

YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**



**Leasowe Moreton
Saughall Massie
Area Forum**

Papers for the forum meeting

Wednesday 27th June 2007

**Foxfield School
Douglas Drive
Moreton
CH46 6BT**

7.00 - 9.00pm



2002-2003
Community Legal Services
2003-2004
Transforming Secondary Education
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services

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Leasowe, Moreton & Saughall Massie Area Forum

**Wednesday 27th June 2007
7.00pm**

Foxfield School, Douglas Drive,
Moreton, CH46 6BT

AGENDA

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

Leasowe Moreton Saughall Massie Area Forum

Area Co-ordinators Report

Wednesday 27th June 2007

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SECTION ONE

Minutes - Area Forum (Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie) 21 February 2007

Present	
Chair	ED Prout
Ward Councillor	RL Abbey , C Blakeley , IO Coates , SD Moseley
Community Representatives	Barbara Epstein
Lead Officer	Russ Glennon (Head of Corporate Policy)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Tina Long (Primary Care Trust)
Merseyside Police	Sgt Mark Smith
Council Officers	Fergus Adams (Technical Services) , Jim Lester (Head of Cultural Services) , Brian Smith (Technical Services)
Apologies	Bruce Martin (Faith Representative) , SR Mountney

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Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions

The Chair, Councillor ED Prout, welcomed Forum members and 20 members of the public to the meeting of the Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie Area Forum in Leasowe. He invited Forum members to introduce themselves.

Barbara Epstein reported that since the last time she attended the area forum on the activities in the Sandbrook Community Centre, they held a successful Christmas Fayre, raising £430 that was then split between two charities. The Community turned out in force for the event.

The two youth clubs go from strength to strength and have between them reached a regular attendance of 50 children. Both club attendees were rewarded for their good

behaviour and regular attendance with a day out. The Saturday club were taken to the pantomime before Christmas and the Tuesday group were treated to a film followed by lunch and ended with a swimming session in Europa Pools.

The Centre has gained quite a reputation as a birthday party venue and bookings are up, the income of which is helping fund other activities. The 55+ luncheon club continues to do a good job on Wednesdays although there we would like to see more of Sandbrooks 55+ joining with the Sunningdale pensioners.

The only disappointment was the lack of take up on the three free courses offered to the unemployment on the estate by Birkenhead 6th Forum College. Sandbrook Community Centre feel that the college did very little advertising to encourage people to join and we hope to have more successes in the future. All other activities continue as before and for information on any aspect of the Centre please contact me on 07949945919.

Minute 2 - Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor SR Mountney and Bruce Martin (Faith Representative).

Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators report

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

The minutes of the meeting of the Area Forum on 24 October 2006 had been included on pages 3 to 11 of the report. The actions taken on matters arising relating to parking in Kensington Gardens and at Cameron Road were given on page 11. Additional information on matters arising was provided at the meeting, viz., -

- Kensington Gardens: Bin Collections: An officer from Streetscene will visit the area on bin collection day to monitor the situation regarding access for collections.
- Kensington Gardens: Parking: An officer will monitor the area and take appropriate action.
- Cameron Road - Disabled parking provision at end of cul-de-sac: An investigation had established that the area has not been adopted by the Highway Authority and is the responsibility of the Social Services Department. The query has been referred to the Social Services Department for attention.

Mr. Jim Edwards expressed dissatisfaction with the responses received to his comment at the last meeting about the lack of disabled parking in Pasture Road. He was aware that the Council had a duty under the Disability Discrimination Act and Equal Opportunities legislation to provide a certain percentage of designated parking places for disabled drivers, including those with blue badges. .

Tracey Smith responded that a response had been given to Mr. Edwards in relation to the lack of disabled parking space. There did seem to be some confusion as to which Council Department was actually responsible for this and she would investigate this and report back to Mr. Edwards.

Mr. Edwards had also reported a burglary to which the Police had responded promptly. A Police Sergeant had given an assurance that the jewellery recovered after the burglary would be returned to him but, so far, this has not happened.

- Healthier Communities and Older People: Councillor Blakeley drew attention to inaccuracies in the PCT update on page 19 relating to the proposed new medical centre. The Social Care Overview Scrutiny Committee had supported the proposal – that Committee does not have the power to approve the proposal. Any proposed new build would be subject to planning approval by the Council.

Minute Decision :
Resolved: That –

i the two issues raised by Mr. Edwards be investigated further by Russell Glennon and Tracey Smith, and that definitive answers be provided for Mr. Edwards within two weeks;

ii the minutes of the meeting of 24 October 2006 be agreed as a true record;

iii the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for her report.

Minute 4 - Public question time

Fergus Adams, Recycling Officer, responded to questions raised by members of the public on general matters relating to Recycling –

The programme for the issue grey bins for paper and packaging recycling service has been brought forward to allow more residents to participate in the scheme. Areas in the final stage of the roll-out will receive their grey bins by 11 June.

Members of the public should use the grey bins to recycle plastic bottles, glass bottles, jars, tins, cans, paper and card. Residents will receive collection calendars, stickers and information booklets when the bins are delivered. The literature handed out with grey bins has been changed to make it clearer which types of plastic can be recycled and which should be disposed of in the green wheelie bin. Households in areas that received the old literature will receive the updated version in due course.

In the next roll-out, a further 3,000 properties with gardens will receive a brown bin to recycle garden waste. In the meantime, people who have not yet received brown bins will not be penalised if they dispose of garden waste in the residual [green] bin.

It is not compulsory for any household to accept three bins. Any householder who receives a brown bin that is not required should advise Streetscene and it will be taken away.

Council Officers are currently assessing, in conjunction with Biffa, the arrangements

for bin collections in high rise flats and the various types of receptacles in use in multi-occupancy buildings.

The new waste management contract with Biffa has been running since the end of August 2006 and the operational details, the manning, rounds and number of vehicles etc, were still being determined. The Council is confident that once the initial 'teething' problems have been ironed out, the Waste Collection Service will operate at a higher standard than that provided by the previous contractor.

In response to specific queries, Fergus Adams stated that –

- the member of the public should ask Wirral Partnership Homes to provide a breakdown of the charges levied for bin collection on people who live in rented flats;
- there is no postcode 'elitism' whereby households in certain areas have historically had their bins emptied on either a Monday or a Friday. Under the new contract, the only days in the year when bins would not be emptied will be Christmas Day and New Year's Day, therefore the practice of a double collection because of a bank holiday Monday will not apply in future.

Councillor Blakeley advised that elected Members had rejected a recommendation by Council Officers to charge residents who live in multi-occupancy dwellings for the receptacles used for bulk collection and recycling.

Other Issues:

A member of the public advised that the Standing Conference on Women's Organisations have organised a debate about public toilets at Heswall Hall on 23 March between 1 pm and 3 pm. The Members of Parliament, Angela Eagle and Ben Chapman would be present and there was an open invitation to anyone from this Area Forum who wishes to attend.

Minute 5 - Presentation on Management of Leasowe and Moreton Commons

Jim Lester, Head of Cultural Services, Regeneration Department, addressed the Forum on issues relating to North West Coastal Park, which includes Leasowe and Moreton Commons.

Jim Lester explained that although the term 'Common' is used, the land and embankments belong to Wirral Council, and the Council is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Leasowe and Moreton Commons. Traditionally the public has always had access to the Commons but the Common adjacent to the Lighthouse in Moreton has been closed to public vehicle access for some time.

Whilst vehicular access is still allowed on Moreton Common the area has become increasingly difficult to manage. Travellers have parked their caravans and motorised vehicles on Moreton Common in the recent past; parts of the land are excessively wet during the winter months and this has resulted in vehicles becoming stuck and damaging the pasture. There has been a marked increase in instances of abuse of the facility with overnight camping, usually accompanied by heavy drinking sessions.

Whilst the Council policy is to try to accommodate the needs of all visitors overnight camping on the Common has always been prohibited. Those who contravene this rule are frequently abusive and aggressive towards the Police and Council staff who

try to move them on, or they have been drinking and are not in a fit state to move their vehicles. The incident log from 2005 describes the range of difficulties experienced by households living in properties adjoining the Common.

Council Officers were concerned that, increasingly, vehicles are being driven on to the Common in a way that is dangerous to public safety. The initial reaction to this situation is that vehicle access to Moreton Common must close so that people can use the site for other legitimate activities and children can enjoy and play safely on the Common. There are ample car parking facilities around the site.

The Police Officers commented that the use of unlawful vehicles, such as quad bikes and mini motor bikes, has increased substantially, and there are dangers associated with the young children who use vehicles on the site. The Police recommendation was that the site should be closed to vehicular access on the grounds of public safety.

The Council needed to decide whether to implement the Police's recommendation to close off the site to vehicles but before reaching a decision the views of the Area Forum would be welcome this evening on what the access should be and how the Council should manage it.

A debate followed on issues such as the high level of litter and dog fouling on the promenades; the lack of adequate waste bins with infrequent and irregular emptying; fly tipping, horse riding on the site; the need for more seating areas along the promenades, the need for mechanical sweeps to clean the promenades; the general deterioration in the area near the café; the fact that resources available are used to improve the areas towards Meols and New Brighton whilst Moreton remains neglected; that Hoylake was pristine at the time of the Golf Open, but Moreton was left to decline further; Police manning levels in the Moreton Cross area; the issue of dangerous dogs and the number of and responsibilities of dog wardens in Wirral.

At the conclusion of a lengthy discussion, Councillor Blakeley commented that the concerns about safety were about a small number of people who abuse the facilities. He suggested that any action to close Moreton Common would penalise the majority of good people who want to continue to access and use the facility as they always have. The area ought to be properly policed and managed to prevent abuse. He suggested that a compromise solution could be reached by an automatic barrier or tag system that would give access to people who wish to continue to access the Common for legitimate reasons.

Suggestions were made that micro lights could be used to assist in managing the land and that warning notices should be erected prohibiting the use of quad bikes and other illegal vehicles.

Council Officers were working on a Management Plan to improve standards in general on the Commons and promenade. So far, the targets for litter collection had been achieved, three rangers had been allocated to work in the specific area, and permanent public toilet provision would be restored at the site of the former public toilets on Moreton Common in the Spring.

Minute Decision:

Resolved: To thank Jim Lester for his presentation.

Minute 6 - Community Safety Update - Police, Fire Service and the Community Safety Team

- Police: There were no questions raised concerning the Police.
- Fire Service: The Fire Service was not represented.
- Community Safety Team: The Community Safety Team was not represented.

Minute Decision:

Resolved: That the deep disappointment of this Area Forum be recorded that, once again, there is no representation by the Fire Service or the Community Safety Team at the meeting of the Area Forum.

Minute 7 - Primary Care Trust update and Public Health Annual Report Update

Wirral's Public Health Annual Report has been produced in an electronic format this year. The evolving Internet based report enables the content to be updated on an ongoing basis with new information being added as soon as it becomes available. The Annual Report, which contains a wealth of easy to digest Public Health information, includes - data in map and graph formats, demographic information, life expectancy information, health inequalities data and research methodology. A presentation on the Annual Report would be given for those who wish to remain at the end of the meeting. Otherwise, the report can be accessed electronically on www.wirralpct.nhs.uk/publichealthintelligence.

Copies P R I M E, a free NHS magazine packed with information about how to stay healthy, feel good and reduce your risk of serious diseases, were available at the meeting.

Minute 8 - Dates of future meetings and presentations

That the next meeting of this Area Forum be held on Wednesday, 27 June 2007 from 7 pm and 9 pm at St Mary's Church Centre, Saughall Massie.

Minute 9 - Any other business

- Saughall Massie Bridge: The Saughall Massie Bridge was the first bridge built by the world renowned engineer, Thomas Brassey, when he was 23 years old. English Heritage have now awarded grade 2 status to the bridge.

The Saughall Massie Conservation Society has raised funds to erect a commemorative plaque on the bridge and the Mayor of Wirral will conduct the unveiling ceremony at 11 am, on Saturday, 28 April.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Matters Arising

Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators report

Minute Decision:
Resolved: That –

i the two issues raised by Mr. Edwards be investigated further by Russell Glennon and Tracey Smith, and that definitive answers be provided for Mr. Edwards within two weeks;

Tracey Smith e-mailed the local neighbourhood Inspector to respond directly to Mr. Edwards in relation to jewellery recovered after a burglary that would be returned to him.

The Police have reported that the forensic results from the burglary were negative and there was no knowledge of any jewellery being recovered.

The Technical Services Department have been contacted and asked them to determine who is responsible for the car park and to request that they provide disabled parking bays. The request was processed and two disabled parking bays have been placed in the car park at the side of the library. The work was carried out week commencing 26 March and Steve Foden, Wirral Council's Access Officer, has been out to inspect it. A letter was sent to Mr Edwards to confirm this.

Minute 5 - Presentation on Management of Leasowe and Moreton Commons.

Some questions were raised in relation to Jim Lester's presentation detailed below are his responses.

Further to the enquiry about the opening hours for the toilets at Leasowe common I am advised by Environmental health that they will be as our other public toilets which is;

Between September and March the opening times are generally 9am to 5pm. between the months of April and August closing times for coastal sites are extended to 6.30pm. Exceptional circumstances may dictate that some sites have to be opened later and closed earlier than the times stated. Generally sites located in or by retail areas are open Monday to Saturday and Coastal sites are open Monday to Sunday. Every effort is made to keep the coastal sites open during the festive holidays including Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New years Day".

Barbara Epstein asked me about the use of unstaffed public toilets.

With regard to the use of unstaffed/self cleaning toilets as used in France, the one in Birkenhead is privately owned by Merseytravel and the Council has nothing to do with its management. When members were considering investment in to the borough's public conveniences in 2005 consideration was given to the use of automated units. For your information I have copied below the relevant points from the original committee report. In summary the cost of leasing or purchasing individual units was prohibitive unless the authority agreed to allow various advertising space across the borough. At that time the Director of Technical Services advised that Planning Officer's would be unlikely to approve the high number of advertising spaces requested by the unit suppliers.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL 010805
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE:
JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

6.0 AUTOMATIC PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

- 6.1 Automatic self-cleaning public conveniences or 'superloos' are typically supplied on a long term 15 - 20 year lease and are maintained on a daily basis by the supplier. Lease costs are in the region of £25,000 per single unit, per year and access to each unit is usually by 10p coin generating a small annual income, based on a typical usage of 60 visits per day, of £2,190 p.a. / unit.
- 6.2 Purchase, of individual "superloo" units cost in the region of £100,000 per unit with revenue costs additional. This would have significant capital program implications and a continuing revenue provision necessary for repairs and maintenance. Servicing costs range between £12,000-24,000p.a. depending upon the unit chosen and extent of automation. This latter cost would be offset by income from usage that typically amounts to £2000p.a.
- 6.3 Adshell a major supplier of such units are able to provide facilities by an arrangement where capital and revenue costs are met by income generated from advertising. Adshell have indicated that 6 "superloo" type facilities could be provided funded by 125 free standing advertising units with static panels and 25 free standing units with scrolling panels located in suitable locations across the Borough. The Director of Technical services has indicated however that planning officers are unlikely to recommend approval for such a high number of advertising units across the Borough.

SECTION TWO

Safer & Stronger Communities

Unlicensed landlords urged to contact council

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

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

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

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

Recycling Champions walking the streets of Wirral

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

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

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

Said David Green: 'We appreciate that this is a new process for people to understand and follow, our Recycling Champions are here to help and provide alternative solutions

if residents cannot cope with managing their waste.' The officers are out and about in Wirral all week including Saturdays and all will be carrying official Council identification. Anyone who fails to produce official Council ID is not a bona fide representative. You should refuse to deal with them and report them to the police.

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

Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association

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



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

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

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

New Services at your local One Stop Shops

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

Licensing

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

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

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

Council job vacancies

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

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

Streetscene

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

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

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

Tourism

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

Pest Control

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

New Advice Surgeries

Bebington One Stop Shop

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

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

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

Eastham One Stop Shop

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

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

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

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Local Area Forum Update

Service Plans

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

Key objectives for all Wirral stations include:

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

Home Fire Safety Checks

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

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

Station Contact Numbers Ask for the Watch Manager

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

Wallasey 0151 630 3040
West Kirby 0151 625 1157

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

Paul Gibson Wirral District Manager

Wirral Joint Community Safety Team Area Forum Update

All Wirral

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

East Wirral

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

Liscard

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

Birkenhead and Tranmere

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

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas

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

Sandbrook Community Centre Update

Plans for the future include the refurbishment of the toilets, which might have been state of the art when originally built but are now well and truly passed their sell by date. At this time I am still looking for a grant to carry out the work. The only disappointment is the lack of respect for the centre and the area shown by a minority of youngsters whose parents, for whatever reason, are unable to exercise any control and who, therefore, try to spoil other people's enjoyment.

Birkenhead Sixth Form College has started a First Steps to Computers course at Sandbrook Community Centre. The course is designed for those with little or no computer knowledge. We start by developing an understanding about using the computer (nothing technical) and then progress to using word processing and spreadsheets. This Inclusive Training course is ESF funded and available to Pathways residents who are unemployed, looking to return to work and whose qualifications are below NVQ level 2. 1 - 3pm every Tuesday. Contact 0151 678 4536

Our mums and tots group is doing really well and we are getting busier each week, with new mums and dads coming along and giving really great feedback on our sessions. We would still welcome anyone who wants to pop along and join us for a cup of tea and some adult conversation while the children run around and burn off some energy. We do try to have something different for the children each week such as card making for mothers day/fathers day/ Easter etc. We also have snack time halfway through the morning and song time for the last 10 min, so plenty to keep everyone entertained. Come along and join us Tuesday mornings from 9.30-11.30

The Annual General Meeting of the Sandbrook Community Centre Association was held in the centre, Chapelhill Rd, Moreton on Saturday 19th May at 7 pm. Chris Price, Chair of the Management Group, gave both his and the Secretary's report as the Secretary was unable to attend due to illness. Chris thanked both WPH and the committee for their support over the last twelve months. He welcomed all new members and advised those present as to the activities taking place in the centre. Barbara Barrow presented the Treasurer's report and was complimented by Cllr Prout on the layout of the accounts.

John Eachus (past Chair) gave his resignation from the Executive. He was thanked for his contribution to the success of the Centre. Three new members have joined the management group but require two full years of attendance before being eligible to serve as an executive. Cllr Ron Abbey was welcomed as an Associate Member.

Barbara Epstein June 2007

Healthier Communities & Older People

Wirral Hospital 
NHS Trust

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NHS Foundation Trust - All hospitals have to become Foundation Trust's (FTs) by 2008. NHS FTs are a new kind of NHS organisation. They are accountable to their Membership and to Parliament, rather than to the Department of Health. An independent regulator, Monitor, makes sure they meet requirements and reports on this to Parliament. FTs have Members and Governors – unlike current NHS trusts. Members elect Governors to represent them and to set direction for the organisation. The establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors is a key part of our

ongoing engagement strategy. We are aiming for at least 13,000 public members – currently we have 6,000.

An NHS FT:

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

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

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

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

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

services while making realistic financial assumptions and meeting national efficiency requirements. To do this we have developed a five year plan which includes:

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

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

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

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

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

Children & Young People

Wirral Youth Service

Introduction

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

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

- Youth clubs
- Street work projects
- "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
- Projects in schools

The Service is flexible and able to respond to the needs of young people and offers opportunities that are both universal and targeted. Youth work on Wirral is delivered through joint working between the Local Authority, voluntary organisations and other agencies.

Youth workers work with young people in many different localities in Wirral. Having a variety of youth clubs and street work projects allows youth workers to work with young people in their neighbourhoods, meet their specific needs and respond to issues that are important to them.

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

Response

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty.

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within

schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

International Work

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

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 500 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

The Award is available to all young people aged between 14 and 25 with the emphasis being the development of young people's leisure time. By taking part in the Award, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts

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

Leasowe Youth club

The new Neighbourhood worker has now been in post for 9 months. The membership of the youth club has risen to 30-40 young people attending on a regular basis. A successful bid from the Youth Capital Fund was submitted by the members to refurbish the Youth House for the outreach and project work. The funding will not cover all of the work; however the Youth service will cover the shortfall. The young women are entering a dance competition, which they have been working towards for a number of months. This project has been organised and developed by the young people. The members of the club have taken part in a range of Wirral wide activities and have taken part in 4 outward-bound trips to Oakland's. These trips were part of a successful bid for youth opportunity funding.

Moreton Youth Centre:

Moreton Youth Centre has an established team and offers a wide range of opportunities for members. The members are now on their silver section of HPYS and have gained funding to create a chill out room. They tackled mental health as part of this section, which included de-stressing sessions for those taking exams. A senior members group working towards their Youth Achievement Awards and 'V' award are running a junior disco on Friday nights with the support of the staff. The unit has a theme and a country a month, which is chosen jointly with staff and members. It includes cookery, issue based work, health and art and craft session.

Ability vs. Ability...Nothing Else

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wirral school children win recycling challenge

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thousands of Pounds available for Wirral Teenagers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

paying close attention to the benefits each application represents.”

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

Economic Development and Enterprise

Fairtrade Guide available

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

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

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

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

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION THREE

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
The Royal British Legion (Moreton) Club Ltd	To install a disabled toilet.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,810.00 towards the disabled toilet from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The disabled toilet was installed in Oct 2006. Thank you so much for awarding us the grant as the disabled toilet has made such a difference to the members. We really appreciate the help that you have given us.
Sandbrook Community Centre Association	To purchase a heating trolley for the centre's luncheon club.	Panel considered this to be a very good project that will benefit people in the forum area and agreed to award £225.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The heating trolley has enabled the weekly luncheon club to prepare all food from fresh and keep food hot. The club has attracted constant numbers of regulars who socialise in addition to having a cooked meal. This helps to break the barriers that lead to isolation and depression amongst the elderly singles.
Sandbrook Community Centre Association	To write, publish and distribute two newsletters.	Panel considered this to be a very good project that will benefit people in the forum area and agreed to award £400.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding was spend on newsletters and this publicity has led to an increase in the use of the centre. The centre is almost fully occupied and the youth clubs and mothers and tots groups have seen a marked increase in attendees.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Fire Support Network	To provide an after-fire care service in Wirral.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £175.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	<p>The funding received from the forums was extremely appreciated as it helped the project to continue whilst additional funding was being sought. The after fire care project has taken off considerably since 2006, and has been funded for the next five years from the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>We have helped victims of fire who found the project most helpful at a very difficult time in their lives.</p>
Wirral Holistic Care Services	To replace patio area and provide wheelchair access and handrails.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £650.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The patio area has been completely renovated, re-paved and made safe. Patients and volunteers are now able to make use of the lovely garden at the charity's premises with the help of your funding.
Age Concern Wirral	To contribute towards annual older persons' conference.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards the Older People's Conference from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The older persons' conference was held on 26th October at Hulme Hall, and was attended by over 100 older people and carers and 60 senior professionals from across the Borough. There was a choice of workshops, including an interactive voting session, which gave participants the opportunity to comment on local service delivery / plans etc.

SECTION FOUR

Local Area Plan Update

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

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

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

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

- Introduction
- Statistical Information
- Local priority action plan

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

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

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

SECTION FIVE

Streetscene Update

Birkenhead Parking

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

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

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

Changes to Speed Restrictions

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

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

The proposed speed reductions are as follows:

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

Residents Parking Zones

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

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

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

No charges will be incurred by residents within existing zones.

The seven pilot areas are:

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

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

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

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

Port Sunlight/Clatterbridge Cycle Route

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

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

Traffic Safety Schemes

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

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

Highway Maintenance Contracts

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

Wirral on the Road to Recycling

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

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

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

Cigarette / Smoking-related Litter

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

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

To deter Wirral residents from committing the offence, we are warning them of the £75 fine. We are heading up an extensive advertising campaign, including adverts on billboards, bus stops, phone boxes and bus rears. Will also be hosting events to give away portable ashtrays (Stubbi pouches) and communicate the fact that people will be given £75 fines if they are caught dropping a cigarette stub, or any form of litter.

Major Surfacing Schemes

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

Footway works completed

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

Future footway works planned

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

Carriageway resurfacing completed

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

Carriageway resurfacing planned

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

Tall Ships 2008

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

Walk to School Week 2007

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

Garden Recycling

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

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

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

Paper and Packaging Recycling

The new paper and packaging scheme has now been extended to more residents bringing the total households to 110,000. Plastic bottles, glass, paper, cardboard, tins and cans are being collected, combined, from the kerb-side and taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Bidston where they are separated and sent to local processors for turning into new products.

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

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

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

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

Home Composting

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

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

Update on Integrated Transport Block

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION SIX

Equality and Diversity

Introduction

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

What is Equality and Diversity?

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

There are 6 strands/pillars of the Equality Standard:

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

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

http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm

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

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

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

Useful groups/contacts

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

For further information please contact Clint on 0151 650 5428

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

For further information please contact Margaret on 0151 327 5508

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

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