introduced during the last 12 months

- **Dropping Litter**

Council now issuing £75 fixed penalty fines for any person found dropping or depositing litter in any place which is in the open air and to which the public access.

- **Fly Posting**

Council now issuing £75 fixed penalty fines on any company/individual found fly-posting on Council street furniture or on any public/private building or structure.

- **Pavement/Verge parking**

Council to introduce restrictions to prohibit pavement and verge parking on a number of routes in the Borough. Drivers who park their vehicles on a pavement or verge on one of the restricted routes will be liable to a fine of £30.

- **Cars For Sale on the Highway by Traders**

New legislation recently introduced to stop car Traders using the highway as an extension to their business. A number of fixed penalty fines have been issued on Traders throughout the Borough

- **Street Trading (Consent Streets)**

The Council has introduced powers to restrict the unlawful use of the highway by street traders. A number of streets in the Borough are already designated as prohibited streets and street trading is prohibited in these locations.

The Council has now designated all the remaining streets in the Borough as consent streets and street trading is only allowed in these streets if it is approved by the Council.

**The street trading activities covered by the new powers are:**

1. Individuals selling vehicles on the highway, the Council is now instigating legal action against the owner of any vehicle displaying a vehicle for sale on the highway (other than outside their property).
2. Mobile fast food sellers setting up on a highway in the Borough.
3. Street peddlers.
4. Shop keepers displaying their goods for sale on the pavement.
5. Roadside sales of meat, household goods flowers/plants Christmas trees etc.

Council to serve notice on the owners of vehicles gaining access to their premises by driving over the pavement without a vehicle crossing.

**Environmental and Streetscene Services Contract**

The new Streetscene contract has been awarded to Biffa, and commenced on August, 22 2006.

Biffa have already taken on a number of challenges in order to facilitate long-term improvements to service delivery. The scale of these changes has not been without some difficulties. The workforce are undergoing a schedule of training and new vehicles are being introduced to carry out cleansing and waste collection. A suit of IT systems are being installed gradually, that will help Biffa and the Council improve service reliability.

Biffa successfully addressed the leaf fall season, with the call centre receiving a record low number of cleansing complaints during this time.

New cleansing schedules have been devised for the Borough and will be put in place in January 2007.

Biffa are committed to helping Wirral achieve its recycling target in 2007/8, which will be 23% (Current recycling rate approx 13%). Therefore, they have seconded additional staff and management from their central team to help Wirral plan the roll-out of the new paper and packaging recycling services hoped to be completed by June 2007.

Biffa have some outstanding workforce issues to resolve as a result of the transfer of staff from the previous contract with Onyx. Due to the very short mobilisation period afforded to them once they were awarded the contract, they were unable to address all issues before the 22nd August. Regrettably, this has affected the quality of service experienced by some residents, especially over the Christmas period. Negotiations are now in their final stages.

## **Waste and Recycling**

**Garden Recycling** All areas that were previously on a white sack collection have now received a brown bin. Streetscene are still receiving calls from residents who claim they have not received one. Some households have used this tactic to acquire a second bin, therefore no further bins will be delivered until April 2007. Requests in the meantime will be investigated prior to delivery in April. Individual households are not entitled to a second bin, irrespective of garden size.

**Garden Waste** bins will be delivered to an additional 11,500 households who have previously not been able to join the scheme. The bins will be delivered in late January to February 2007. Residents are requested not to use the bin until two weeks before their first collection, scheduled after Easter. All accompanying information and calendars will be provided.

**Food and Garden recycling** The food and garden waste trial is currently being evaluated by the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority. The scheme has collected 3500 tonnes of green waste from 18,000 residents, which has been sent for processing in the In-Vessel Composter at Bidston. The vast majority of the waste is garden waste (95-99%) as opposed to kitchen waste (1-5%). The State Veterinary Service is monitoring the treatment process carefully, with a view to clearing the product safe to use as compost in the very near future.

**Paper and Packaging Recycling** The new paper and packaging scheme has been rolled out to 25,000 households in Oxtun, Prenton, Woodchurch, Upton and Moreton wards. Plastic bottles, glass, paper, cardboard, tins and cans are being collected, combined, from the kerb-side and taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Bidston where they are separated and sent to local processors for turning into new products.

On average, the public are presenting around 10 kg of their waste for recycling every fortnight. In the first week of the grey bin collection, over 95% of residents took part in the new scheme. Due to the schemes popularity, the next phase of the roll-out is being brought forward.

Between February and March households in West Wirral, Eastham, Bromborough and Bebington will also join the scheme as another 70,000 households are delivered grey bins.

The final Phase is planned for late March, and will cover the rest of the district including Birkenhead, Bidston, Wallasey, New Brighton and surrounding areas.

A list of streets included in the phase 2 roll out will be posted on the Council's website by mid-February. Comprehensive information and advertising for the

scheme will be provided for all residents including calendars. The Council applied for funding from the Waste Resource Action Program (WRAP) for the communications activities and this has been awarded provisionally.

**Home Composting** WRAP (Waste Resource Action Programme) are funding a home compost incentive scheme for Wirral residents throughout 2007. Residents can purchase home composters for as little as £8 including free delivery. The scheme also provides residents with an information starter kit, access to a compost help line and regular newsletters with helpful hints. Details of the scheme is posted on the Council's website. In addition Wrap will carry out several borough wide leaflet drops promoting the scheme to every household in the borough.

## **Road Safety education campaigns**

**'Who's Taking You Home Tonight?'** This was the question being asked as part of last year's Xmas drink/drug drive campaign, which was launched by Merseyside Police and Road Safety Officers on Tuesday, December 5 2006. The launch of a hard hitting advertising campaign across the region during the festive period, coincided with a high profile Police crackdown which was carried out across the county. Road Safety Officers also worked with other Streetscene staff to provide electronic messages across the Borough warning drivers of the dangers of drink driving, not wearing a seatbelt and using a mobile while driving.

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## **METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL**

### **REPORT TO EASTHAM/ BROMBOROUGH AND HESWALL/ PENSBY/ THINGWALL LOCAL AREA FORUMS – FEBRUARY 2007**

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

#### **INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK (CAPITAL PROGRAMME) 2007/08 – UPDATE**

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## **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report conveys the decision taken at Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006 on the allocation of the LTP Capital Programme Integrated Transport Block.

It is proposed that your Forum will be provided with a ring-fenced allocation in the region of £16,500 and an officer will be in attendance at the meeting to provide advice to help the Forum decide its programme for 2007/8.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

Members of your Forum will recall the meetings and debate in 2006 regarding the way in which the Integrated Transport Block has traditionally been allocated and whether or not this should be changed to move from a strategic prioritisation approach to a dedicated allocation ring-fenced to local areas.

The results of the consultations with Area Forums were brought to Cabinet's attention on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006 as outlined in my previous report presented at your Forum last October.

The report summarised the decision of each Area Forum on the possible re-allocation of this transport block from the centre to each Area Forum and Cabinet approval was sought to the Block Allocation remaining at the centre. It did caveat, however, that the Area Forums be more closely engaged in drawing up subsequent programmes of work under this heading.

### **3 CABINET DECISION**

The Minute Decision of Cabinet was as follows:

Resolved - that

(1) the report be noted and that officers be thanked for their engagement with the Area Forums over this matter;

(2) for 2007/8 the Eastham/Bromborough and Heswall/Pensby/Thingwall area forums be allocated a share of Integrated Transport Block;

(3) the remainder of the Integrated Transport Block Allocation remain intact and central and for future schemes under this heading to be determined through the Streetscene and Transport Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to approval by Cabinet; and

(4) the Director of Technical Services provide assistance into Area Forums to aid decision making in drawing up future works programmes under the Integrated Transport Block Allocation.

### **4 ALLOCATION OF FUNDING AND PROPOSED APPROACH**

The block allocation of funding for 2007/8 is yet to be approved by the Council's Cabinet, however based on last year's programme the indicative level of funding will be in the region of £180,000 and the types of scheme introduced are as follows:

- Speed reduction programme
- Road widening/residents parking
- Pedestrian dropped crossings
- Central refuges
- Pedestrian sign posting

As a result of Cabinet's decision, it is proposed that 1/11<sup>th</sup> of the available funding (approximately £16,500 based on last year's figure) will be allocated to your Forum for such schemes.

This will enable your Forum to consider:

- a modest road widening/parking lay-by scheme for 4-5 cars (depending on the cost of any service diversions)
- twenty-six lowered kerb crossings (£600 each)
- one central refuge (£7-10,000)
- several pedestrian signposting schemes

It is important to note that it is unlikely that there will be sufficient funding to introduce a more substantial proposal such as a Traffic Calming scheme (typical cost £30-40,000).

An officer from the Technical Services Department will be in attendance at the meeting to assist the Forum in deciding its programme and a list of traffic issues and locations based on enquiries received by the Council will be provided to assist this process.

Confirmation of the precise allocation approved by the Council's Cabinet will be provided at the next meeting.

### **5 RECOMMENDATION**

Members of the Forum are requested to:

- a) Note the content of this report;
- b) Provide views on how their share of the Integrated Transport Block allocation should be spent.