

YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**



Heswall Pensby Thingwall Area Forum

Papers for the forum meeting

Monday 18th June 2007

**Royal British Legion
Pensby Road
Heswall**

7.00pm - 9.00pm

**Heswall Pensby & Thingwall
Area Forum**

Monday 18th June 2007 at 7pm

**Royal British Legion
Pensby Road, Heswall**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Election of Chairman
3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
4. Area co-ordinators Report - Tracey Smith
 - **Area Plan Update**
5. Older Peoples Parliament
6. Wirral Hospital Trust Engagement Strategy Presentation
7. Partner Updates
 - **Fire & Rescue Service -**
 - **Police**
 - **Community Safety**
 - **Wirral Primary Care Trust**
8. Public question time
9. Dates of Future meetings/Presentations
10. Any other business

Heswall Pensby Thingwall Area Forum

Area Co-ordinators Report

Monday 18th June 2007

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SECTION ONE

Minutes - Area Forum (Heswall and Pensby & Thingwall) - 27 February 2007

Present	
Chair	AC Hodson
Ward Councillor	IJ Mackenzie , SL Rowlands
Community Representatives	J Birch (Pensby and Thingwall Community Representative) , A Garrett (Heswall Community Representative)
Lead Officer	Chris Batman (Head of Branch, Planning and Resources, Children and Young People's Department)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Andy Mills (Wirral PCT)
Merseyside Police	Inspector Kate Cunningham
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Sara Lawton
Council Officers	Fergus Adams (Technical Services) , Phil Miner (Street Scene Area Manager) , Mark Smith (Streetscene and Waste) , Jim Thompson (Crime and Disorder Project Officer)
Apologies	Steve Beal (Youth representative) , Mrs J McKelvie , MG Redfern

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- Minute 8 - Public question time
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Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions

Cllr. Hodson said that he would like us to remember Janet Triggs, who had been the Co-ordinator of the forum and who sadly died earlier this year. Cllr. Hodson asked Chris Batman to say a few words in remembrance.

Chris said that he remembered Janet as a great colleague, who worked with him, and always did a good job. When turning up to chair meetings, everything was always prepared and presented well. Sadly, Janet left a husband and three children, and our thoughts are with them, and she will be missed by all who knew her. The audience stood for a minute's silence in remembrance of Jan.

Cllr. Hodson asked all those present to introduce themselves, and reported that he would be chairing the meeting, as Cllr. McKelvie is not well.

Minute 2 - Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Query regarding deadlines for comments on planning applications. Chris Batman reported that a deadline had to be published when a proposal was first put in. Sometimes the period is extended, as the process continues. However no one is disadvantaged by an extension to the deadline.

Mr. Garrett reported that the 276 bus which was reprieved until January 2007 has now gone, but that Mersey Travel is at present doing a full review. Recently reported in the Wirral News 171 and 172 buses have disappeared. Michelle Gray said that she had heard about disabled people being refused access on to a Bus at Greasby, but apparently there is a form somewhere which tells you what to do in this situation.

Library opening times – suggestions to stagger

Chris Batman reported that he had been in touch with the Head of Libraries, and this would make cover much more difficult, but they will consider it again.

Cllr. McKelvie had not reported on the refurbishment of Heswall Railway Station, and this would be checked.

Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators Report

Tracey Smith Community Engagement Officer, presented a comprehensive report that consisted of the following

Section 1: Minutes of the previous meeting.

Section 2: Local updates on various issues under the following headings:

- (a) Safe and stronger communities;
- (b) Healthy communities and older people;
- (c) Children and young people;
- (d) Economic development and enterprise;
- (e) Cross-cutting issues.

Section 3: Details of schemes funded through the Area Forum and of the progress that they were making.

Section 4: Update on the Local Area Plan.

Section 5: Youth issues.

Section 6: Update on Streetscene and waste issues and progress report on the Transport Capital Programme for 2007/08, which included the opportunity to put forward suggestions for local traffic schemes.

Copies of the Area Co-ordinators report had been posted on the Council website at www.wirral.gov.uk/minutes/public/minsareaco-rdsreport. Paper copies were available for members of the public at the meeting. The Area Co-ordinator invited the Forum to consider the report, section by section.

Minute 4 - Streetscene Update

Street Scene Update. Pages 43 to 48 of the Minutes of the previous meeting ~there are a large number of items being dealt with. They are also looking for new powers to stop people parking on pavements and verges. Street peddlers are to be taken out of certain areas. Also shop keepers putting their provisions on the pavements or highway for sale - this is being looked at. Cllr. Hodson reported that there are still cars being advertised for sale on the side of the road. Phil Miner stated that these vehicles will be lifted off the highway.

Sue Proudlove reported again the dreadful state with dogs fouling the pavements. Fergus Adams reported that this is being looked at and Mark Smith stated that the Council views this the same way as litter, and it has to be removed; People are fined for not removing this from the pavements, but it is very difficult to prove.

Val Curtis from Thingwall stated that there are many little footpaths (particularly between Mill Lane and Sparks Lane) where there are bags that people have used to clear the pavements, and then thrown them in the hedge or they are hanging in the trees.

John Patlin, Youth Worker in Pensby said he does not understand why they bother using a bag, and then throw it.

Mr. Garrett reported that there are many areas, including the car park at the bottom of Banks Road, where this is happening.

Mr. Frank Kinlan reported that there is still a great deal of speeding traffic on Pensby Road, particularly near the Greenbank Drive exit - he reckons that 98% going past are speeding, and this makes trying to get out there very difficult. Inspector Kate Cunningham reported that a great deal of work has been done on several areas which have been targeted, and Pensby Road is one of them. In the last week in excess of twenty tickets have been given out, and they are constantly trying to find other ways of slowing down the traffic. Cllr. Hodson reported that the Council recently agreed that many side roads should have a 20 mile per hour speed limit.

Sandy Cameron, who lives in Mostyn Avenue, reported that Broad Lane is getting very busy, and that it is classified as a Bridle Path and there is no speed limit sign anywhere. Inspector Cunningham reported that a Bridle Path would not have speed limit, as they are not normally used by many cars. It was pointed out that with the new medical centre currently being built means that there are many vehicles coming along the lane, and there is no lighting at all. Inspector Cunningham said that she would look into it

Mr. Garrett reminded everyone that the water tankers regularly go down to Target

Road and many heavy vehicles. He also asked whether they would be entitled to a rebate because the bins were not emptied for one week and a day during the snow.

David Hall suggested that if more people recycled more, there would not be a problem. He has a family of five, and could manage with his bin being emptied every five weeks, due to recycling wherever possible.

Val Curtis asked whether there had been any developments regarding the collection of bins from multiple occupancy dwellings. Mark Smith reported that he is carrying out an audit of all the communal and multi-purpose properties, and this should be completed shortly, hopefully for May. Fergus Adams reported he has had meetings with various companies who have had talks with the Council and have started schemes, which are not always working very well, and it is not worth carrying these any further.

Frank Kinlan has been on a course for driving, and asked whether there are any CCTV cameras at the traffic lights in Heswall, as many people jump the lights. It was reported that as they have to be special cameras, and to be positioned where they could achieve an accurate picture this would cause an obstruction on Lloyds corner. Inspector Cunningham said that the cameras are very expensive and there are many rules for the siting of such cameras, but she will take the idea away and discuss it with the road traffic department.

The question was also asked whether there will be any exception for parking on grass verges, as the W omens' Institute, and many others, use the lay-by in Barnston Road when attending meetings, but there is not always sufficient room. Phil Miner said that they will be holding trials, and Barnston Road will probably be one of them, but that people will be fined for parking on the pavements and grass verges.

A gentlemen pointed out that the end of Sparks Lane is closed and the diversion sign is not very good, and people are still coming through and driving over grass.

INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK UPDATE -

Mark Smith, Head of Service, Streetscene and Waste reported on Page 48, Item 4 Allocation of Funding. All the Area Forums had made their decisions, and only two had decided they wished to manage their own - Heswall Pensby and Thingwall and Bromborough and Eastham. This money will be available from April to April 2008, and it must be used in that time span. There will be no "carry over" if it is not all spent.

Cabinet have decided that the amount will be £16,500.00. for both Pensby and Eastham. It is therefore important to decide how this money is to be spent, and the Council will wish the work to be carried out in the summer, when the weather is better, and it should, therefore, mean that all work is completed by April 2008. It was reported that a Councillor from another area was disappointed that these two Forums had decided this way, because it does mean that it will exclude them from larger schemes. If all the money is kept at the centre, it is possible to put forward a

plan for a larger scheme, although you do not know when you may be chosen.

There were several suggestions put forward - pedestrian dropped crossings (these would cost approximately £6,000., per crossing). Pedestrian refuges. Footway requests. Some grass areas to be covered with tarmac, but this is quite expensive. Parking lay-bys might be possible, but these schemes can also be quite expensive. A welcome to Heswall at each road, with DRIVE CAREFULLY, might be an idea.

It was pointed out that if the total was split into the five areas - Pensby, Heswall, Thingwall and Barnston, it would only be about £4,500 for each area. Cllr. Hodson suggested that the Councillors often knew from their contacts with constituents what is needed, and also that the Road Safety Team should be consulted.

Val Curtis asked how many Councillors would make the choice. Chris Batman suggested that all ideas be submitted to Tracey Smith, and the Councillors could then discuss with the Road Safety and the Technical Services Department. Proposals could then be brought to the Meeting for any final comments before the work was put in place.

Minute 5 - Presentation on Age Concern

Presentation by Jan Evans on Wirral Pensall House. Jan reported on the new services that Age Concern are bringing to Pensall House, which is off Kylemore Drive, in Fairview Way. She had brought with her a pack of leaflets showing the current programme and what is being set up in Pensall House. This is the site of the development, and Jan wants to hear from the people in the community because they want the programme to reflect the ideas of the people here and to meet their needs. Jan's role is Information and Advice Officer, and she will be at Pensall House between 10 o'clock and 1.30, and there is no need to have an appointment.

All these services are available to people of 50 and over, and there are fact sheets detailing information about local housing, residential care and benefits, which have been produced by Age Concern. They are able to offer a service to older people to make sure that they can get all the benefits they are entitled to. Last year, they claimed over one million pounds for people on Wirral. Apart from the various leaflets produced by Age Concern, we have a local Area Sheet, reporting on clubs etc. in the area, and also Wirral Trading Standards List of Approved Workmen. Whatever the query, they can always help in some way. Cases are dealt with entirely confidentially, and all free.

Chris Kenny, Senior Manager Care Services came to talk of day care and active age activities - chair based exercises, social group, computer use, reading, craft courses and therapies (have to book for therapies). This is aimed at people who are socially isolated and anyone with dementia. Pensall House has been asked to take over this work by the Council. There will be bathing services five days a week and care services with a fully trained staff.

Minute 6 - Primary Care Trust Update - Public Health Annual Report

Andy Mills from the PCT apologized, and said he was only brought in at the last

minute. He had brought a presentation with him, and would willingly stay at the end to show anyone who was interested in the Wirral Public Health Report. He just wished to highlight one or two things - the first is that England will become smoke free on 1st July 2007. This will cover virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England, including pubs, restaurants, bingo halls and shopping Centres. All must display no-smoking signs, and there will be penalties for breaking the law.

The Wirral Hospital Trust are also trying to get out into the local community and find out what is happening. It was pointed out that there is an invitation to the Hospital Trust to come to the next meeting. He asked for questions.

Mr. Garrett asked whether the West Wirral practice has found a site yet, and are the Warrens Nurseries going to be used. It was reported that there is to be a special meeting on 20th March to discuss the Warrens. This will be held at St. Michael's Hall, and there will be a drop-in session between 4.30 and 6.30 and discussion between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. There has been a motion put forward by Michael Redfearn, Liberal .Democratic Councillor looking at the re-opening of the Nurseries for an Adult Training Centre.

The conservatories have been. Lengthy discussion followed that people had not been informed about this meeting, and that decisions affecting Arrowe Park should not be made without much more public consultation. Val Curtis reported that she had formed Friends of Arrowe Park, and one meeting had been held. There will be another one at the Arrowe Park Hotel on 7th March at 7 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend. As this is such an important matter, Val Curtis asked whether she could give a presentation at the Special Forum meeting, and Cllr. Hodson agreed that this would be possible, and that it should last for about ten minutes.

Peter Buckley asked whether bus shelters are no-smoking areas. Fergus Adams replied that it is all to do with the construction of the building (how many sides etc.) Most bus shelters will be classed as no-smoking areas.

Graham Ashdown asked whether anything could be done to implement the no-smoking area at Arrowe Park Hospital. The buildings and grounds should be non-smoking, but some patients are addicted. They are offered tobacco patches but it is very distressing that they make their way to the front of the hospital to smoke. The staff are doing their best to try and stop patients and relatives visiting who still smoke.

Sandra Tripp had recently had a major operation, and was horrified to see so many people smoking outside. She went to the Reception desk, and told them about it, but no-one wanted to know. Andy Mills was disappointed to hear that was the response, and he will go back and investigate. Cllr. Mackenzie reported that at least 50% of his patients are seen because of smoking or alcohol, and he has personally been assaulted when he has tried to tell people to stop, also one of his nurses.

Mr. Kinlan also reported that he has seen people smoking at The Royal.

Minute 7 - Partner Updates - Fire & Rescue Service, Police and Community Safety

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Sara Lawton, from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service. Heswall Fire Station have fitted 366 home fire smoke alarms. They are continuing to approach residents about

the fitting of smoke alarms. They have also been in discussion with the PCT with regard to smoking in bed, which leads to deaths. They are also working with youngsters who have been showing anti-social behaviour, and are teaching them to grow vegetables etc.

They have been at Pensby Boys School and demonstrated how to remove people from a car after a road traffic accident. The gym at Heswall is now open again. The ladies from Age Concern and the PCT are particular, and like to use the Fire Station for local community groups to raise funds. Cllr. Rowlands said that the work done by the Fire Brigade was a world beater.

Police

Inspector Kate Cunningham sent out 175 forms asking what people's priorities are. It would seem to be speeding for the next three months. Youth disorder (and under-age drinking) tends to be less at this time of the year and Inspector Cunningham would expect these to remain priorities.

With regard to speeding they are gaining a lot more information than previously, and the roads have to be a priority. Also putting information in where they know it will do the most good. The aim is to reduce car crashes and people injured or killed. This is quite high on the Wirral. The first two Speed Watch volunteers have started in Heswall. They will be out using the speed gun and a big yellow jacket, but if there are reports of vehicles going through too fast the Police will go and look at the area and prosecute.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 606 5448 There is a need for additional community support officers - only had two - another three this week, and another two in six months time, which will make it (per ward): 2 Heswall, 2 Pensby, 3 Greasby. There is a need for 6 per ward, and this will make a much more physical presence on the streets.

Community Safety

Jim Thompson - Community Safety Team. This is a multi-agency unit - Police officer, Probationary officer, Health Worker. To put things in perspective we live in a very safe area - Wirral- and this is one of the safest parts of Wirral. Heswall policing averages four recorded crimes per day (target 3.6). Wirral is probably outperforming everyone else. Crime and Disorder Partnerships - Wirral is No. 1 in the North-west. Six years ago the percentage of residents who thought they were safe was 81 %, now it is 88%. Gun crimes dropped by 20 compared to the same period last year. Car and burglary down by 13% on last year. Average 3 to 4 a month, many areas have none. Wirral is actually leading the way in the North-west on domestic violence.

Mrs. Byrne said that she was at a meeting in Heswall Hall last night, and was very frightened by youngsters knocking on the windows, and hovering outside when people were leaving. She felt very intimidated

Concern was also expressed that there was a rumour that Weatherspoons were coming into Kwik Save. This is not true, and the Planning Moratorium is still in force that you cannot build more than one house on a site where there is now only one house.

Mr. Garrett asked whether they were still keeping an eye on Heswall Railway Station. There is evidence of bottles and cans in the shelters, graffiti and vandalism, but this is covered by British Transport Police. Mr. Garrett pointed out that the Heswall Police do have the right to go up there.

Minute 8 - Public question time

A lady wished to say that Age Concern working out of Kylemore Drive are doing a very good job, but a sign would be helpful to indicate where they were. Phil Miner said he would investigate.

David Hall said that in the last year, the Council has spent £1.1 million on the traffic lights at Arrowe Park. There is a need for a pavement crossing at Irby Village. Also outside Pensby Girls School is extremely dangerous, and he has seen drivers speed up when approaching the area, and there have been several accidents. The children sometimes falter, and if you stop to let them cross, the people behind hoot their horns. He has written to local Councillors and Mr Hyden, the Head teacher, but nothing has been done. Road traffic lights are the only way to stop the traffic before a child is killed.

Inspector Cunningham replied that they are looking at the problem, but the accidents that have been reported state that the girls just walk across in front of cars and lorries. There are lists of registration numbers taken, and whilst Inspector Cunningham agrees that it is a problem, they have been talking with the Council. A set of red traffic lights with a crossing would cost in the region of £35,000.

Mark Smith, the Council does have money it spends on road crossings, and they are trying to get school children to use the roads safely, and the Council do introduce engineering methods where necessary. They are working with the Head Teacher and the Police. They will report back

Sarah Quinn asked about the closure of Barnston Road to HGV lorries. They are driving down Barndale Avenue. The Police would like to have registration numbers and the time anyone sees a vehicle driving here so that a prosecution can be started.

Minute 9 - Dates of Future meetings/Presentations

Monday, 18th June 2007 at 7 p.m. Venue to be arranged.

Minute 10 - Any other business

Special Area Forum meeting to be held at St Michaels Church Hall, Pensby Road Pensby to look at proposed PCT Plans for the new Health Centre at The Warrens site. This meeting will be held from 7.00 - 9.00 pm.

Matters Arising from minutes

Minute 2

Tony Garrett asked for Information given at Greasby Frankby Irby Upton area forum to be included in next area co-ordinators report for Heswall Pensby Thingwall in relation to disabled people being refused access on a bus.

Q – Issue and concerns around disabled people being refused access on some public transport.

A - In response to this, I would advise that we are aware of this problem, and have raised it with the relevant bus operators, as it is a breach of the Disability Discrimination Act. People who are refused access or assistance can take legal action against offending bus companies. As you will appreciate, Merseytravel does not operate the buses itself, but we are working with the bus companies to promote staff training and so forth. When we procure supported bus services as well, we also require buses are DDA compliant. The new bus stops and facilities that we are building across Merseyside also allow wheelchair access to buses by means of raised kerbs etc, as creating a fully accessible public transport network is one of our principal objectives. I have copied this to my colleague David Skelton, who is Merseytravel's Access Officer, who may wish to provide additional advice, but as this is not an issue over which Merseytravel has direct control, it is difficult to comment in greater detail I'm afraid.

Information was supplied by Huw Jenkins, Chief Policy Officer, Merseytravel, 24 Hatton Garden, Liverpool L3 2AN. Tel: 0151 330 1110

In relation to refurbishment of Heswall Railway Station, as Mrs McKelvie is not longer an elected member I have no further information on this.

SECTION TWO

Safer & Stronger Communities

Unlicensed landlords urged to contact council

WIRRAL Council is calling for all owners and managing agents of large rented properties to contact them before the end of the month or risk prosecution.

From last summer, large houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) have been required to be licensed by the council to comply with new housing laws. If a property is three storeys or more in height, occupied by five persons or more or forming more than one household sharing some facilities such as a kitchen or bathroom, then it will require a license. Without one, the owner or managing agent will face prosecution and a fine of up to £20,000.

Alan Stennard, Director of Regeneration at Wirral Council, said: "Houses in multiple occupation present some of the biggest health and safety risks for residents, especially with the risk of fire. To protect residents' well-being we urge landlords and managing agents of HMOs in Wirral to contact the council immediately. "So far we have issued licenses to 35 owners and managing agents but we know there are far more properties that should be licensed. By the end of March, we will have allowed 10 months for landlords and agents to contact the council. From April 2007 we will begin to prosecute those who have failed to apply for this compulsory scheme."

If you own or manage a HMO you should contact the Private Sector Housing team on 0151 691 8118 now. After March 31st it will be an offence to run or manage unlicensed premises and after that date the council will increase the level of license fees to be charged to cover its enforcement costs.

Recycling Champions walking the streets of Wirral

WIRRAL Council has four new recycling champions to help residents really get to grips with what they can and can't recycle.

David Green, Director of Technical Services said: 'Incorrect use, or contamination of recycling can cause a lot of problems. Heavy items like alloy wheels have been recovered from bins which could have caused serious damage to the materials recovery facility (MRF) if not spotted. We also have a problem if people dispose of plastic film and plastic bags with their waste paper - the companies that buy the waste paper for recycling don't want it as it's full of plastic and useless.'

Residents who use their recycling bin incorrectly receive a note with their bin from the collection crews, explaining why the bin was not emptied. This is followed up with a visit from one of Wirral's new officers to help the householder with their recycling.

Said David Green: 'We appreciate that this is a new process for people to understand and follow, our Recycling Champions are here to help and provide alternative solutions if residents cannot cope with managing their waste.' The officers are out and about in Wirral all week including Saturdays and all will be carrying official Council identification.

Anyone who fails to produce official Council ID is not a bona fide representative. You should refuse to deal with them and report them to the police.

Any Wirral resident is also welcome to request a visit from a recycling champion if they are unsure about the new scheme, by calling Streetscene on 0151 606 2004.

Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association

The Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association would like to hear from anyone worried about anti-social behaviour in their community.



Representing around 50 tenant and resident associations in Wirral, the Federation of Tenants and Residents Association sees first hand the effect anti social behaviour has. Anti social behaviour affects people's lives in so many ways. To help address this issue, Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association is organising an anti social behaviour conference in September at Tranmere Rovers FC.

The conference will provide an ideal opportunity for tenants and residents to meet and speak to the people who's jobs it is to reduce anti social behaviour in Wirral.

If you are interested in attending please contact Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association on 0151 666 1770 or email wirralfed@hotmail.com

New Services at your local One Stop Shops

Since February this year the following services have been made newly available via your local One Stop Shop:

Licensing

The main change is that the Licensing Reception point at Wallasey Town Hall has closed to the public and therefore you are able to pick up and drop off forms plus get advice and information at any One Stop Shop on the following areas:

- Licenses for airport/chauffeur services
- New and renewal licence applications for Hackney/Private hire drivers
- Permits for house to house collections
- Lottery licences
- Personal licenses for the supply of alcohol at licensed premises
- New licenses or requests for variation of existing licenses for premises or club premises
- Review requests for premises or club premises licenses
- New and renewal license applications for private hire operators
- Applications for Street Collection licenses
- Temporary Event notices
- New and renewal licence applications for Hackney/Private hire vehicles

We will also check any proofs that you supply, take payments where necessary and book any relevant tests/courses you will need to go on

Council job vacancies

If you see a vacancy you want to apply for, you can now go to any One Stop Shop and get an application pack for that job. You can also contact our Call Centre and a recruitment pack will be sent to you within a few days.

Also when you come to return the form you can take it back to any One Stop Shop and they will record that they have received it from you and give you a receipt. This means that you no longer have to go to Wallasey Town Hall to hand job applications in, and you can be guaranteed that the form is in before the closing date.

Streetscene

You can also access more Streetscene services at your local One Stop Shop so you can now request:

- Removal of any fly tipping
- To go on the Help List for bin collection
- Help following a missed bin collection
- Street cleaning
- A replacement bin following damage etc

Also don't forget if you have a query about when your bins are due to be collected you can do this via your local One Stop Shop, Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 or at www.wirral.gov.uk/recycling/

Tourism

One Stop Shops can now give information and advice on Wirral's tourist attractions and events on Wirral.

Pest Control

It is planned that from the end of June you will be able to request the Pest Control Service from your local One Stop Shop as well as being able to phone our Call Centre. We will be able to make the appointment for you there and then whilst you wait.

New Advice Surgeries

Bebington One Stop Shop

There is now a Police Surgery being held at Bebington One Stop Shop on the first Tuesday of each month. The times and dates for 2007 are as follows:

1pm-3pm	5th June 2007
1pm-3pm	3rd July 2007
1pm-3pm	7th August 2007
1pm-3pm	4th September 2007
1pm-3pm	2nd October 2007
1pm-3pm	6th November 2007
1pm-3pm	4th December 2007

Police and Community Support Officers will staff the surgery and will be there to discuss neighbourhood concerns of local residents.

Eastham One Stop Shop

There is a Police Surgery being held at Eastham One Stop Shop (next to the Library). The surgeries are held between 10.00am and 12 noon with the next one on the 18th June. They are then every 3 week after that. Officers will be handing out crime prevention materials to encourage local people to improve their personal, home and car security

So pop into your One Stop Shop for further information on any council service – everything you could ask for under one roof.

For details of where your nearest One Stop Shop is please contact 0151 606 2000 or go to http://www.wirral.gov.uk/fn/one_stop_shops.htm

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Local Area Forum Update

Service Plans

Each year each fire station produces a service plan setting key objectives for that station to focus its activities on during that financial year. The objectives are agreed and are set in line with the Integrated Risk Management Plan for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service which can be viewed on our website merseyfire.gov.uk

Key objectives for all Wirral stations include:

- Use of local intelligence to access the “hard to reach” in the community to deliver Home Fire safety Checks.
- Affect a strategy to reduce fires in derelict properties.
- Continue to work with community partners to promote healthy lifestyles.
- Work with partner agencies to reduce the number of Road Traffic Collisions.
- Devise a strategy to reduce small fires in grasslands and open spaces with the Arson Reduction Advocate.
- Introduce a specialist Hazardous Materials response vehicle at Bromborough.

Home Fire Safety Checks

The number of home fire safety checks including the free fitting of smoke detectors carried out by operational crews in peoples homes in Wirral has increased by over 20% with 1700 carried out in April alone.

To get your free home fire safety check call 0800 731 5958.

Station Contact Numbers Ask for the Watch Manager

<u>Birkenhead</u>	0151 650 0422
<u>Bromborough</u>	0151 548 9258
<u>Heswall</u>	0151 342 4510
<u>Upton</u>	0151 678 0819

Wallasey 0151 630 3040
West Kirby 0151 625 1157

Information and details relating to particular areas will be available from the Wirral Management Team at the Forums.

Paul Gibson Wirral District Manager

Wirral Joint Community Safety Team Area Forum Update

All Wirral

- 3G cameras now available and in use in Tranmere and soon to be in Woodchurch
- The Home Office Minister Louise Casey has identified Wirral as one of the England's 'Respect Action Areas'. The 'Respect Housing Standard' an agreement with Registered Social Landlords will start in early June. Wirral's largest registered social Landlords are signed up to this initiative and will be meeting on a monthly basis to ensure standards are maintained.
- Police and Wirral Partnership Homes are working with the Wirral Joint Community Safety Team to reduce Criminal Damage to properties. This will act as a pilot project to be taken up by other registered social landlords.

East Wirral

- BT and NTL boxes which have been the target for graffiti across the eastern side of Wirral. Reparation work will be carried – launch next week – public to identify 'grotty' boxes and then Young Offenders will repaint them.

Liscard

- 46 gates Alleygates are being installed going in Devereux Road, work commencing in June 07

Birkenhead and Tranmere

- The much publicised 'talking CCTVs' are now being deployed starting with Charing Cross, Birkenhead.

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas

- An initiative to provide computers to pupils has worked with Wirral Joint Community Safety Team to ensure they are delivered and used in safety. Specialist Brigadoon Stealth software was deployed which disables and locates computers if stolen.

Healthier Communities & Older People

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.

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 £220m and we employ around 6,000 staff across all our sites.

NHS Foundation Trust - All hospitals have to become Foundation Trust's (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.

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, patients 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:

- 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

Introduction

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
- "Kontaktabus"
- "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
- 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 Kontaktabus.

Response

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex 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 500 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

Wirral Youth Theatre 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.

Pensby Youth Club

Pensby Youth Club has been in a stage of transition after work had been done to move on an older group of YP who have dominated the club for a number of years, making it hard for other YP to get involved. This left a bit of a gap. Working alongside Community Safety Team, the team took part in a recruitment drive to find new membership. Once this had been achieved, a programme was set out with the input of this new group. Already they have taken part in drug and alcohol workshops and a Go Carting trip. The main emphasis has been to build relationships between YP and Staff. They are currently organising a trip to Oaklands in the summer. They have also recently purchased a computer for the project.

The Deeside Young People's Project

The Deeside Young People's Project undertakes Streetwork in the area, in particular, supporting community safety initiatives.

Ability vs Ability...Nothing Else

A talent recognition day took place in Wirral for up to 60 youngsters with special needs.

The 'Ability vs Ability...Nothing Else' event was held at Pensby Sports College on Tuesday 13th March between 10am and 2pm.

The youngsters came from both special schools and mainstream schools within Wirral between the ages of 7 and 19 years.

They took part in sporting events such as boccia, goalball, new age curling, multi-skills and floor lacrosse.

The event saw the launch of a new web-based education resource pack from the British Paralympic Association designed to raise awareness of the Paralympics and Paralympic athletes.

Special guests for the day included Jamie Andrews, a mountaineer who had his lower arms and legs amputated following an mountaineering accident, but went on to climb mountains and run a marathon, Martin Mansell, a former Paralympic Swimmer and chair of the British Paralympic Association, Mark Eccleston GB wheelchair tennis player and former world no1, and Derek Mountfield, formerly of Everton Football Club and now a multi-skills coach for the Pensby School Sport Partnership.

Further aquatic, athletics and racket-based events are planned for later in the Year

Wirral school children win recycling challenge

Schoolchildren across Wirral have scored a double jackpot simply by recycling old Yellow Pages directories - winning hundreds of pounds for their schools and raising enough money to plant and care for 70 native trees.

Twenty schools recently took on the Yellow Woods Challenge – the simple, educational and fun environmental campaign for schools run by Yellow Pages, working with the Woodland Trust – the UK's leading woodland conservation charity - and Wirral Council.

The schools had fun competing against each other, recycling over 6000 old Yellow Pages directories. Clare Mount Specialist Sports College beat off fierce competition, recycling an impressive 12.53 old Yellow Pages directories per pupil to take the 'Gold Oak' title and win £300. Kilgarth School has been named the 'Silver Birch' winner and receives £200, while Orretts Meadow School has been rewarded with £100 and the 'Bronze Beech' title.

Stanley Special School will also receive a £100 bonus prize from Yellow Pages for the school that builds the best giant sculpture using old Yellow Pages directories.

Richard Duggleby, head of external relations at Yell – the publisher of Yellow Pages directories, said: "For every pound we award to schools for recycling old Yellow Pages

directories, we give a matching pound to the Woodland Trust. Thanks to the recycling efforts of residents and schools in Wirral, that's another £700 raised for the Trust.”*

The Woodland Trust will use the money to support its ‘Tree For All’ campaign – the most ambitious children’s tree-planting project ever launched in the UK.

Janice Hix, corporate partnerships manager with the Woodland Trust, said: “This is a very valuable contribution towards our goal. We’re hoping to raise enough money through the Yellow Woods Challenge this year to plant and care for more than five hectares of native woodland – an area as big as 13 football pitches. “Woodland is the UK’s richest wildlife habitat and offers benefits for the environment, for people and for communities. Tree planting is really important as we are one of the least wooded countries in Europe.”

The local competition has now closed, but the schools have several more chances to win thousands of pounds in the national competition for their recycling, environmental education, community involvement and sculpture building efforts.

David Green, Wirral Council’s Director of Technical Services added: “This has been a fantastic competition with over 5 tonnes of old directories diverted from landfill and recycled into cardboard. I congratulate our schools for their achievements locally and wish them all the best of luck in the national competition.”

For more information about the local and national Yellow Woods Challenge competition, please visit www.yellow-woods.co.uk

Thousands of Pounds available for Wirral Teenagers

Wirral’s teenagers will soon get the chance to bid for a share of hundreds of thousands of pounds to pay for projects and equipment to improve their lives.

A total of £377, 513 is available from the Youth Capital Fund and the Youth Opportunity Fund this year in the borough.

Application forms are available from April 2 – and must be submitted by midday on June 25. Wirral’s new grant panel of young people aged 13-19 will decide which projects are successful.

Youth Capital Fund money is for capital projects – ie buying equipment, new builds or refurbishments.

Youth Opportunity Fund money is for places to go and things to do – ie projects, residential stays, trips which support young people’s personal development.

Applications should be made from groups or young people aged 13-19. Individuals can’t apply.

Last year the funds were oversubscribed by almost £1 million. Successful applications included a new minibus for a youth club, new equipment for parks and clubs, support for homeless young people, a booklet written by young carers to help others in their situation, residential and trips.

Maureen McDaid, Head of Wirral’s Youth and Play Service, said: “Last year’s money has paid for some wonderful projects and broadened opportunities for Wirral’s young people. This year’s grant panel will have to make some tough decisions – they will be

paying close attention to the benefits each application represents.”

To request an application pack or find out more about serving on this year’s grant panel please contact Youth and Play Service on 637 6370.

Economic Development and Enterprise

Fairtrade Guide available

A new Fairtrade Guide to Wirral is now available with details of local shops and cafes, more about the local campaign and about why it’s important to support farmers in the developing world.

Wirral officially became a Fairtrade Borough in April 2006. In partnership with Wirral Council, the campaign has been led by the Fairworld Group – part of Wirral Local Agenda 21 Network – which includes representatives from many local churches, environmental and social justice groups.

The Guide lists dozens of local shops and cafés that stock products with the distinctive Fairtrade Mark on them. It also highlights the work local schools have done to spread the message.

It will be widely available at local libraries, One Stop Shops, Fairtrade shops and cafes, or by calling 0151 639 2121

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Latest news on changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collections

Residents urged to read their information packs as changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collections get underway. Wirral's new waste and recycling collections have begun, with residents being asked to use different types of bin for their waste and recyclable materials.

As the new collections roll out across Wirral, homes will use:

A brown bin, for garden waste only (with the exception of a limited number of homes who are taking part in a trial combined food and garden waste scheme). A grey bin, for 'dry' recyclables such as plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars, paper, cardboard, tins and cans. Their usual green wheelie bin for all other waste that can not be recycled.

The new service is being delivered area by area, and as each phase begins, residents in that area will receive an information pack and collections' calendar so everyone will know which bin is being collected when, and what to put in it.

The information you receive is specific and targeted to the street you live in, and is not applicable to a friend or neighbour, even one living nearby. You should ensure you read the instructions delivered to your home carefully and keep them in a safe place. We know that some residents are apprehensive about the new scheme, but this is one of

the most convenient schemes around the country; instead of a number of different bins, bags and boxes for different types of waste, this gives residents the chance to use the minimum of means to recycle the maximum amount of waste - with no need for sorting. We do it for you.

Help is available from a number of sources: If you have access to the internet, use our [collection day search engine](#) for a road-by-road breakdown of latest collection information for your street. Alternatively you can call into any of Wirral's One Stop Shops, or to your local library, who will be able to access the internet for you for free.

The council call centre, Streetscene on- 606 2004 - will also be able to help, but please be aware that it is experiencing a high volume of calls at the moment and you may have to wait for assistance. We're sorry for any inconvenience you may be experiencing due to this.

These collections are being introduced to help the Council meet new recycling targets to cut down on the amount of waste it sends to landfill. In the long run, it will not only save precious resources for future generations, but will save council taxpayers money as it reduces the amount of landfill tax we have to pay.

Please bear with us while these changes settle down; as with any major change, it takes time for people to get used to new processes and new systems. We appreciate your patience and apologise for any inconvenience suffered while the service is established

SECTION THREE

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Helplink Community Support	To enable the organisation to take on further clients and supplying them with our full service, we have 200 on our waiting list, and to introduce a new telephone check and befriending service.	Panel considered this to be an excellent project that is likely to benefit local people and agreed to contribute £2,000.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding has enabled the increase in service hours to clients, particularly to new clients taken from our waiting list.
Pioneer People Wirral	To improve the wooded area at Fishers Lane by laying wood chippings on the footpaths, erecting bird and bat boxes and putting up information panels.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £500.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	The wood now has dozens of bird and bat boxes, all erected by volunteers. We have improved access in half the footpaths by filling with wood chippings and will complete the rest in Summer 2007. local walkers have expressed thanks for the improvements. We continue to keep the area clean with litter picks each month.
Pioneer People Wirral	To run a week long mobile skate park and youth café in the summer holidays at Barnston Church car park, and a four-day residential adventure holiday in the October half term.	Panel considered this to be a good diversionary project and agreed to award £768.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund and £1,652.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	The skate park was attended by over 120 young people. Eleven young people attended the adventure weekend and designed a survey that has been sent to 3000 young people, and the findings from this are due to be published in Summer 2007.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Pioneer People Wirral	To publicise the launch of a Virtual Charity Shop within the Pensby, Thingwall and Heswall areas.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £501.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund and £500.00 from the Local Agenda	This mail shot has led to significant numbers of donations of goods that could have otherwise ended up in landfill. We also used this to advertise our community services which has led to increased access, especially to our DIY and gardening service for the elderly and people with disabilities
Pioneer People Wirral	To run a community auction and environment day.	Panel considered this to be a good project worth supporting and agreed to contribute £350.00 towards this from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	The event was held at Pensby Wood Centre and about 300 local people attended. A boot sale encouraging recycling and nine local charities had stalls and auctioned / raffled prizes. Family fun based stalls raised about £800 which was given to the attending charities.
Thingwall Recreational Centre	To provide external lighting for part of the car park / access lane to the side of the building and to provide lighting and CCTV coverage of the bowling green and garden.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £830.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	Thank you for your grant, the project is now complete and cameras, monitor and video recorder have been installed.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Wirral Women & Childrens Aid	To help run the youth club for the next 12	Panel considered this to be a good diversionary project likely to benefit local people and agreed to award £700.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund and £300.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	<p>The children who attend our weekly run youth club have all experienced / witnessed domestic abuse. Most of them have lived in the refuge for part of their young lives.</p> <p>The youth club provides weekly activities for them, enabling them to be children and giving them, and their mums, respite for a short period of time on an ongoing basis.</p>
Heswall Skaters Working Party	To purchase and install a complete CCTV system for the skate park, playground and park area.	Panel considered this to be an excellent project and supporting this honours our commitment to young people. They agreed to award *£3,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund and *£2,500.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	The CCTV system has been installed and linked to Wirral to Wirral Borough Council CCTV room, along with an additional camera for Heswall Football Club who are housing the CCTV hard drive and providing the broadband.
<i>*Total funding awarded from three separate applications</i>			
Age Concern Wirral	To contribute towards annual older persons' conference.	Panel considered this to be a good project that will benefit local older people and the development of Older People's Parliament and agreed to award £855.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The older persons' conference was held on 26th October at Hulme Hall, and was attended by over 100 older people and carers and 60 senior professionals from across the Borough. There was a choice of workshops, including an interactive voting session, which gave participants the opportunity to comment on local service delivery / plans etc.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Wirral Squash Development Association	To contribute towards starting up a programme to develop sporting skills in young people aged between 11 and 14 years by provision of equipment and coaching.	Panel considered this to be a good project that is likely to benefit local people and agreed to award £1,044.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding was used to purchase essential equipment and to run four separate days of squash training, which were attended by 105 children from the following schools - Pensby Girls; Pensby Boys; Heswall Primary and Thornton Hough.
Wirral YFC - Ex:cell Pensby	To contribute towards the costs of using a theatre company to work with local young people in and out of school.	Panel considered this to be a good project that would benefit local people and agreed to part fund this.	In September 2006 we delivered a highly successful sex and relationships workshop in Pensby Girls School, using the Professional Theatre Company 'Pure'. The drama presentation enabled us to run follow up impact groups with the girls that attended the workshop.

SECTION FOUR

Local Area Plan Update

Background The area plans were developed during 2004 to 2006 and launched in May 2006. In order to align them to Wirral's local area agreement, the area plans will be refreshed and reviewed on an annual basis to reflect Wirral and area forum priorities, and will follow the same delivery timeframe as the agreement.

Purpose The purpose of the area plans is to identify local issues, priorities and needs and to support and guide the forums in working towards addressing these throughout the year. The area plans are a development that will evolve over time as issues are addressed and new priorities emerge. The area plans aim to give an understanding of the local area in which residents live through the provision of information about what is in the area and statistical information about the needs of the local population. It also identifies local issues that have been raised through the forums and contributes towards achieving local area agreement priorities and outcomes.

The purpose of refreshing the plans is to standardise the 11 area plans ensuring they are easy to use and useful to residents. The proposed new structure will enable local issues and priorities to be identified and included in the area plans, this will ensure that through regular monitoring, Wirral Council and its partners are providing a dynamic and responsive approach to local issues.

Proposals for new look area plans It is proposed that the area plans will feature three main sections;

- Introduction
- Statistical Information
- Local priority action plan

Introduction This section will set out the purpose of the plans and introduce the members of the area forum. Contextual information about the area will still feature in this section, however in order to make these plans as user friendly and accessible as possible, this section will look to signpost to other websites and contact details for further information where appropriate.

Statistical Information In order to provide a standard approach to all of the area forum plans, the statistical information for each of the area plans will follow the same format and include the same content, adapted to show highlighted information for each of the forum areas. The section will focus on the individual area forum and also provide comparative information for Wirral to provide context.

Local priority action plan As part of the review of the existing area plans, each area co-ordinator will address the issues which feature in the local issues section of each plan and identify outstanding issues. These issues will transfer into the refreshed area plans to ensure they remain a key focus for the area forum. The owner of each action will be a named partner who will have responsibility to tackle this issue. Issues that have been resolved will not be taken forward into refreshed area plans. This will ensure that there is a clear focus on the key outstanding priorities and issues that are identified at a local level for each area forum. As new priorities are identified, they will also form part of the local priority action plan to be addressed at area forums and progressed through the responsible partner.

SECTION FIVE

Streetscene Update

Birkenhead Parking

New parking regulations came into force in Birkenhead Town Centre in April, which replaced the existing Disc Zone with a new Controlled Parking Zone.

Motorists now have to pay to park in the new parking zone, between the hours of 8:00am and 6:30pm. Wirral Council did allow for people to become accustomed to the new charges, by offering a few weeks 'grace period' where no parking fines were issued.

The charges have been introduced to reduce congestion and accidents, encourage people to use public transport, free up more parking spaces, and improve access for emergency vehicles and disabled drivers.

Changes to Speed Restrictions

Wirral Council received a number of enquiries and petitions expressing concern about the speed of traffic in sections of Telegraph Road, Column Road and Thurstaston Road. As part of a scheme to improve road safety it is proposed to reduce the speed limit along sections of these roads.

Consultation letters have been sent out to residents in the area, notices have been placed on site and the proposed orders appeared in the local press.

The proposed speed reductions are as follows:

- Telegraph Road and Column Road from Church Lane to Grange Cross Lane will be reduced from 50mph to 40mph.
- Drivers travelling along Column Road from Grange Cross Lane to Croome Drive will be forced to slow from 40mph to 30mph.
- The existing 50mph speed limit in Thurstaston Road from Telegraph Road to reduced to 40mph.

Residents Parking Zones

After many requests and complaints from residents about the lack of parking facilities outside their homes due to non-residents (students, shoppers, commuters) using the spaces, Wirral Council are running a **consultation** about possible Residents' Parking Zones. The consultation is in the very early stages and will be carried out in seven pilot areas across the borough.

The Council have no budget set aside for creating Residents' Parking Zones so are suggesting that all residents' who opt for a zone pay an approximate £75 set up charge per household. This funding would then go to signing, road markings, permit issuing and enforcement.

Residents in the seven pilot areas will be receiving a letter, leaflet and questionnaire. We urge everyone who receives this correspondence to state their views via the feedback questionnaire and return it.

No charges will be incurred by residents within existing zones.

The seven pilot areas are:

- **Atherton Street area, New Brighton** – near to New Brighton train station and a small number of businesses.
- **Alexandra Road area, West Kirby** – Near to boating lake, beach, shops and Coronation Gardens.
- **Grasmere Drive area, Wallasey** – Just outside of Liscard resident parking scheme. Near to local shops.
- **Barnston Lane area, Moreton** – To the north of an existing small scheme. Within Moreton town centre where there is generally low provision for commercial off-street parking.
- **Probyn Road/Ponsonby Road, Wallasey Village** – Near to train station.
- **Acacia Grove area, West Kirby** – Mixed residential/commercial use, close to train station, shopping centre and leisure areas.
- **Brookfield Road/Brookfield Gardens, West Kirby** – primarily residential with displaced parking related to nearby businesses and train station.

Road Safety Campaigns - Young pedestrians, young drivers and young passengers

Wirral Road Safety Partnership (Wirral Council & Merseyside Police) commissioned a radio advertisement campaign aimed at teenagers and young people. A series of three hard-hitting adverts were aired daily on Radio City 96.7 throughout March and April, urging young people to belt up when in car, and to take care as a pedestrian.

In addition to the air-time campaign, Wirral Road Safety and Radio City are hosting a competition between four Wirral high schools - Woodchurch, Park High, Rock Ferry High and The Wallasey School. This competition asks for students to compile a short road safety advert film, and spread the film to friends and other young people, via mobile phone and the internet etc. The winners will be announced in June.

Port Sunlight/Clatterbridge Cycle Route

Wirral Council is committed to promoting cycling as a healthy, sustainable mode of transport. The cycle route between Port Sunlight Railway Station and Clatterbridge Hospital is nearing completion and will increase road safety for cyclists who currently experience difficulties on main roads and at junctions. It will also encourage workers, visitors and residents of the area to take up cycling as a form of transport. To benefit pedestrians and cyclists, three toucan crossings have been installed in Brimstage Road, Church Road and Bromborough Road to enable them to cross the road safely.

The route will also enable thousands of local schoolchildren to get out on their bikes and into the fresh air by providing safe routes for them to cycle.

Traffic Safety Schemes

Since the last update at the beginning of the year, we have implemented the following traffic safety schemes:

Conway Street / Exmouth Street	Signal Improvement
Hoylake Road / Reeds Lane	Signal Improvement
Duke Street	New Puffin Crossing
Port Sunlight Station	New Refuge
Bebington Station	New Refuge
Greenfield Avenue / Dawpool Drive	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
Dock Road	Traffic Improvement
Birkenhead Park Station	Convert Zebra to Puffin Crossing
Manor Lane, Liscard	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
St. Georges Way, Thornton Hough	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
M53 exit slip road (Toyota Dealership)	Speed limit reduction / New Carriageway and markings / New signs

Highway Maintenance Contracts

The extensive procurement exercise for the future provision of all Highway Maintenance works continues. Consultants, Capita Symonds, are currently preparing options and reports to be put to Members. The contract will cover maintenance works such as footway and carriageway works, traffic signals, gully cleansing and street lighting.

Wirral on the Road to Recycling

Working alongside Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, Wirral Council is encouraging local companies to use recycled materials and where possible use them within Council business.

One example of this is how we are using 100% recycled plastic kerb stones for pavements around the borough. The kerbs are light, very hard wearing and are reducing the length of time it takes to repair roads. This ultimately will save the Council money and provide us with a more effective material for road reconstruction.

The kerbs mean the use of technical lifting equipment is unnecessary due to their light weight and it's therefore much safer for staff to use. All the pilot schemes have also shown us how hard wearing the material is.

Cigarette / Smoking-related Litter

Wirral Council are aware that when Wirral goes 'smokefree' on July 1st, there will be a backlash of cigarette litter.

In preparation for this, the installation of 50 cigarette bins is imminent in the Birkenhead and Liscard town centre areas. Discarding cigarette butts is an offence, as is dropping any litter, and is subject to a £75 fine.

To deter Wirral residents from committing the offence, we are warning them of the £75 fine. We are heading up an extensive advertising campaign, including adverts on billboards, bus stops, phone boxes and bus rears. Will also be hosting events to give away portable ashtrays (Stubbi pouches) and communicate the fact that

people will be given £75 fines if they are caught dropping a cigarette stub, or any form of litter.

Major Surfacing Schemes

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

Footway works completed

Heswall Mount, Thingwall	Cestrian Drive, Thingwall
Rullerton Road, Wallasey (part)	Birchway, Gayton
Downham Road, Tranmere (part)	Aysgarth Road, Wallasey
Orchard Road, Moreton	Craicleigh Grove, Eastham
Parkway/Parkway Close, Irby	Holmlands Drive (Part) Oxton
Moseley Avenue, Wallasey	Haydock Road, New Brighton
135 -157 Thingwall Road Irby	Darmonds Green, West Kirby

Future footway works planned

Wakefield Drive, Leasowe	Devonshire Road, West Kirby
Caldwell Drive, Upton	Bassenthwaite Avene, Claughton
Burlingham Avenue, West Kirby (part)	Upton Road (part) Claughton
The Laund, Wallasey	Nursury Close, Oxton
Derwent Drive, Liscard	Grafton Street (part) Birkenhead
Dalmorton Road (part) New Brighton	Well Lane, Bebington
Croxteth Avenue, Liscard	Fieldway, Bebington
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard	

Carriageway resurfacing completed

Trinity/Eddisbury/Kingswood/Berwyn Roads, Wallasey	Gorsedale Road (part) Seacombe
Wright Street, Wallasey	Beryl Road, Claughton
Kinglake Road, Wallasey (part)	St Elmo Road, Liscard
Lingdale Road North, Claughton	Hoscote Park, West Kirby
Adelaide Road, Birkenhead	Elm Grove, Hoylake
Byron Close, Prenton	Orchard Grange, Moreton
Redcar Road, Wallasey	Twickenham Drive (part) Leasowe
	Darmonds Green, West Kirby

Moseley Avenue, Liscard Palmerston Road, Wallasey	Redhouse Lane, West Kirby
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Carriageway resurfacing planned

Sherlock Lane, Poulton	Neville Road, Bromborough
Brompton Avenue, Wallasey	Dibbins Hey (part), Clatterbridge
Haydock Road, New Brighton	Wirral Mount, Clatterbridge
Chadwick Street, Moreton	Patterdale Road, Clatterbridge
Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge	Devonshire Road (part) Birkenhead
Derwent Drive, Liscard	Townsend/Challis/Curlender Roads, Bidston
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard	Bedford Road (part) Rock Ferry
Wharfedale Road, Wallasey	New Chester Road (part) Rock Ferry
Aysgarth Road, Wallasey	Bridge Street, (part) Birkenhead
The Laund, Wallasey	Argyle Street,(part) Birkenhead
Perrin Road. Wallasey	Mount Road (part) Bebington
Acres Road, Bebington	
Richmond Close, Bebington	

Tall Ships 2008

Plans are already underway to manage the huge amount of traffic that the Tall Ships 2008 event will attract. The event is set to take place between 18-21 July NEXT YEAR (2008). We are working with Merseytravel, Culture Company and Liverpool Council to create a suitable park and ride site on Wirral and to ensure East Wirral's streets are not gridlocked when the event is taking place.

Walk to School Week 2007

Wirral Council have been working hard to ensure as many schools as possible encourage their students to walk to school by setting up 'walking bus' programmes throughout the year. Walk to School Week is Monday 21 – Friday 25 May 2007. The Mayor of Wirral, Phil Gilchrist will be joining a walking bus to Woodchurch Primary School on Wednesday May 23 at 8.30am and then St Joseph's Primary School, Seacombe on Friday May 25 8.30am.

Garden Recycling

Garden waste brown bins have now been delivered to most homes that have a garden. This includes an extra 11,500 households previously without a garden collection scheme and brings the total to approximately 85,000 households.

Collection calendars have been delivered to all households with a brown bin. Collection days have been changed in order to provide greater balance of collection rounds and more logical route plans. Unfortunately, after being considerably let down by the distribution company some households did not receive their calendars. Wirral Council is now collating this information and arranging for calendars to be delivered as quickly as possible.

There have been some teething problems getting residents on to the new collection days, however the contractor are now catching up with collections and bins are being presented with lots of garden recycling.

Paper and Packaging Recycling

The new paper and packaging scheme has now been extended to more residents bringing the total households to 110,000. 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.

The final phase (excluding flats) is beginning with the grey wheelie bins being distributed currently. All residents will be on the scheme by 11 June, this includes a further 33,000 properties.

Comprehensive information and advertising for the scheme has been provided to all residents. The Council applied for funding from the Waste Resource Action Program (WRAP) for the communications activities and this was awarded providing Wirral with an extensive marketing campaign. The marketing literature was used as good-practice by WRAP. Wirral's website has been updated and provides all the most recent information for residents.

Some problems occurred at the beginning of the recent roll-out of the bins. This was mainly due to the contractor playing catch up after the Easter Bank Holiday's as residents were unaware collections would take place. This led to a back-log of bins to collect and caused some problems with delayed collections. The Council did experience high volumes of calls to Streetscene and negative press coverage, however since the scheme has begun, residents have presented huge amounts of recycling and have really taken ownership of the scheme.

Wirral saw almost treble the volume of recycling within the first four weeks on the paper and packaging scheme with a 95% participation rate. It is anticipated that Wirral will exceed our recycling target of 23% next year. Wirral is very encouraged about the standard of recycling with very few bins having to be rejected for contamination, i.e. wrong items presented for collection in a recycling bin.

Home Composting

WRAP (Waste Resource Action Program) 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 are 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.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES TO STREETSCENE & TRANSPORT SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –23 MAY 2007

Update on Integrated Transport Block

Senior officers from my Department have engaged with each of the eleven Area Forums in the June 2006 cycle of meetings.

Nine out of the eleven Area Forums had decided that the whole of the Integrated Transport Block allocation remains at the centre for use on a borough wide basis. Bromborough and Eastham and Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forums expressed a desire to have a share of the budget allocated locally.

It was noted that this would mean that the two Area Forums would receive 1/11th each of the Integrated Transport Block for local allocation and that any projects within those areas above that level of funding would not be able to proceed.

I am expecting suggestions at the June 2007 cycle of Area Forums, which will be considered, where appropriate.

Suggestions already received from some of the Area Forums have already been considered along with all other requests received for Speed Reduction and Aids to Movement schemes. Requests for Speed Reduction schemes are included within a separate report to this Committee. The remaining initiatives within the Aids to Movement programme are considered below.

I do, however, propose to bring a separate report to your Committee following the next cycle of Area Forum meetings and report on the requests made within the Bromborough and Eastham, and Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forums, identifying Aids to Movement schemes to be implemented from the allocated share of the Integrated Transport Block.

Equality and Diversity

Introduction

Welcome to this new section of the forum's report! This will be a regular feature in future and if anyone has any comments, ideas or items they would like to see included in this section, they will be most welcome.

What is Equality and Diversity?

The ESLG (Equality Standard for Local Government) assesses how we are performing in respect of gender, race and disability. The standard provides a framework for delivering continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

There are 6 strands/pillars of the Equality Standard:

- Race
- Disability
- Gender
- Age
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion or belief

We currently have a statutory duty to produce schemes which address any negative impact in respect of race, disability and gender, all of which can be found on the Council's website.

http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm

The Equality Standard has 5 levels, Wirral is aiming to achieve level 2 by December 2007. A validation exercise took place recently where 'critical friends' were invited to help assess us informally as an Authority in order for us to reach level 2. The process for level 2 is self assessment and includes colleagues from other local authorities, Age Concern, Youth Service, Jigsaw, Wirral Change, WIRED and Women's Enterprise Breakthrough.

The Council has mechanisms to ensure all departments regularly discuss equalities. There is also a Corporate Group which meets bi-monthly to assess the progress of departments through the equality agenda. In this way we hope to address any areas of weaknesses in our employment practice or service delivery.

If you are interested to find out more please visit our website and your views/comments would be appreciated and fed back to the Corporate Group.

Useful groups/contacts

Clint Agard, Wirral Change - Wirral Change is a Black and Racial Minority Outreach Service which offers information, advice and guidance on jobs, education, training, self-employment and signposting to other services for Racial Minority people on the Wirral. We offer drop-in sessions for internet access/job search. We also now have a new service which provides immigration advice.

For further information please contact Clint on 0151 650 5428

Margaret Jones, Chair - Wirral Disabled People's Forum - The Wirral Disabled People's Forum meets four times a year at different accessible venues across the Wirral. The Forum exists to discuss issues that are of importance to disabled people and their carers and to ensure that their views are taken forward to the relevant bodies where decisions are being made. By doing this disabled people in Wirral have the opportunity to influence services in the area.

For further information please contact Margaret on 0151 327 5508

Peter Barnett, Wirral LGB&T Forum (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) - A forum for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender community has been set up; this has been done with the support of the NETWORK (WVCSN), Wirral Borough Council and Merseyside Police. At this moment in time we are setting up the core group to assess the policy's and aims of the forum, if any one is interested in joining the core group please email us at wirralgbt_forum@yahoo.co.uk

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