

YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**



Heswall Pensby Thingwall Area Forum

Papers for the forum meeting

Tuesday 23rd October 2007

**Pensby Recreation Centre
408 Pensby Road
Pensby
CH61 9PE**

7.00pm – 9.00pm

**Heswall / Pensby & Thingwall Area Forum
Area Forum**

Tuesday 23rd October 2007

7.00pm

Pensby Recreation Centre
408 Pensby Road
Pensby
CH61 9PE

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies
3. Area co-ordinators Report
 - **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**
4. Public question time.
5. Partner Updates
 - **Fire & Rescue Service**
 - **Police**
 - **Community Safety**
 - **Wirral Primary Care Trust**
 - **Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**
6. Dates of Future meetings/Presentations
7. Any other business

Heswall Pensby Thingwall

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

23rd October 2007

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Section One

Minutes from last meeting

Minutes - Area Forum (Heswall and Pensby & Thingwall) - 18 June 2007

Present	
Chair	Cllr Peter Johnson
Ward Councillors	IJ Mackenzie , Sarah Quinn , MG Redfern , SL Rowlands
Community Representatives	A Garrett (Heswall Community Representative)
Older People's Parliament Representative	S Cameron
Lead Officer	Chris Batman (Head of Branch, Planning and Resources, Children and Young People's Department)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith
Street Scene Manager	Phil Miner
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Russell Favager
Merseyside Police	Inspector Kate Cunningham
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Paul Gibson (Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service)
Council Officers	Cathy Newman (Community Safety Team)
Apologies	Cllr A Hodson

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Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions

Chris Batman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and reported that he had to begin the meeting as Cllr. McKelvie is no longer a councillor and it is, therefore, necessary to elect a new Chairman.

Minute 2 - Election of Chairman

Chris Batman asked whether there were any nominations for Chairman and:

Cllr. Rowlands proposed Cllr. Johnson and as there were no other proposals, Chris Batman asked for a seconder, and Cllr. Ian Mackenzie seconded. Chris Batman declared that Cllr. Johnson be Chairman.

Minute 3 - Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The Minutes were agreed as a correct report, and Tracey updated items in her Report which followed.

Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators Report - Tracey Smith - Area Plan Update

Tracey Smith reminded people that the Heswall/Pensby/Thingwall Area Forum had decided to take their own Decisions regarding money spent in Integrated Transport. The amount allocated is £16,500. and this has to be used and all the work completed by April 2008. So far, only one suggestion has been received from Mr. Garrett. If anyone else has any suggestions, please let Technical Services know within the next two weeks, as they have to plan their programme.

Safer and Stronger Communities. Children and Young People Youth Service update. There is money available from the Youth Capital Fund Opportunity Fund, but applications must be received by June 25th 2007 There is also now a Fair Trade Guide for Wirral and the latest news on Wirral's waste collection programme.

There is need to have a Community Initiative Fund panel meeting on 5th July Tracey asked that if anyone is interested please pass their name to her. Cllr Rowlands volunteered to join the panel.

Area Plan Update. All Area Plans have recently been reviewed and refreshed to see that they are up-to-date so that anyone wishing to buy property or move into the area can see what is proposed in the future, to make sure they area easy to use and useful to residents with the final part being a Local Action Plan, which will reflect matters raised at the Area Forums. They are large documents, and as such expensive to produce, and there are

only 15 copies if anyone would like a copy contact Tracey Smith at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Garrett voiced concern over the new Area Plans, and felt that they are becoming meaningless, as the draft for all eleven areas are now looking the same, with set area concerns and a limited set of objectives.

Public transport is not mentioned in the action plan by Wirral Council, but is left to Merseytravel.

Merseytravel do not have representation on the Area Forums, and yet we all pay our Council Tax, some of which goes to the Police, Fire Service and Merseytravel. We should be informed of their intentions. Tracey stated the original sub-committees did look at the 2006 proposals, and this is the refreshed version for 2007/08, taking into consideration local issues. One of the issues was a problem with public transport to the local hospitals. The new plan now had realistic milestones and dates so that the forum could actually tackle the issues with its partners. She pointed out that Wirral Council have no power over Merseytravel, but there is a local transport plan that covers most of the transport issues that Mr. Garrett raised. Tracey Smith suggested that Wirral Transport Users Association lobby Arriva Wales for improved conditions etc and asked that Mr. Garrett take that up as he is Secretary of the group.

Minute 5 - Older Peoples Parliament

Older Peoples' Parliament Mr. Cameron stated the Older Peoples' Parliament concentrates more on issues affecting the more mature members of society, and he was amazed at the wide range covered by the Area Forum. He stated that he had left copies of Newsletters on the signing in table. One of the pages has a contact number for Lesley Howells if more information is required. Mr. Garrett asked for which areas the Older Peoples' Parliament had members, and the reply was all of the wards apart from Bromborough.

Val Curtis wondered if people have not come forward because the term "older people". Sandy Cameron replied that there had been much discussion at the first meeting, with many suggestions put forward, and Older People had been opted for. Tracey pointed out this was not Wirral Councils Older Peoples Parliament the idea came from the senior citizens forum. The council work in partnership with the parliament. It is for anyone aged 50 upwards. Mrs. Diana Lane asked in view of the feeling of allegiance to Ellesmere Port by Eastham whether there would be anyone applying to be part of the parliament.

Mr. Garrett said that he is part of the Transport sub group of the older peoples parliament and they have been discussing the best way to improve services. There are disabled people being refused on buses, drivers not putting the ramps down and many other complaints. Merseytravel Support Services – some of these have been withdrawn, some weekday, some weekends. The standard of buses is low, some double deckers are very old, and should not begin to move off until older people are seated. Travel passes should be allowed to be used prior to 9.30 a.m., particularly for hospital visits. Control of Merseytravel routes required throughout Merseyside. Mr. Garrett again stated the Bidston- Wrexham Line should be put in hand. (Tracey reported that it had been included

in the Local Transport Plan.) Many of Mersey Rail stations are old, and do not have suitable access for the disabled. Ramps or lifts should be installed as soon as possible, not just for the disabled, but mothers with prams etc. No toilet facilities at many stations, and still need more trains.

Minute 6 - Wirral Hospital Trust Engagement Strategy Presentation

Gary Docherty introduced himself as a Director from Wirral Hospital Trust, and he had come to talk about the Trust, and the progression to a Foundation Trust. This will require a five year plan, and this is an opportunity to talk about the plan, and for those present to ask questions. Arrowe Park Hospital sees 400,000 patients per year, with a budget in the region of £240,000,000. per year, employing 6,000 staff, and as such is one of the major employers on Wirral. Approximately 90,000 patients to A. and E. and 100,000 admitted to beds at Arrowe Park or Clatterbridge. They provide many local services, and also some tertiary services. The five year plan is a public document which shows the changes proposed over the next five years. It has been largely determined by Government policy and the improvement of health on the Wirral. Hospitals should need to concentrate on those who need them, and try to achieve "care closer to home". This means that if there are services in the community that patients could use without the need to go to a hospital, then the Trust want to try and utilise these services more, and leave the hospitals free to cater for the very sick. More day cases could be attended to in the community, particularly those five to ten year olds, and test results should be transmitted by computer. Part of the Government policy is that patients can choose the hospital they wish to go to – e.g. The Countess of Chester or over to Liverpool. This will give hospitals more of an incentive to concentrate on what patients want and expect. It is proposed that by December 2008 the wait to go into any hospital will be no more than 18 weeks. This is the length of time from your referral by your GP to the time when you are treated. The previous waiting period of two years for a new hip has now been reduced to twenty six weeks. More tests will be done in Primary care, which means that the operations etc. will be carried out more quickly.

Funding Changes. Hospitals now receive income according to the number of patients they treat whereas they received the money in one lump sum.

Five Year Plan.

1. Treat more patients, in particular in the run up to the 18 Weeks.
2. Invest income to invest in services.
3. Develop services locally so that patients do not need to go to the cardiac thoracic centre for specialist treatment.
4. £10,000,000 investment on new equipment and buildings. The new Children's Treatment Centre, A and E Department, more single rooms to be introduced.

The population of Wirral is getting older, and it is anticipated that there will be more emergency patients coming into hospitals, as this tends to happen in a community of older people. The length of hospital visits will be reduced, and this has already been in place over the past couple of years. More patients will go home on the day of their surgery, but some patients do have to come in the night before their surgery. 80% now go home on the day of their operation, last year it was 75%, and this will make the Primary

Care Trust more efficient.

Some of the Older Persons units are moving from Clatterbridge To Arrowe Park, and this will help them leave hospital more quickly. There will be purpose-built units, and the staff from Clatterbridge will come to Arrowe Park. Last year £5,000,000 was saved, without any compulsory redundancies.

Finally, should the Trust successfully become a Foundation Trust (1st July) there will be a membership drive, and application forms are available. There are 6,000 members at present, and new letters will be going out to members to ask whether they would be interested in becoming a Governor. There will be a Road Show in the next couple of months.

Cllr. Ian Mackenzie, who is a Consultant in a Foundation Hospital, asked how the Trust are going to manage the quality of work coming out of Arrowe Park?

Mr. Doherty replied that, at the moment, there are discussions under way for national standards to transfer work out of the hospitals to G.Ps etc. The external agency, the Health Care Commission will have a specification for the level and standard of care, and this will be the same sort of guide as an audit. Wirral Hospital Trust try to get the feedback from patients, and there are very experienced nurses who visits patients on the wards and report back on the patients' experiences.

Mr. Cameron voiced his concern about the movement of older patients from Clatterbridge to Arrowe Park, as they are not coping at the moment. Mr. Doherty stated that there will not be any building, but that wards will be refurbished and re-housing will take place. Operating beds and theatres at Clatterbridge will be kept as busy as they can be, but there will be no building there. It was pointed out that car parking is always a problem wherever you are. The emergency services will remain at Arrowe Park.

Russell Favager stated that other services will be available nearer to peoples' homes (e.g. for blood tests etc.) Mrs. Lane has been visiting Clatterbridge for a long time and feels that the whole thing is chaotic. She pointed out that no mention had been made of Wallasey Hospital, and this would be so much nearer for some patients. She asked for clarification on the Eye Department, as she had been told that patients will be sent to Liverpool. The reply was that this was a misunderstanding.

There was lengthy discussion about the state of Clatterbridge, and the Trust is talking about the provision of a new renal dialysis unit. The question was asked as to whether the local G.Ps knew about these arrangements.

Mr. Rafferty asked which wards are going to be closed, and when will the patients be moved. He also asked how much money had been spent on refurbishment at Clatterbridge, and which now will be closed. Many people expressed dismay at what they saw as the lack of sensible planning. Mr Doherty stated that they must have a Five Year Plan which is new. Mr. Cameron said that there was a Ten Year Plan twenty years ago at Arrowe Park.

Val Curtis (Friends of Arrowe Park) wished to clarify that it had been stated there would

be no building at Arrowe Park. As Pro-Active Health policy has been accepted, it is vitally important that the green spaces remain. Mr Doherty stated again that there are no such proposals in the Five Year Plan, and he does not think that there will be any further building around Arrowe Park.

“There is no plan to build and take up bigger building foot prints”. Friends of Arrowe Park would be looking to work with the Trust if they are not going to build. It was stated that services in the community are still a dream, and the Primary Care Trust is to put some money into this area.

Russ Favager stated that the Primary Care Trust spend about £30,000,000. on primary care services, and they are working to take services out of the hospitals and into the community.

Mr. Heerwagen stated that in the report, there was no mention of any way to cut money from waste, and in his view appear there is a waste of time and stock.

Mr Doherty replied that it is proposed to have a computer based stock control system, which will reduce costs and make the service more efficient. He gave some examples of how the stock control would give a clearer picture and avoid wastage.

Russ Favager stated that the public sector have to find savings of two and a half percent each year, and will be penalised if they do not do so, and this also has to take into account the rise in salaries if they do not meet the criteria. They will also have to negotiate over the costs of equipment.

Cllr. Rowlands said that he was incensed by all this, he felt that the Trust had lost touch with the public, and yet they were saying they had no responsibility. One lady felt that Cllr. Rowlands was unfair in making his remarks which were political.

Mr Doherty replied that the local hospital scores are good. he said that he would like to have cleaner wards and improved services, and that is what Wirral Hospital Trust is working towards. There was further discussion about the length of time waiting in cancer referral cases, and that ten years ago it was unusual to hear anyone mention waste in the system, or that people had been waiting in A. and E. a long time.

Russ Favager replied that he was speaking on the opposite side of the fence from the point of view of the commissioner. If the hospital does not get it right, there are contracts with other hospitals, like Murrayfield. One lady said that she must say that when her husband had an operation at Arrowe Park, she could not speak too highly of them.

Minute 7 - Partner Updates - Fire & Rescue Service - - Police - Community Safety - Wirral Primary Care Trust

Fire and Rescue Service.

Paul Gibson said that this was his first visit, and that he was keen to get to know people. He lives in the area, and is working with the Police, Wirral Council and the services in general. The Fire Service produce their Integrated Management Plan, and this can be

found on line under merseyfire.gov.uk or write in to the Mersey Head Office or your local Fire Station. The Service Risk Management Plan mean that the Force get out in the community working with everyone to achieve higher standards. They are working also with young people visiting schools and explaining about the dangers of lighting fires etc. Also working to reduce anti-social behaviour, and with the Good Samaritans Response Unit. They will give advice on any problems with fire, also have a programme "Drive to Arrive", which gives young people advice on driving, to try to reduce serious accidents. They also have specialist, skilled people trained for accidents involving biological materials etc., deaf advocates, some members work with the elderly, disabled and many other groups. The home fire safety checks have been very effective, and on Wirral 1,270 were fitted in 2005 and this is on track to increase There has been an 80% reduction in dwelling fires. So far in 2007 between March and June 613 have been fitted, and there have only been 6 dwelling fires. Areas they are still working on – deliberate secondary fires reduced to 22, due to Firemen going out into the community. People over 50 who are single, with a health problem or drink/smoke problem are vulnerable. Empty property which is not totally boarded up is reported, and suitably closed up – all this work is with our Partners. This year we have tried to reduce the fires in grassland and open spaces, which is sometimes due to hot weather, and we have been working with the Rangers over Heswall Dales and the Beacons, Thurstaston Hill etc, encouraging children not to go and smoke in these areas. They also have a specialist hazardous materials vehicle in the area, as there are some companies working with very specialised materials. All in all, they have a very diverse programme of activities. David Hall asked if one saw a group of youngsters with a fire, would the Fireman suggest that an attempt be made to put it out. Inspector Cunningham answered that you should not try yourself to do anything, but simply telephone the Police. The Police and the Fire Service are patrolling vulnerable areas in very hot weather, and next year it is proposed that there will be a programme. Bidston is still a hot spot.

Police

Inspector Cunningham reported that they had recently received the results for last year's performance. The result shows that all crime has reduced in the neighbourhood by 3%. Violent crime by 14%, which is lower than the national trend. 22% on vehicle crime reported, and anti-social behaviour 23%. Regular meetings are held with the Neighbourhood Action Groups. The following concerns were noted – anti-social behaviour, under-age drinking and speeding traffic. It has been decided that the priority will be under-age drinking. The number of people killed or seriously injured on Wirral has reduced by 40, which is a 22% decrease on previous years. We have issued a significant increase of Fixed Penalty Notices regarding speeding, not wearing seat belts and the use of the mobile phone while driving. Cllr. I. Mackenzie reported he had been called out to see a "gang" causing a bother. It turned out to be three boys playing football. Inspector Cunningham stated that they should not be called gangs, the word is group. There is often disturbance on Barnston/Brimstage Road and Saturday night with signs pushed over. Phil Miner reported that the Bus Stop had been dealt with. David Hall asked whether it was worth logging licence numbers if you have seen people driving whilst using a mobile phone. Inspector Cunningham replied that it is often an expensive and time consuming exercise, and that in the end it is found not to be the owner of the car driving it.

Community Safety Cathy Newman reported that they continue to work with their Partners

in Manor Road. The anti-social behaviour team, the volume of property theft from vehicles and violent hate actions are all recorded and acted upon. We do live in a safe area, and have been asked by the Home Office about the way incidents are reported and dealt with. This good practice will be taken round the country and this could attract some funding for the area.

Wirral Primary Care Trust Russell Favager reported that from 1st July 2007 we will become smoke free and this includes all National Health buildings. Anyone who wants to give up smoking should see their GP, Health Service or Wirral Primary Care Trust. There are packs on Giving up smoking available, and the ban will apply in all work places.

Someone asked whether this ban included partially glazed bus stops, and Phil Miner said he would investigate and confirm.

Minute 8 - Public question time

1. Mr. Garrett asked if the Wirral Primary Trust had submitted an application for the Warren Nurseries. Russ Favager replied that an application has been submitted, and they will be consulting with the WMBC over the possible use of the land. Mike McCann had consulted with all the residents who live within half a kilometre of the Warrens site, and the comments have been incorporated in the documents which have gone in. There will be full consultation with all patients who will be affected. If patients do not wish to move, they will be able to speak to one of the other surgeries with a view to joining them.

2. Chris Lord reported that many roads in Heswall are in a dreadful state, but that in this new list from the Council there are no roads down for repair. He had spoken to Cllr. Hodson months ago regarding Quarry Road East, but this has not been included.

Mr. Garrett reported that residents have been asked for a list and had submitted their own list. Part of Banks Road support is sliding into the ditch, and this is dangerous. It was stated that the surface of Banks Road is still in a reasonable state of repair, but the ditch is in private owner- ship, and they have to approach the owner.

3. Mr. Cameron reported that the Aldi entrance is extremely dangerous as people crossing do not expect anyone to drive out of the Council car park, across and into Aldi. Inspector Cunningham pointed out that this is, in fact, breaking the law, but that it would be impractical for her to position a Policeman to try and catch offenders. A suggestion was put forward that the Aldi entrance should be constructed opposite the Council car park to make it easier but this was emphatically opposed.

Minute 9 - Dates of Future meetings/Presentations

Tuesday, October 23rd 2007 – venue to be decided.

Section Two

Local Updates

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services. They involve local ward councillors, police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, fire safety representatives along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council. Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.

This section covers relevant news under the Council's local area agreement themes of safer and stronger communities, healthier communities and older people, children and young people and economic development and enterprise.

Safer & Stronger Communities

Wirral Council would like to warn residents about bogus callers apparently posing as council workers.

A group of men are reported to be randomly calling at homes in Birkenhead saying they are collecting unwanted bulky items, such as old washing machines, cookers and bikes.

The men are reported to be distracting residents by asking them to open their back gates so that bulky items can be removed, whilst one of the men steals money and valuables.

The gang appear to be wearing normal clothes, no uniform as such, and drive a large blue truck with a metal cage on the back.

Unless you have made an appointment with Wirral Council's Streetscene to have an unwanted bulky item collected from your home, (Eric Service) then no one should call. If you have booked a collection, we advise you to be cautious. Wirral Council's contractor Biffa will collect on the scheduled day booked in with Streetscene and will wear uniform.

If in any doubt, contact Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 to check if the staff are genuine before allowing them entry on to your property.

Anyone who witnesses suspicious activities of this nature should contact Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111

Agencies combine to tackle underage alcohol sales

Agencies in Wirral are joining forces to try to reduce the risk of harm to young people from alcohol abuse.

Wirral Trading Standards, the Youth Service, police licensing and the Wirral Primary Care Trust are combining to provide new training, free of charge, to off licensees and their staff about underage sales.

The training is part of an ongoing drive to reduce incidents of alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour across the borough, as well as tackling related health issues.

John Malone, Trading Standards Manager said: "We want to work with businesses to prevent alcohol getting into the hands of young people. The new training we will be providing will look at the legal position for off licensees but a new element will also deal with the impact alcohol can have on young people's health and well being.

"It is essential that off licensees are aware of the health consequences of selling alcohol to young people. Hospital admissions for injuries caused when drunk, risky sexual behaviour and teenage pregnancy, involvement in crime, violence and anti-social behaviour, school truancy and road traffic accidents."

If any off licensees and their staff want to attend the free training, which will take place at Wallasey Town Hall at 6pm on Wednesday 12th September, they can contact Nick Chesters of Trading Standards on 0151 691 8579.

Healthier Communities & Older People

Find out More log on to www.wirral.gov.uk Or www.ageconcernwirral.org

Wirral Older People's Parliament

Newsletter Issue Four June 2007 – Issue Number 4

News Progress & Information - Following comments at a recent parliament meeting any person receiving un-solicited letters (**Junk Mail**) or Telephone calls (**Silent Calls**) should make contact with the “**Mailing Preference Service**” and or “**Telephone Preference Service**” this is a very simple procedure via the web page, and registration of your address or telephone number should go a long way to clearing this sort of problem. You may still receive mail or telephone calls from companies you may have dealt with in the past, to eliminate this type of contact you will need to contact the organisation concerned and ask to be removed from their data base. Useful telephone numbers are “**OFCOM 020 7981 3000**” or “**Information Commissioners Office 01625 545745**” more detailed information is available at your local library, or CAB Office. Write to your local councillor and ask what provision is available for older people to learn about or even have access too Computers. I believe you will be pleasantly surprised at the volume of information available and the amount of help and support that is available to older people

Regional Devolution At the last Parliament Meeting a question was asked about reports that certain authorities are discussing banding together to draw up a Regional Devolution Plan, what effect this may have on Wirral Borough Council, at this moment true information seems to be sparse to say the least

Transport and Free travel for the elderly This subject has been under discussion for some considerable time and new legislation is to come into force in July of this year. It is yet to be seen if local authorities will all conform in a manner that is fitting for the needs of the elderly population. For instance in many locations even the so called rush hour busses are half empty, so why cannot we who are retired, use our passes on such routes it will not interrupt or compromise those going to work, but could boost the local economy.

Express Your View You have the opportunity to write or E-Mail to parliament if you are unable to get along to one of the meetings held throughout 11 local forum areas. Items directly affecting older people will be addressed by the Older Peoples Parliament Officers. You also have the opportunity to assist on one or more of the committee meetings held to assess the various items involved. People in the age group 50+ are a major influential body in the total population of Wirral Borough Council 22 different ward areas, it is important that their wishes are reflected in the decision making process “ **Do you have something to say**” ?

Computer Use There are a number of places that encourage computer access and usage for the older generation. Most of the Library's have the required equipment, plus in some community centres there are opportunities for basic tuition.

Ring **Leasowe 630 3486, Rock Ferry 643 1215 or New Brighton 639 1386** For up to date information, you may also check with your local School or Night School many of them run courses on basic internet access, **you are never too old to learn.**

Newsletter Issue Five September 2007

News & Progress Talking to a number of the people attending this “**Later Life Convention**” it became quite obvious that some had not realised that so many organisations existed with the means to assist and advise the older populations. One issue that arose time and time again was the fact that Insurance Premiums had risen dramatically both in terms of **House and Car Insurance**, this was explained away because of the recent heavy flooding in some parts of the country, most companies had taken quite a lot of claims and consequently premiums had risen accordingly. This was not received very well for people who had not been involved in any of the flooded areas.

Many of the changes and proposed changes worried some, the closing of local GP practices and the movement of doctors to **PCT Community Practice locations** involved longer journeys and sometimes difficulties in public transport to get to the doctors, plus you were not always sure you would actually see your own doctor, maybe just the doctor who was on duty at the time, and maybe not familiar with your particular medical history.

A number of visitors were complaining to the local police stand that despite urgent telephone calls for assistance in many instances the police only turned up after a long delay and then seemed to actually do very little with clusters of youths causing anxiety to elderly resident’s housing estates. This complaint was usually answered by claiming lack of manpower and or recourses from the police departments. One stall that received a lot of interest was the “**Healthy Eating**” giving good advice on issues of healthier diets, together with mild exercise and promoting an active participation in local communities and or taking part in various allotment schemes.

Everybody attending this conference took away a



Hulme Hall Port Sunlight (September)

The later life convention proved to be very popular with many of our senior citizens who happily toured round the 78 exhibitors covering all aspects and issues that have a direct bearing on the elderly, and much of their every day life. Abundant advice on subjects like Insurance, Fire Safety, Health & Well-Being, plus making life easy with numerous gadgets and modern equipment aiding mobility and comfort. From Pensions and Benefits available too Healthy Eating and Beneficial Exercise, including many specialists in areas like Alzheimer’s, Stroke’s, Parkinson’s and Smoking or Alcohol Addictions, and experts in the fields of Care, and Active Aging plus Community Life. Wirral Council one stop shops and Independent Age activities for Volunteers, Cares, & Nursing Services.

To learn about your local forum ring Tracey Smith 691 8026 (traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk)

**For more about “the Older Peoples Parliament” ring Lesley Howells 666 2220
You can take an active part in the Parliament within your own district just ring and find out
what can be achieved when the older people band together.**

Children & Young People

Wirral's students are celebrating

Wirral's students are celebrating after yet another year of improvement in A-Levels, AS Levels and Vocational Courses in the borough.

Today's results saw the average pupil's point score raise by 32.4 points – from 729 last year to 762 this year. Wirral also saw a rise of nearly 80 in the numbers of pupils sitting these exams.



Director of Children's Services Howard Cooper was very pleased with the results: "Once again, it looks as though our A-level, AS level and vocational training students in Wirral have surpassed themselves.

"I am extremely proud of all those students who put in so much hard work to achieve these results and I am also proud of the teachers and other school staff who helped and supported them in their studies.

"It is particularly encouraging to note that an increasing number of our youngsters are staying on at school to improve their chances of a better career and life. I wish all of them the best of luck in their chosen degree, college course or employment."

Teenagers' challenge of a lifetime

Eight teenagers from Wirral are taking the challenge of a lifetime in a bid to turn their lives around from the risks involved with anti social behaviour, drink or drugs.

The group are canoeing 68 miles from Fort William to Inverness across Scotland's Caledonian Canal. Aged between 15 and 18, the young people were engaged through the Council's Response Service - a support service for at-risk young people. In total the group of seven young men and three young women will complete the six-day course carrying their own equipment and camping gear.

Called The Imagine Project, the expedition, which is jointly funded by the Youth Opportunities Fund and Wirral Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) will be supported by experienced instructors from Wirral Council's Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre and key staff from the Council's Response Service.

The trip will see the group work as a team developing better health and improved life chances. For many, it is their first experience of working within a group but they represent a growing number of young people determined to tackle substance abuse through making changes to their own lives. Individually the youngsters have already achieved a First Aid and Life Savers award and are aiming for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award for Outward Bound Achievement.

Pat Rice, Head of Response, said: "These young people first came to Response with some challenging issues, with some of them having personal experience of drug and

alcohol misuse. They were on the brink of becoming disillusioned, and disinterested in life. But now they are healthier, happier and looking forward to this challenge and a great life-changing experience. I'm really proud of what they have achieved so far and I know that they will become valued members of their communities and a really great example to their friends and families".

Terry White, Young Persons Programme Manager said: "The DAAT is committed to reducing the harm caused by substance misuse throughout Wirral. Through this type of partnership work we are able to prevent today's young people, especially the most vulnerable, from becoming tomorrow's drug misusers, which is a key target within the Wirral Drug and Alcohol strategy. This project is an exciting initiative that will result in healthier, happier and more confident young people build resistance against substance misuse,' he added.

Jo Day, Outreach Team Leader for Response, said: "The project, which has been running since May, is about personal, emotional and social development and as a group they have built friendships and their confidence and self-esteem has grown during their time together".

Wirral Youth Service

Provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

The Service works with young people aged 13-19 years, and specifically targeted young people aged 20 until their 25th birthday who have additional needs and need support with transition into adult life/services.

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. Streetwork 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 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, 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.

During the summer holidays the Youth Service was able to offer an adventure activity programme to youth clubs and associated organisations. Over 160 young people took part in sailing, canoeing, rafting, climbing and adventure course activities which were delivered by both licensed operators and our own staff. Despite the inclement weather there was a 90% take up on the activities offered.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children in a bid to help them successfully complete their Bronze Awards. In August, most of this group attended a 3 day residential course at The Oaklands Centre where they engaged in a wide variety of outdoor activities. One young woman in particular was identified as having the potential to take a future lead role and will probably be invited back and given a work experience opportunity.

Wirral's D of E Open Award Centre is due to move premises again. Following a decision to vacate the Somerville Site at Gorse Lane we have entered into negotiations regarding the use of the Wirral Alternative Schools Programme new premises at Solar Campus.

In our drive to make the Award available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units run the Award. This includes Meadowside Special School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with complex learning difficulties.

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 Open: Monday Wednesday

Building New Relationships: Setting up Volunteers looking at responsibilities and Accreditation, there is a core group interested in signing up and affiliating to the youth federation, to challenge negative peer pressure.

Sport Tournaments: ie Pool Table tennis and football, giving YP the opportunity to plan and run/organise sports tournaments with prizes.

Arts and Crafts: putting new signs and notice boards in place to establish new staff and new relationships with Young People.

The Deeside Young People's Project undertakes work with young people in public places in the area, sometimes making use of the Kontakta Bus. The skateboarders in Heswall are in regular contact with the youth workers

Economic Development & Enterprise

A Wirral call centre has won a high profile contract with Woolworths because the famous high street retailer was impressed by their passionate approach and the available workforce in Birkenhead.

This exciting development means The Contact Company, based in Birkenhead is now recruiting for jobs to meet the demand of their increasing portfolio of clients.

The company is holding a recruitment open day at Wirral Museum, Birkenhead on 23rd August to recruit up to 100 staff to work on this prestigious contract. They want to recruit local people for jobs which offer flexible hours between 8am and 8pm, seven days a week.

People interested in applying for vacancies can meet staff from The Contact Company and find out more about this type of work on the day.

The Contact Company's Chief Executive, Asif Hamid said: "This contract is further evidence of our growing profile within the competitive contact centre industry and demonstrates the confidence that large blue chip companies have in us to deliver a high quality service.

"The Contact Company operates an added value service at the higher end of the contact centre market and this approach is proving fruitful as we win more contracts like this. We

are looking forward to adding to our excellent 125 strong team and are excited to be working with Woolworths" he added.

Wirral Council's Head of Strategic Development, Kevin Adderley said: "The Contact Company has rapidly grown its team in the last year and is now recruiting even more staff to meet demand. This type of work appeals to people who need flexible working hours and is in an attractive location in central Birkenhead. This is a fantastic jobs boost for Wirral."

The Contact Company has been trading since July 2006 and has already won 'New Business of the year' at the Liverpool Daily Post Business Awards and was one of the host call centres for this year's Comic Relief when millions were raised for charity.

Wirral Council is the first authority in the northwest to launch online web casts of Planning Committee Meetings.

All Planning decisions can now be viewed live from anywhere in the world via Wirral Council's website, www.wirral.gov.uk

The new facility uses web cameras at council meetings to capture the live information and send it to a central server, which in turn sends it to anyone that would like to view the meeting via the internet.

The web cast facility also archives each meeting, meaning that recorded meetings can be viewed online at anytime of day, as many times as required. The use of the index points allow you to jump to a specific agenda point or speaker.

Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor John Cocker, welcomes the move;

"This new facility is very good news for Wirral residents and developers. Now the meetings can be watched live, or at a time that suits you, from the comfort of your own arm chair or from the side of a swimming pool on holiday. Its also going to save many journeys across Wirral to watch the meetings in person, people can now log on and watch at home or at work, saving unnecessary car journeys"

To access the web cast facility, visit www.wirral.gov.uk and click on 'Planning Webcasts' on the right hand menu, or simply [click here](#). The pilot scheme will be running until the end of the January 2008.

LICENSING ACT 2003

The Licensing Act 2003 has been the responsibility of Wirral Borough Council since 24 November 2005.

In December 2004 a Statement of Licensing Policy was produced which sets out the principles the Council will generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions under the Act. It is a requirement of the Licensing Act 2003 that the Council reviews it's Statement of Licensing Policy every three years.

The Council welcomes the views of any interested parties and you should feel free to draw the attention of this document, which can be found at www.wirral.gov.uk, to others who may be interested in responding to the consultation.

Full consultation on this document is being undertaken with: -

- The Chief Officer of Police
- The Fire Authority
- Bodies representing local holders of premises licences
- Bodies representing local holders of club certificates
- Bodies representing local holders of personal licences
- Bodies representing businesses and residents
- Other interested parties

You may find it useful to consult the Statutory Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act when making comments to the Statement of Licensing Policy. The Statutory Guidance is available at www.culture.gov.uk.

Your views are important to the Council in reaching a fair and proportionate Licensing Policy that discharges the Licensing Objectives. Please ensure we receive your views no later than **17 November 2007**.

If you have any further enquiries about the Licensing Policy please contact Margaret O'Donnell on 0151 691 8606.

Section Three

Partner Update

Area forums also provide an opportunity to meet partners and organisations who are working to deliver a better, safer and cleaner Wirral.

Merseyside Police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Wirral Community Safety Team and Mersey Fire and Rescue Service to name just a few, are active members of the forum. This section is to share partner information with forum members and the community.

Community Safety

- Stealth software - the Joint Community Safety Team, working in conjunction with the IT Department of the Children and Young Person's Department, have a roll-out programme of software being loaded onto all computers belonging to the Authority e.g., schools, libraries, One Stop Shops, Community Centres. In the event of a computer being stolen, it notifies a central control point where the machine is being used. The police are alerted and procedures are in place for the machine to be recovered and, if appropriate, person(s) arrested.
- Smartwater Project - most schools now have their valuable equipment marked with Smartwater which identifies which school the property came from. All operational police officers on the Wirral have been equipped with special torches which identify Smartwater marked property. In addition, Trading Standards attend Car Boot Sales with police officers and check for Smartwater marked property.
- DVLA Project - whenever Parking Wardens, Community Support Officers, Police Officers see vehicles with items on display a letter is forwarded to the registered keeper to remind them of their responsibility and they should remove items on view in the future to ensure their vehicles are not going to be targeted by thieves. Most thefts from vehicles are committed by opportunists.
- 'Talking CCTV' launched 31/5/2007. Funding was secured from the government's Respect Task Force enabling broadcasting systems to be attached to existing CCTV cameras at key site. The systems enable operators in the Council's CCTV Control Room to prevent and challenge anti-social and criminal behaviour by broadcasting directly to members of the public and giving out key messages relating to crime and disorder.
- Reparation initiative launched on 13/6/2007. A partnership between Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Wirral Youth Offending Service (YOS), BT and Virgin Media using young people engaged with YOS through reparation to repaint streetboxes affected by graffiti and flyposting. Residents can report streetboxes requiring repainting to 'It's Your Call' on 606 2020 or at any One Stop Shop.
- Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords signed-up to Respect Housing Management Standard on 26/6/2007 as part of a local Consortium. Eighteen RSLs in partnership with Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team signed-up to the Standard as part of a local Wirral RESPECT Consortium. The Standard is commitment to challenging unacceptable behaviour and promoting good behaviour. The Consortium now meets regularly to share intelligence and best practice and develop initiatives.
- Operation Safe Space launched 18/7/2007. A new partnership initiative, led by Merseyside Police, aiming to increase the use of parks and open spaces. This involved enforcement activities across hot-spot parks by the police and diversionary activities throughout the summer in multi-use games areas.
- Youth RESPECT Team appointed to Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team launched on 27/7/2007. The Team consists of youth workers and play workers with the focus

of preventing and reducing ASB by young people. They are identifiable by their distinctive red jackets

Bob Little Information, Communication & Evaluation Manager Wirral Council Wirral Joint Community Safety Team Telephone Number: 0044(0)151 606 5444 e-mail: boblittle@wirral.gov.uk

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Young people dig it at Bromborough



An exciting new community facility that has been designed and put together by young people at Bromborough Fire Station. Around 30 young people have put their heart and soul into a market garden which is now growing vegetables, fruit and plants and also contains a pond, wildlife area and borders.

The Dig It project was established last year after the Fire Service and South Wirral Young People's Project engaged with young people in the area to see what activities would be an alternative to hanging around the streets. They said they would like to develop a market garden where they could learn to grow vegetables and how to cook them.

Since then the young people have designed the garden, put together bids for funding and worked with contractors to develop their landscaping skills. They have also designed a community kitchen that has also been completed.

Station Manager Myles Platt said it had been fantastic to see how much the young people have developed as a result. He said: "I'm extremely impressed by them. Some of them have some challenging personal circumstances and this is a real outlet for them. It has given them a sense of responsibility and achievement. A couple have moved on and got employment and this project has helped them to do that by developing their practical and social skills."

The initiative has cost more than £50,000 and has received support from various funds and local companies. These include the Urban Green Land Initiative; Youth Opportunities Fund; Wirral Partnership Homes; Riverside Housing; Eastham Oil Refinery; Local Area Forums Community Initiatives Funds; BT It's Your Community Award; UniLever Green Machine; and Uniqema.

Merseyside Police

Your Heswall Neighbourhood Team have been working closely with partners to ensure that the Neighbourhood remains one of the safest places to live and work in Merseyside. To give you a flavour of the work carried out on your behalf, I have outlined below some examples of the activities we have undertaken.

In the last few months, officers from this Neighbourhood have targeted criminals responsible for committing offences locally. Following a series of thefts from motor vehicles in the Gayton/Heswall area, we executed a warrant at a local address. Property from the thefts was recovered and the offender was arrested is awaiting sentence, with conditions to live out of the area.

As a result of a spate of burglaries in the Greasby area Neighbourhood officers worked on an operation that resulted in the offender being arrested in the commission of an offence. That person remains in custody awaiting sentence and the spate of burglaries stopped.

Both these operations highlight the excellent work your Neighbourhood team carry out and I hope this reassures you that we are committed to reducing crime and the fear of crime.

Diversionsary activities

Your Neighbourhood Team share responsibility with other agencies to tackle anti social behaviour. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Local Authority Youth Service, and the Greasby Outdoor Activities and Leisure group who continue provide diversionsary activities for our young people. As a result reported incidents of anti social behaviour have significantly reduced.

I am pleased to say that the increase in the number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) on the Neighbourhood, getting out on foot and engaging with the community, particularly young people, also appears to have had a positive impact.

In addition to this work the Officers and PCSOs also organise and run surgeries in places of worship and other locations, and visit schools to provide cycle training and develop contacts with staff and young people. We operate highly effective 'Watch' schemes, including Pubwatch which reduces problems with disorder, and Shopwatch in Heswall which provides support to staff and combats theft.

If anybody would like to talk to one of our officers about home security, then please contact us on 0151 709 6010.

Your Neighbourhood Team will continue to work hard to tackle anti-social behaviour and reduce crime across the Neighbourhood, and we wish you a peaceful and enjoyable summer.

People driving through Heswall are being warned to watch their speed or risk being caught out by local people who want to keep their streets safe.

Community Speed Watch is a scheme run by Police Community Support Officers and Community Volunteers tackling areas where the dangers of careless driving and speeding is a real concern to local people.

The chosen sites are carefully risk assessed and the CSO's and volunteers are given full support and training to set up their own Community Speed Watch scheme.

They are trained to use speed detectors, which capture the registration number of vehicles driving over the limit. The logs are then passed onto the police who send out warning letters to the registered keepers explaining the dangers of speeding and the problems that it can cause to people living in the area. The police will identify persistent offenders who disregard the warning notices so that further action may be taken.

Traffic calming

The Wirral Roadsafe Partnership also reviews the information collected so that key locations can be highlighted and traffic calming measures can be considered to promote road safety for all users in the borough.

CSO Phil Roberts explained: "Often motorists who speed through residential neighbourhoods are unaware of the impact their actions have on other road users or of the danger they cause. Community Speed Watch enables local people to get actively involved in road safety and helps to prompt drivers and motorcyclists to concentrate more carefully on their driving, think about the road and weather conditions and keep within the speed limits."

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities in Wirral, please contact Sgt Kate Roberts on 0151 606 5448.

Wirral Primary Care Trust

1. Primary Care Trust (PCT) Small Grants Programme to support Community Initiatives Fund

During 2007 the PCT will be supporting the Local Authorities Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) and will allocate 5K across Heswall Pensby and Thingwall Area Forum. The funding will be allocated to health promoting activity, which meets the needs of local people within the area. Voluntary and Community sector groups are invited to submit applications through the current CIF application criteria. All proposals will need to meet funding limits and priorities, determined by each area forum.

The PCT Funding must address following health themes:

- **Wirral taste for health** – improving access to healthy, affordable foods and helping people to develop shopping and cookery skills.
- **Wirral active** – encouraging people to participate in activities that are enjoyable and health enhancing.
- **Smoke free Wirral** – providing support for people to stop smoking and protecting children from second hand smoke.
- **Damage Limitation** – providing diversionary activities for young people to reduce harm related to alcohol misuse.

If you feel you can support the delivery of some of the above health themes and wish to apply for funding please contact the Council Community Engagement Team on 0151 691 8650 or email : engage@wirral.gov.uk

2. Primary Care Practice developments update

No update to be given

3. Update on questions/discussions raised at Area Forum held 18th June 2007, Royal British Legion, Heswall.

No update to be given.

4. Wirral Primary Care Trust Involvement Strategy 2007 - 2010

The Primary Care Trust is currently developing its 'Involvement Strategy' which will set out its plans towards:

- Involving patients: as consumers of health care services and using their views to influence Primary Care Trust commissioning and help shape current and future health services.

- Involving citizens: to provide legitimacy and accountability for health policy and health care service provision decision making.
- Winning hearts and minds: enabling people to take a more active role in their own health and wellbeing.

The PCT will be involving people in the implementation of the strategy and input will be provided to all future area forums.

5. Wirral Primary Care Trust Commissioning Strategy 2007 – 2010

The PCT is currently developing its commissioning strategy this will provide information on PCT investment and funding programme for 2007 - 2010.

6. The PCT would like to invite you to “Have your say”; we want to know what you think of your health service?

Wirral Primary Care Trust (PCT) is responsible for commissioning health services in Wirral. We want to know what you as a patient think of the services you have received, be it your family doctor, dentist, optician, pharmacist or community based service such as district nursing. We also want to know if you have any ideas for making services even better.

Your comments will be used to improve our services so that they continue to meet your needs and the needs of local people.

How can you submit comments to the PCT?

We aim to give all our patients and members of the public an opportunity to contact us through a variety of methods. You can go to our public web-site by clicking on to the icon on the home page, or you can place your comments on our on-line form. The following is a list of approaches you can use when contacting us to ‘Have your Say’.

- You can call in person to our PALs office at Laurie’s Centre, 136 Claughton Road, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 6EY
- Call us on our freephone 0800 085 1547
- Write to us at FREEPOST HAVE YOUR SAY
- e-mail us at <mailto:Haveyoursay@wirralpct.nhs.uk>
- Have Your Say on line form at www.wirralpct.nhs.uk and go to home page and click on ‘Have Your Say’ document. Click on left hand side box ‘Have your say request form’ and you will then be guided through the ‘Have Your Say’ process.
- SMS text on 07781472493

What happens next?

If you provide your contact details when submitting your comments you will receive acknowledgement and if appropriate, after 21 days you will receive a formal response to your comments.

Section Four

Local Transport Update

Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside.

The LTP is a document prepared by the five local authorities and Merseytravel.

The second LTP covers the period between 2006/2007 and 2010/2011 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

Transport

Wrexham Bidston Electrification

The Forum will be familiar with the Local Transport Plan which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The LTP is a document prepared by the 5 local authorities and Merseytravel.

The second LTP covers the period between 2006/7 and 2010/11 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

Included within the LTP is reference to the electrification of the Wrexham Bidston rail line to link it to the existing Mersey electrics network.

The electrification of the Wrexham Bidston (Borderlands) Line involves the extension of the electrified network to all or part of the line between Bidston and Wrexham.

It also included the construction of new stations at Deeside and Woodchurch.

In 2005 consultants First Class Partnerships and Mott Mac Donald had looked at the physical infrastructure and what was needed to electrify the line.

Both considered a number of options with the Mott Mac Donald report being more detailed but indicating greater costs.

During 2006 consultants Faber Maunsells had provide Benefit Cost Ratios for a number of options.

Earlier this year (Jan 07) Neil Scales, Director General of Merseytravel attended the Streetscene and Transport Services Overview Committee to update members on the scheme and indicated that the following actions need to be taken to progress the scheme;

- (1) Further discussions with the Welsh Assembly – Neil Scales has been discussing the issues with WAG.
- (2) Clear indication of the costs of the Project with Network Rail undertaking work which would give a clearer understanding of the work that had been carried out to date using the GRIP (Guide to Rail Investment Projects) scale. They had been asked to provide an estimate of the cost of taking forward the design to a higher GRIP level. This study is currently underway.
- (3) Merseytravel would be considering this project along with other possible rail projects which would require funding through the Regional Funding Allocation process.
- (4) The development of greater costing detail was important to be able to provide a greater certainty of the Benefit Cost Ratio as the intention would be to include the

project in the Regional Funding Review which was likely to take place in the next two years. This would effectively cover the English element of the funding profile.

- (5) The overall capital funding of the project if approved would however come from a combination of English and Welsh Government finance. A separate application to the Welsh Assembly would be required.
- (6) Revenue funding was a separate issue. It was likely that a revenue funding gap would exist and a means of bridging the gap would need to be identified.

Future updates will be provided to the Forum as the project progresses. If any of the area forums want more information on any aspects of the capital programme we could come along at the next round of forums in February/June 2008 a presentation if the forums think that this would be useful.

Julie Barnes, Principal Officer (Forward Planning & Strategy) Technical Services, traffic management Division, Forward Planning/travelwise.

Julie Barnes@wirral.gov.uk or 0151 606 2004

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
CABINET - 28TH MARCH 2007
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES
LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2007/08

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Following the announcement by the Department for Transport (DfT) in December 2006, approving a Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement for Wirral of £6,549,000 for 2007/08, this report sets out a draft transport capital programme in line with the Local Transport Plan (LTP) targets.

1.2 This report is identified in the Forward Plan.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Members will be familiar with the Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Merseyside, which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The second LTP (LTP2) covers the period between 2006/07 and 2010/11 and contains a 5-year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

2.2 Future funding allocations will be dependent upon the successful delivery of the LTP targets over the coming years. Therefore, it is necessary for Wirral's transport capital schemes to deliver the outcomes necessary to help meet this aim.

3.0 PROGRAMME REVIEW

3.1 The second Merseyside LTP was submitted to the Government in March 2006. LTP2 contains 41 targets – some of which are mandatory. In order to ensure that these targets are managed effectively, they are delegated between the various Merseyside LTP sub-groups. As such, the sub-groups are responsible for the targets' monitoring and reporting.

3.2 For LTP2, the Government introduced four 'shared priority' areas: Congestion, Road Safety, Accessibility and Air Quality/ Environment. Each target, and indeed each transport scheme, is likely to contribute to the delivery of more than one of these 'shared priorities', however, there is generally one that can be identified as the 'main' priority.

3.3 Consequently, the LTP programme for 2007/08 (see Appendix) is presented differently to last year. Members will note that the main budget headings reflect the four shared priorities and that the sub-headings more closely reflect the LTP2 objectives and policies. To ensure effective monitoring, each is owned by the LTP sub-group that is responsible for the respective targets.

3.4 Whilst it is essential that each of the proposals help towards meeting the delivery of the various LTP2 targets, it is evident that some schemes contribute towards a greater number of targets than others. In order to inform the funding allocations for 2007/08 consideration has been given to target delivery, however, the relative significance of each target also has to be borne in mind, along with the highway responsibilities that the authority has in terms of statutory duties.

- 3.5 Therefore, to assist the continued development of future transport capital programmes, a further piece of work will be undertaken over the coming months to develop an improved appraisal framework. This framework will provide a transparent process and help further improve scheme prioritisation, whereby ensuring funding will be allocated to projects that have the most benefits for LTP2 delivery and/or statutory obligations.
- 3.6 This framework will also be applied to longer-term projects that might be introduced into the LTP process in the future. To justify future schemes, such as specific junction improvements, it will be necessary to have a clear framework upon which decisions are based. Consequently, should appraisal of a particular project, in terms of LTP delivery, not provide strong justification then the project may not receive funding prioritisation in the LTP programme and it might be necessary for alternative funding to be acquired for the project's implementation to be pursued.
- 3.7 Should Members, through the Area Forums, be aware of potential junction or transport projects that might be considered in this appraisal process, I would appreciate any suggested locations to be forwarded to me by the end of June 2007. As the success of any project will be dependent upon its appraisal against LTP criteria, I would appreciate if members would also include the reasoning for their nominations and what element(s) of the LTP strategy each project would help to deliver.

4.0 SHARED PRIORITIES, TARGETS AND SCHEMES

4.1 Congestion

4.1.1 This shared priority contains schemes and initiatives that are primarily focussed on reducing/managing levels of congestion and the negative impact of the motor vehicle, and/or promoting public transport and the effective movement of freight. This is particularly relevant in terms of the LTP Person Delay Indicator on part of the A552 corridor between Prenton and Birkenhead. This shared priority also has a supporting role to the authority's Network Management Duties under the Traffic Management Act 2004, which require highway authorities to manage and ensure the expeditious movement of traffic.

4.1.2 Measures might include:

- Strategic highway improvements
- Parking (demand) management
- Area traffic control
- Intelligent transport systems
- Bus priorities
- Park and ride schemes
- Strategic signing on freight routes.

4.1.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with congestion:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP2	Change in area wide road traffic	9.2% cap on growth to 2010/11
LTP5	Bus punctuality	90% by 2012/13
LTP6	Changes in peak traffic flows to LCC (7-10a.m.)	7% cap on growth to 2010/11
LTP7	Congestion (Person Delay)	6.4% increase in traffic leading to a 4.3%

		increase in journey time over the life of the LTP2
BVPI 102	P.T. patronage (bus, rail)	Bus: 1% growth to 2010/11 Rail: 7.9% growth to 2010/11
BVPI 104	Satisfaction with local buses	65% by 2009/10
L1	Sustainable transport as the final mode for air passengers	12% - 2008/09, 14% - 2010/11
L2	HGV journey times on designated freight routes	Capped at 1/3 rd of increase in traffic levels
L3	Limit current number of car parking spaces in LCC	16,500 public off-street cap
L4	% of network below threshold speeds during peak periods	Monitoring only
L5	Extent of peak spreading	Monitoring only
L6	Road works coverage	Monitoring only
L7	Park & Ride usage	35% increase by 2010/11

4.2 Road Safety

4.2.1 This shared priority not only contains the more traditional types of scheme to reduce road accident casualties but also those to ensure a safe and well maintained highway asset. Road safety measures undertaken as part of the LTP strategy can also contribute to the Council's road safety stretched target.

4.2.2 Road safety schemes can be split into two principal types: Those that meet accident reduction criteria and those that are not required to meet such criteria. The former are essential Local Safety Schemes (LSS) to reduce road accident casualties and can comprise of speed reductions schemes and junction / route improvements. Non-criteria safety schemes include Safer Routes to School, street lighting and structural maintenance programmes. In order to enhance previous years' road safety programmes, a NEW budget heading of "Community Projects" has been included in the LTP capital programme for 2007/08 to fund initiatives such as "20 is Plenty" and recognise recent concerns raised by elected Members in this area.

4.2.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with road safety.

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
PI 99 (X)	Total killed and seriously injured casualties	40% reduction by 2010
PI 99 (Y)	Child killed and seriously injured casualties	55% reduction by 2010
PI 99 (Z)	Total slight casualties	No change in absolute numbers to 2010
BVPI 187	Footway condition	Wirral – 18%
BVPI 223 (96)	Principle Road Condition	National survey data processing problems; DfT aware of issue & effects on target setting.
BVPI 224a (97a)	Non-Principle Classified Road Condition	Target to be set after June 2007
BVPI 224b (97b)	Unclassified Road Condition	Wirral – 4% by 2010

4.3 Accessibility

4.3.1 New to LTP2, the Access Plan sets out a strategy to ensure access health care, education and jobs and opportunities created through regeneration. It is anticipated

that external funding will provide the main expenditure for this work therefore the LTP programme is relatively modest.

4.3.2 The LTP partners will:

- Pursue improved bus services
- Review the role of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)
- Build upon the expertise of the Community Transport Sector
- Continue the TravelWise campaign
- Encourage the development of Travel Plans with businesses and schools

4.3.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with accessibility:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP1	National Accessibility Indicators	Monitoring only
L8	No. of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service	Minimum 95% standard to be maintained through LTP2 period
L9	No. of rail stations upgraded to meet preset standards for (a) facilities & (b) access	By 2010/11: (a) 15; (b) 5
L10	BVPI 165 (accessibility of pedestrian crossings)	Wirral – 96% by 2010/11
L11	Bus based physical access (a) % low floor vehicles (b) % near level boarding via access kerbs	(a) 88% by 2010/11 (base 35%) (b) 32% by 2010/11 (base 12%)
L12	Affordability – Index of transport usage costs	Monitoring only
L13	Accessibility – Economic impact: Accessibility of workless residents to employment locations	Average 1% per annum improvement (target developed with Job Centre Plus)
L14	Accessibility – Education: % NEET group to access post 16 establishment	Average 1% per annum improvement (target developed with Learning & Skills Centre)
L15	Crime / fear of crime on and around public transport: (a) No. of broken window incidents reported on PT (b) Proportion of people who are discouraged from PT use at night	Monitoring only

4.4 Air Quality/Environment

4.4.1 The final shared priority is to improve air quality, the quality of life and the environment. The aim of this priority area is to support sustainable travel modes to provide alternatives to the private car, including walking and cycling, as well as works to improve local environmental conditions.

4.4.2 This shared priority contains:

- Local environmental works, e.g. Home Zones and relevant junction improvements
- Walking schemes, i.e. pedestrian signals, dropped crossings and pedestrian refuges and signing
- Cycleways and cycle storage facilities

4.4.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with air quality / environment:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP3	Cycling – Index of usage	10% increase by 2010/11
LTP4	Mode share of journeys to school	Due 2007
LTP8	Pollutant concentrations within AQMAs	28%, 13% and 10% reductions in emissions at receptor sites in AQMAs
L16	Estimated transport related emissions (tonnes/year) of CO, nitrogen oxides & particulate matter	Monitoring only
L17	Vehicle mileage in the AQMA or area of exceedance	7% traffic growth cap (AQMA1) and 9.2% traffic growth cap (AQMA2)
L18	Environmental standard of bus fleet (Euro111 or equivalent)	70% of fleet to meet standard by 2011 (baseline 35%)
L19	Physical Activity Indicator	Monitoring only

4.5 Transportation Planning

4.5.1 In addition to the four shared priorities above, the LTP programme contains an additional budget heading of transportation planning. Due to the constantly evolving range of demands linked to the LTP delivery, this funding stream ensures that effective forward planning can take place.

4.5.2 The type of projects under this heading include:

- Preliminary design of schemes and measures that are in the forward programme
- Acquisition of land
- Research to inform strategy development and identify future schemes.

5.0 DRAFT 2007/08 TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME

5.1 Wirral Council's total 2007/08 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement of £6,549,000 is made up as follows:

• Maintenance Block	£2,515,000
• Bromborough Pool Bridge (PRN)	£ 500,000
• Integrated Transport Block	£3,534,000
TOTAL	£6,549,000

5.2 The Maintenance block includes road, footway and bridge structural maintenance works. The Integrated Transport block covers the remaining elements of the LTP programme, including walking and cycling, local safety schemes, highway and public transport improvements, and traffic management schemes.

5.3 The Appendix shows Wirral's draft 2007/08 programme set in the context of the LTP2 shared priorities and policy headings. For additional information, it also includes the comparable levels of funding that were approved for 2006/07.

5.4 Due to the necessary level of analysis required for some of the budget heads, I am, however, unable to provide a breakdown of all elements of the programme at this time. Therefore, I propose to bring a separate report to elected Members in the Committee cycle in May 2007 covering cycling, pedestrian improvements, road safety, school travel and structural maintenance. These block allocations are highlighted in the Appendix with an asterisk (*) as being subject to a more detailed report.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Future levels of LTP funding will be dependent upon the successful delivery of the LTP programme and successful progress towards meeting the LTP2 targets. Running parallel to this, the level of funding via the LTP process is expected to reduce nationally. In terms of Wirral, it is likely that the annual LTP allocations will reduce by over £600,000 between 2007/08 and 2010/11.
- 6.2 Staff from my Department will continue to provide Wirral's input to the LTP and its strategic development. However, delivery of the transport capital programme will continue to have an impact on staffing requirements, particularly in the areas of work that require detailed accident analyses and public consultation prior to the scheme identification and implementation. It may be necessary, therefore, to appoint consultants to undertake certain categories of work so that I have the required flexibility to deliver the proposed programme of works.
- 6.3 Revenue implications – There will be increased maintenance costs or, in some instances, savings arising from specific projects. Where these arise, they will be detailed when projects are brought to Members for approval. However, it is recognised that levels of revenue funding available to the authority are not comparable to the level of capital infrastructure that is being implemented as part of the transport strategy.

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no specific ethnic minority, elderly persons or equal opportunities implications arising directly from this report. The transport strategy, which underpins the LTP, includes measures to assist the transport needs of all sections of the community.
- 7.2 In addition, the Accessibility Plan within LTP2 identifies current transport barriers to key destination across Wirral. This work will inform the identification of potential transport proposals to improve opportunities for all people.
- 7.3 Wirral's highway and transport proposals consider the needs of people with disabilities and impaired mobility, as set out in the Merseyside Code of Practice on Access and Mobility, which takes full account of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

8.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 In accordance with DfT guidelines, the LTP2 is closely aligned with the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and other strategic and local policies, including the Regional Transport Strategy, Wirral's Tourism Strategy and local environmental, social and economic regeneration strategies.
- 8.2 The Merseyside authorities are currently developing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) regarding land use and transport, which will improve linkages within the planning approvals' process. It is intended that the SPD be approved and implemented in the near future and will be reported to Members separately in due course. Members will note that the SPD was particularly noted by the Government in the settlement letter as "indicative of forward thinking on the links between transport and planning".

9.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Most of the schemes in the Transport Capital Programme have positive Community Safety Implications, either through improvements in road safety (e.g. introducing physical changes to the highway) or improvements in personal safety (e.g. installing better street lighting).
- 9.2 LTP2 directly addresses the Government's shared priority of road safety, which links closely with the council's Local Performance Service Agreement (LPSA) to reduce traffic accidents.
- 9.3 Furthermore, LTP2 complements the Housing Market Renewal Initiative by helping to improve the street environment.
- 9.4 The LTP2 complements the majority of the Council's corporate objectives, however, it is directly linked to that of 'Improving Transport'.

10.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Sustainability and LA21 issues are common threads running through all the transport policies.
- 11.2 Specific elements of LTP2 include:
- Sustainable Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the strategy;
 - Joint working with health authorities and the promotion of walking and cycling;
 - Reduction of transport related pollution;
 - Encouraging greater use of public transport and non-motorised modes of transport;
 - Development of Travel Plans with schools and businesses; and
 - Merseyside 'TravelWise' – the initiative that is specifically helping to make an important contribution to people's behaviour change and the promotion of alternative modes of travel to the private car.

12.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

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

13.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The LTP contains a Wirral-wide transport strategy and implementation plan.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION That:

- (1) the transport capital programme for 2007/08 be approved;
- (2) Members inform the Director of Technical Services of potential future highway/transport schemes, for inclusion in the forthcoming appraisal framework, by the end of June 2007; and
- (3) in view of the fact that the capital allocation is valid for only one year, the Director of Technical Services, in consultation with party spokespersons, be authorised to arrange the redistribution of funding between budget heads according to the changing demands of the programme.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

Section Five

Area Forum Funding Progress Report

Every year each area forum has funding to give out to small community groups within their ward area. This funding is to help and support services that benefit the community. This section provides an update on how some of this money has been spent in this area.

Applications received for financial year 2007/2008 for Leasowe Moreton and Saughall Massie area forum.

The availability of funding was publicised widely including an advertisement in the Wirral Globe, publicity leaflets at information points including leisure centres, one stop shops libraries etc across of the wards and through he area forums. The applications were assessed by a panel made of local councillors and community representatives.

There was £16,860.00 of funding available broken down as follows

- CIF £12,360.00
- Community Safety £3,000.00
- LA21 £1,500.00

The panel met on 5th July to consider the applications, details are given below.

SA	10	The Herd	To fund ten young people on youth worker training course covering team building, planning group activities, monitoring, evaluation, safe from harm and preparing activity programmes.	£790.00	£0.00	£0.00	£790.00	The panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £790.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund, specifically to cover training delivery, venue hire, stationery, materials and fuel costs.
SA	24	Wirral Country Park Friends Group	To improve, enhance and maintain various small scale amenities along the Wirral Way.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as feel that this is within the remit of the Council.

SA	37	The Stepping Out Group - Wirral	To contribute towards an adventure weekend to help the group plan a programme for the next two years and to build a strong sense of team.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.
SA	58	Create Arts and Crafts Group	To cover costs for group and publicity to help raise the profile of arts and crafts in the area.	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	Panel agreed to award £500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund to be spent on arts and crafts, on condition that invoices / receipts are sent in, to show how this has been spent.
SA	86	Ridgewood Rangers Junior Football Club	To purchase equipment to enable us to expand our coaching sessions for local children.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.
SA	104	Friends of Arrowe Country Park	To purchase equipment for litter picking and stationery for the administration of the friends group.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as feel that this is within the remit of the Council.
SA	139	Heswall Football Club	To replace fencing at ground.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as the group has received funding previously.

Id		Organisation	CIF Awarded	CS Awarded	LA21 Awarded	Total Awarded
MA	3	Royal Army Service Corps & Royal Corps of Transport (RASC & RCT) Association	£36.47	£36.47	£0.00	£36.47
MA	4	Heswall & District CVS	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
MA	6	Wirral Disability Swimming Development Group	£250.00	£0.00	£0.00	£250.00
MA	9	Pioneer People Wirral	£0.00	£1500.00	£0.00	£1500.00
MA	11	Birkenhead Choral Society	£125.00	£0.00	£0.00	£125.00
MA	26	Helplink Community Support	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00
MA	36	Families need Fathers (FNF) - Wirral	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
MA	42	The Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (RASA)	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00
MA	47	Sundowns (originally funded £250.00 but funding given from other forums that covered the whole of the project)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
MA	51	Age Concern Wirral	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
MA	52	Wirral Festival of Music, Speech and Drama		£0.00	£0.00	
MA	61	Irby, Thurstaston and Pensby Amenity Society	£0.00	£0.00	£1,250.00	£0.00
MA	77	Wirral Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
MA	114	Victim Support and Witness Service Merseyside	£150.00	£0.00	£0.00	£150.00
MA	121	Wirral Raynet	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

	Id	Organisation	CIF Awarded	CS Awarded	LA21 Awarded	Total Awarded
MA	122	PTFA Elleray Park School	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	£500.00
MA	123	South Wirral Young Persons Project (Wirral Youth Service)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
MA	125	Listening -2-U	£297.82	£0.00	£0.00	£297.82

The above organisations submitted requests to more than one area forum, the amounts detailed above show how much the Heswall Pensby Thingwall area forum awarded

There is still an amount of left of £8,657.71 funding made up as follows

- CIF £6,157.71
- Community Safety £1,500.00
- LA21 £1,000.00

Funding is being advertised at the moment with a closing date of 2nd November 2007 Please call the community engagement team on 0151 691 8650 or email engage@wirral.gov.uk

Section Six

Local Area Forum Plan Update

The area forum 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 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 quality of life in the area.

Area forum plans form part of a much wider agenda for improving local services across the whole of Wirral and will influence the work of the local strategic partnership and the ongoing development of Wirral's local area agreement.

This section provides an update on some of the issues that have been resolved for this area forum.

CABINET – 20 JUNE 2007 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

ROAD SAFETY

The Local Transport Capital Programme, which was considered and approved by Cabinet on 28th March 2007, sets out project details relating to proposed schemes within the areas of road safety, school travel, structural road maintenance, walking and cycling.

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Merseyside, which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The second LTP (LTP2) covers the period between 2006/07 and 2010/11 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets

On 28th March 2007, Cabinet approved the report (Minute 310) on the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme described how, in accordance with Government guidance, the new LTP is constructed to relate to four “shared priorities” – Road Safety, Congestion, Accessibility and Air Quality/Environment.

Consequently, the LTP programme for 2007/08 has been revised to match these priorities and more effectively reflect LTP objectives and policy areas.

This shared priority contains the more traditional types of scheme to reduce road accident casualties as well as those to ensure a safe and well-maintained highway asset. Road safety measures undertaken as part of the LTP strategy can also contribute to the Council’s road safety stretched target

WALKING AND CYCLING

The following programmes comprising of pedestrian signal controlled crossings, dropped kerb crossings, pedestrian refuges, pedestrian signing and public rights of way, are proposed to encourage walking through better environments where it safe and attractive to walking

The Walking Strategy deals with the following specific programmes and recommends works/allocations for each of the following headings:-

	<u>Allocation</u>
Pedestrian Signals	£140,000
Walking/Pedestrian Dropped Crossing	£26,000
Pedestrian Central Refuges	£26,000
Signing for Pedestrians	£10,000
Public Rights of Way	£15,000

	£217,000

Area Forum – Heswall, Pensby, & Thingwall	£16,300
Area Forum - Bromborough & Eastham	£16,300

Further details of this report will be included in the Area Forum Plan for 07/08.

Section Seven

Streetscene Update

Wirral Council's Streetscene department is the main point of contact for people wishing to report issues affecting their area such as recycling, condition of roads, street lighting etc.

This section provides a report on the recent activities carried by the Streetscene department.

Residents Parking Zones The Residents' Parking Zones consultations for seven pilot areas have been completed. The seven areas were:

- **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.

The findings of the consultation were recently reported to Wirral Council's Cabinet. The resolution is that Residents' Parking WILL NOT be implemented in the 7 pilot areas as the majority of residents involved did not want the schemes. Wirral Council will now write to all those involved.

In future, people will refer to their Area Forum Coordinator to request a Residents' Parking Scheme. Area Forum Coordinators will be provided with information in time for the next meetings. (Not October's meetings)

School children win road safety prize: In conjunction with Merseyside Police and Radio City, Wirral Council have presented a £1000 prize to Rock Ferry High School for their outstanding entry in our Road Safety video competition. Pupils from Wallasey School, Park High School, Rock Ferry High School, and Woodchurch High School scripted, directed, filmed and edited videos, aimed at getting road safety messages across to other young people.

All of the films were excellent and we couldn't possibly pick the winner - so we gave the opportunity to Wirral's young people to vote online for their favourite video, and Wallasey were the clear winners. The videos can still be viewed online on Radio City's website www.radiocity.co.uk/roadsafety

Puffin Crossings have been proposed at the following locations:

- Irby Road / Fishers Lane, Pensby - Conversion of existing pedestrian refuge, 29m North of its junction with Fishers Lane

Recycling update: All Wirral Residents' should have recently seen a "Recycling Update" wrapped around the Wirral Globe Newspaper. To re-cap:

Grey bins – recycling: Since the roll out of the grey recycling bin across Wirral, the recycling rates for the borough have rocketed! The latest figures show that approximately 32% of Wirral's waste is being recycled, as opposed to 12% this time last year.

Grey bins have been rolled out gradually over the last 9 months and now 95% of properties are on the scheme. Those who live in flats or multiple occupancy housing

will be joining the scheme soon. The grey bin is for plastic bottles, glass bottles, jars, cans and tins, paper and card and other dry recyclables. Whilst food waste, plastic bags, plastic containers, foil and textiles go in the green bin as normal, and garden waste goes in the brown bin.

Message from Director of Technical Services: "I would like to thank all the residents of Wirral for their support and participation so far. I am aware that there were teething problems to begin with, as all major changes take time to get used to, but now the system is working excellently and our latest recycling figures prove that."

Also, certain households who received their grey bins very early on in the scheme will be receiving literature very shortly, informing them that there has been a slight change in what they can put in their grey bin. As they were the first to get the bins, it was thought that the MRF recycling facility at Bidston would be able to process foil and certain plastic containers. However, foil and certain plastic containers such as yogurt pots are not able to be separated from the other materials very well. They tend to end up in the paper stream which increases the risk of the paper bails being rejected from the mill that finally recycle the paper. Therefore the only form of plastic that we can accept in the grey bin is all types of plastic bottles. All other kinds of plastic can not be recycled in your grey bin scheme. Neither can foil, or foil lids.

Brown bins – garden waste: 17,000 Wirral Households were taking part in a combined food and garden waste brown bin pilot. People on this pilot will have originally received a small brown kitchen caddy, along with their brown bin, and instructions about how food waste and garden waste could be put in the brown bin. These households will have recently received information telling them that the pilot scheme has now finished, and that brown bins will be for garden waste only from now on.

The pilot has concluded that it is better to collect garden waste only in our brown bins. This is because processing a combined collection of food and garden waste is a complicated and expensive way of collecting organic waste. If successful it could have helped reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill and increased Wirral's recycling rate. Unfortunately, due to a combination of the following factors, the scheme hasn't helped us to reach these targets:

- The composting units have struggled to maintain consistency with the biological reaction necessary for this type of enclosed composting.
- We've actually received very little food waste from residents as a whole, which meant the scheme was not cost-effective.
- Residents had concerns over putting food waste directly into a bin without wrapping.

Due to the above issues, the Council did not receive the benefit it expected in terms of weight of recycling, and now plans to reassess food recycling. There are many new options available, but these depend on facilities offered by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, with whom we are working to research and develop the best options.

Home Composters: We are offering low cost composters to Wirral households, in conjunction with Recycle Now. Up to a third of an average household bin can be composted. Items such as fruit and veg peelings, shredded paper, teabags, flowers and cardboard egg boxes can be easily composted at home.

www.recyclenow.com/compost 0845 077 0757

Future footway works planned:, Pensby & Thingwall, Hillfield Drive, Pensby & Thingwall, Mere Farm Grove,

Carriageway resurfacing planned, Telegraph Road/Pensby Road, Heswall,

Carriageway Retread sites completed:
THINGWALL ROAD SERVICE ROAD HSE 51 - PENSBY & THINGWALL

Carriageway Surface Treatment sites completed (or due to be completed within the next 2-3 weeks)

BARKER ROAD	PENSBY & THINGWALL
PORTAL ROAD	PENSBY & THINGWALL

Footway Surface Treatment sites completed (or due to be completed within next 2-3 weeks)

DOWNHAM DRIVE	HESWALL
BARKER ROAD	PENSBY & THINGWALL
THINGWALL DRIVE	PENSBY & THINGWALL

Section Eight

Equalities & Diversity

The Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG) provides a framework for local authorities to deliver continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

The standard has six strands or pillars:

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

New equality and diversity policy and strategy for Wirral Council

The Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG) provides a framework for local authorities to deliver continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

The standard has six strands or pillars and these are: Race, Disability, Gender, Age, Sexual Orientation and Religion or belief

Wirral has a new equality and diversity policy which sets out the council's commitment to fair employment and equitable service delivery and includes detailed statements in relation to all six strands of the equality standard. It also sets out the legislative framework within all local authorities must operate.

The council currently has 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.

Main site www.wirral.gov.uk
or use the following link http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm

Alongside its new equality and diversity policy, Wirral has introduced an equality and diversity strategy. The strategy recognises that Wirral has particular challenges in relation to this area of work, and that the council must work at all levels to progress this important agenda.

The authority has mechanisms to ensure all departments regularly discuss equalities. There is, for example, a cross-cutting corporate group which meets regularly to assess the progress of departments through the equality agenda. In this way the council works to address any areas of weaknesses in employment practice or service delivery.

Council staff diversity forums go from strength to strength

An employee diversity forum has long been established within the council. This group consists of staff from across the local authority and brings together issues relating to the six strands of the equality standard.

The group meets regularly before the council's corporate group, in order for the forum's views to inform strategic discussions. For more information about the employee diversity forum please contact Steve Russell (Chair) on 0151 691 8656 or email steverussell@wirral.gov.uk

More recently, two further staff diversity forums have been set up specifically designed to align to a particular strand, the gender diversity forum (women's group), and disability diversity forum.

The gender diversity forum has met twice since their inaugural meeting in May with the next meeting scheduled for 19th September. The focus of this meeting will include agile working and transforming working practices to meet the future and addressing the gender imbalance within the top 5% of staff within the Council.

For more information please contact Christina Bebbington (temporary Chair) on 0151 691 8063. or email christinabebbington@wirral.gov.uk

The disability diversity forum has met three times since their inaugural meeting in May discussions have included terms of reference for the group and discussing council communications aimed at raising awareness about the reasonable adjustments to which people with disabilities are entitled.

For more information please contact Ged Smyth (temporary Chair) on 0151 691 8217 or email gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk

If you are interested in finding out more about what the council is doing about equality and diversity please visit the council's website where you can also have your say.

Wirral Black and Racial Minority Partnership established

The Wirral Black and Racial Minority Partnership (WBRMP) held its inaugural meeting on the 18th July 2007.

The aim of the WBRMP is to provide Wirral Black and Racial Minority communities with a co-ordinated voice to enable them to become more involved in local issues that affect their lives.

The Partnership has recently agreed its constitution and appointed officers. Presently, they are being supported by the Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network, Community Engagement Team at Bebbington CVS.

The Partnership is hoping to hold their official launch on 3rd October this year in The Laurie's Centre.

Current members of the Partnership include; Wirral African and Caribbean Community Voice, Wirral Cultural Diversity Group, Irish Community Care, Wirral Change, Wirral Sikh Association amongst others.

If you are interested in the work of the Partnership or wish to join please contact Julie Johnson or Karen Livesey 0151 645 4038.

Mayoral reception for Wirral's leading BME community members

The Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Phil Gilchrist, held a reception for Wirral's leading BME community members at on 6th September in the Round Room, Wallasey Town Hall.

The council recognises the growing diversity in Wirral and wanted to provide a forum to meet with those who represent both the established and the emerging minority communities.

Although informal, the reception offered an opportunity to discuss any issues that are of concern and a selection of senior council officers were in attendance.