

EAST WALLASEY (LISCARD & SEACOMBE) AREA FORUM

Co-ordinator's report

14th October 2004

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SECTION ONE

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE'S FUNDING

Community Initiatives Fund

There is £322.06 carried forward to this year's CIF this was a donation from the Poulton Community Association. The CIF allocation for 2004/05 is £10,000 giving an overall allocation of £10,322.06.

Adverts for CIF will be placed in the Wirral Globe on 10 and 24 November. Flyers and posters will be circulated to groups and organisations as well as libraries, One Stop Shops, council reception areas etc. Individual forum members will also receive publicity information. The closing date for applications will be Monday 20 December.

It is anticipated that the assessment panel (once established) will meet week commencing 10 January in order for an overall report to go to Cabinet on Thursday 10 February.

It has been agreed that this forums criteria for funding:

Funding is available for projects within the Liscard & Seacombe area that will benefit all sectors of the community. The forum will consider all applications, but would specifically welcome bids for

- ◆ **Young People**
- ◆ **Older People**
- ◆ **Intergenerational work between young and older people.**

We have been asked to bring to your attention that all area forums are made aware that community safety funding might be used to supplement grant applications or as a possible alternative where applications do not meet the criteria for the Community Initiative Fund. For further details contact Andy Dams on 666 5098 or Jim Thompson on 666 5097.

The Community Planning Team receives regular updates from the Charities Information Bureau on a variety of funding opportunities. If you would like a copy of the latest information please contact a member of the team on 691 8266/8069.

SECTION TWO

DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A LOCAL AREA PLAN

AREA PLANS – setting the work programme for area forums

Introduction

This paper seeks to outline the development processes underpinning the production of area plans, their purpose and how they should be used by area forum members to progress the work and added value of the forums.

Background

Wirral Borough Council introduced area forums in the summer of 2001 as part of their drive towards modernising local government and bringing council services, and the services delivered by partner organisations, closer to local people. Area forums are advisory and consultative bodies i.e. they have no delegated decision making powers or budgets and as such the area forums have been used to great effect since their introduction. However, area forums have provided an opportunity for local people to begin to influence the way in which services are delivered and to identify those issues that are important to them.

For example, the forums have been consulted upon the following and their views fed into the decision-making processes of council departments and partner organisations:

1. The Highways Maintenance Programme provided all forums with the opportunity to identify roads for improvement;
2. The Community Strategy;
3. The Schools Term;
4. Specific regeneration developments in areas such as New Brighton and Hoylake

For local councillors, area forums provide an additional opportunity (over and above council surgeries) to engage with local people and, with other service providers, to look at specific issues identified by local communities, which can better be progressed by the joint action of the area forum. Through this community leadership, councillors, through working with local people and organisations can develop a shared vision for the future of their local area, identify immediate priorities for action and then through working together, make a difference in local communities. The production of the area plan supports all councillors' role as community leaders and supports the modernisation agenda through involving local people in service delivery.

Area Plans

The main task for each area forum has been to develop and agree a local area plan, which reflects the needs and priorities of the area, and provides the area forums with a list of priorities from which they can begin to look at how the forum will respond. While the plans will obviously form a major part of the overall Community Strategy for the borough, perhaps more importantly they are designed to guide the work of the area forums over the coming 12 months.

Area plans bring together a range of identified community needs and priorities from:

- Feedback and views raised at area forums;
- Feedback and views raised at annual ward roadshows;
- Citizens panel questionnaires;
- General consultation activities undertaken by partners around specific issues.

To ensure that area forum plans are aligned with, and make reference to, other supporting plans and strategies prepared by the council and partner organisations, the documents have been rigorously checked against:

- Council departmental plans which set out the priorities and key actions of all sections and departments;
- Other area based plans and strategies such as the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Plans, Pathways Partnerships, Housing Market Renewal Initiative etc;
- The Community Strategy

Consultation

To support the development, relevance of the area plans, a significant consultation process was developed to further ground the priorities and needs identified by the local community. Copies of the area plans have been distributed to:

- Council heads of service;
- Departmental co-ordinators who support area co-ordinators in relation to service delivery elements of area forums;
- Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) members;
- Wirral's Voluntary and Community Sectors' Network;
- Area forum membership;
- Membership of the 8 thematic partnerships supporting the LSP e.g. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, the Health and Social Care Partnership, Wirral Learning Partnership etc.

Area plans provide the opportunity to:

- Theme future meetings around specific issues identified in the plan;
- Ensure that appropriate council officers and partner organisations are in attendance to support progress against identified issues and needs;
- Convene subgroups (task and finish groups) of the area forums around specific issues to begin to progress ideas, the issues and barriers to addressing the identified needs within the plan;
- Allow councillors to pick up specific issues and priorities and feed these into the political making processes within the council;
- Lobby locally and nationally on issues identified within the area plans and barriers that prevent progress or action;
- Feed local views into the planning and budget setting cycles of the council and partner organisations to ensure that local views and issues are influencing service delivery in positive ways to achieve real and lasting progress against area forum priorities;
- Feed local views into the overarching community strategy for Wirral;
- Align the community initiatives fund grant, where required, with the priorities agreed by the area forum for action within the area plan. The area plan could even provide an opportunity for the area forum to commission specific activity / projects to address identified local needs and priorities.
- Allow area co-ordinators to convene local service co-ordination groups (with key officers from the council and partner organisations) to look at specific service delivery issues, share information and attempt to identify ways of working together in a more co-ordinated fashion to support the achievement of the area forums key priorities;
- Identify the added value of the area forums i.e. those things that have been achieved that would not have been achieved if the area forum did not exist and the council and partners worked individually;
- Undertake specific consultation on the issues identified and the priorities agreed for action by the area forum;
- Report progress to the local community on taking forward the area plans and the issues and priorities they have identified as important to them;

For further information on area plans, how they feed into the planning process and community strategy, please contact:

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SECTION THREE

YOUTH FORUMS UPDATE

YOUTH UPDATE REPORT

September 04

Contents:

- ◆ **Youth Forums**
- ◆ **Children's Community Strategy**
- ◆ **Outside Agency Consultation**
- ◆ **Youth Conference**

YOUTH FORUMS

Since the last Area Forum meeting the Youth Forums met in July, and will meet again in September. The outcomes from the September meetings will be reported at the next forum meeting.

Wallasey Youth Forum

Took place at Moreton Youth Club – Tuesday 13th July 04

There were 19 young people in attendance, from Moreton Youth Club & Wallasey Outreach, below are the key points from the meeting

What did the group think of the posters / publicity?

- Colourful
- Easy to read
- Eye contact
- Magazines
- Leaflets
- Local Radio (Juice, Buzz)
- A jingle on T.V
- Attracts attention
- Stick in store windows
- Post them
- Lamp posts
- Bus, Schools, Trains
- School intranet

What issues would you like to raise with Steve Maddox? – He will be attending the next meeting

- Better pool tables
- Good houses
- Big park on Moreton field
- Moreton cages need redoing
- Need more money
- A big huge graffiti wall in Moreton youth club (spray paint)
- More colour in the youth club
- We should have a gym (local)
- Better parks for little kids
- Better facilities for the elderly
- More money to the youth club
- Better swimming pools
- We should be allowed to go in Moreton cages
- Parks in Leasowe are boring
- On Sundays more buses
- More activities
- Modern facilities for the youth clubs
- Skate park
- More police on the streets
- CCTV for safety on main roads etc

What we'd like our youth forum to be like

- Get a Councillor at the meetings
- Like it the – mix

Big local issues were:

- Lack of skate parks
- Not enough police
- More activities in local areas
- More activities for youths
- Need a local gym
- Lighting in parks
- More activities around Liscard – yoga, football, gyms
- More acceptance of our sports
- Youth club needs modernising – colour, dance room, bigger
- Dance studio
- More bins
- Football area
- More parks and activities
- Rubbish, clean it up

Issues to take forward as a group:

- Skate park (Wallasey) – nothing happening
- Football Cages – Improve cages outside youth club in Moreton
- More lighting in the parks
- Sports facilities improved – more time in pool- fun sessions
- State of roads and pavements

Since the meeting:

Mike Garbut – Parks and Open Spaces has been contacted about the skate park, and this was reported to the youth worker.

The young people have received answers about the cages and lighting in the parks
The road they were complaining, Dutton Lane, is included in a scheme and will be improved

Discussions have been taking place with the Police about the issues raised at the youth forums and PC Paul Lawson will be attending the next meeting to discuss them.

Children's Community Strategy

The Community Strategy has been agreed for everyone, and therefore covers everyone's broad needs. This may mean that smaller group's specific needs or aspirations may be lost in the detail. Therefore a specific document focused on children and young people will be able to explore this.

From the schools Roadshow involvement and the youth forums we have a clear understanding about what children and young people want and need, as well as service levels and what departments plans are. Therefore this provides all the ingredients for a draft strategy sitting under the community strategy BUT highlighting children and young people's issues.

A Children's Community Strategy would be an excellent focus for our work and our partners to ensure that services are delivered which meet the needs of our children and young people. This would ensure a coherent, co-ordinated and sensible approach.

This would also give children and young people a focus to review the work of the council and how well they think their needs and aims are being met.

The Community Planning Team has approached the Local Strategic Partnership for support in this work and they have given broad approval at the June meeting.

The process for consulting young people has already started through citizenship events at local schools and Wirral Play Council's "Play Day". Now the schools have returned they will be involved in other consultation on this, along with the Youth Forums.

Outside Agency Consultation:

Wirral Hospital NHS

The Community Planning Team has been approached to assist with the Hospital's plans for a redesign of how Children's health services are delivered.

Mersey Regional Waterfront Park

This group are looking at setting up a Children's Panel from West Wirral to include in the decision making of any projects and schemes the Mersey Regional Waterfront Park undertake. The Community Planning Team and Advisory Teachers will be working together on this.

Youth Conference

This year's conference will close the Council's Local Democracy Week celebrations. This event will offer a unique opportunity for pupils at local schools to experience citizenship "for real".

The conference will include stands from local organisations and council departments. A variety of workshops will take place on the day, which will include:

- Connexions
- Youth / Area Forums
- Public Health
- Liverpool Prison
- Merseytravel

And "Hotseating", which will allow young people to interview key people about issues which have emerged during their debate and discussions. Speakers involved in the hotseating session will include Steve Maddox, Chief Executive WMBC, Howard Cooper, Director of Education, Chief Supt Alan Jones Merseyside Police, Ward Councillors and a number of others representing a diverse group of service providers and organisations.

During lunchtime a buffet will be served providing an opportunity to taste a variety of foods from India, China & the Caribbean. This variety will also be replicated in the entertainment during the break; a steel band will perform.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate young people's participation and allow them to come "face to face" with key decision-makers to put their point across and have fun.

Lauren Elliott
September 04

If you have any questions about this report please contact me on 691 8213 / laurenelliott@wirral.gov.uk

SECTION FOUR

STREETSCENE

Report from Street Scene Manager

Hitting highway targets

STAFF in Technical Services are working hard to ensure the Council hits performance targets for keeping roads and pavements in a good state of repair.

Here is a chance for you to figure out for yourselves just how well we are all getting along...

- Highway maintenance (Priority I tasks) - damage to roads and pavements made safe within 24 hours is 99.56%, exceeding the target for the department of 99%.
- Highway maintenance (Priority II/III tasks) - the figure for damage to roads and pavements substantially repaired within 28 working days is running at 82% for May 2004. This is an improvement on last year's out-turn, thanks to the help of all involved, however we still have some way to go before we reach our target of 87%.
- Lighting - percentage of faults on streetlights reported and repaired within 20 hours is 98.3%, exceeding our target of 93%. Under Council PIs a total of 1.01% of streetlights are 'allowed' not to be working as planned, this figure is currently running at 0.82%, ahead of even our five-year target.
- Customer satisfaction on vehicular crossings. Target of no more than 3% dissatisfied, currently at 0%. Year end figure for last year was 1.02%.

Performance Indicators are in place to help us make sure that the department is delivering its services to an acceptable standard within an agreed timescale.

Improving walking and cycling facilities

Wirral Council has been awarded £49,000 in funding to help eight schools improve walking and cycling facilities for pupils.

Bebington High Sports College, Devonshire Park Primary in Birkenhead, Grove Street Primary in New Ferry, Greasby Junior School, Barnston Primary School, Heswall Primary School, Egremont Primary School and Somerville Primary School in Wallasey have been allocated the money from central government.

The schools were selected because they each now have a School Travel Plan in place. These plans outline a package of measures to improve road safety and reduce car use on the school journey.

Teachers and parents will now work together with a specialist Council travel adviser to implement their plans. Local speed restrictions, road crossings, dedicated cycle ways, secure cycle storage, cycle training and developing road safety skills are just some of the ways in which this money could now be spent.

Director of Technical Services Dave Green said: "Twice as many children are driven to school now in comparison with 20 years ago and most of these journeys are less than two miles. We want to work with schools to make walking, cycling and bus travel a safe and realistic options for more pupils. We hope parents will realise that there

are alternatives to taking the car and dropping the kids off right outside school everyday.”

Spreading anti-litter messages

ANTI-LITTER messages hit home with thousands of Wirral teenagers this summer – as part of an innovative web, radio and live roadshow publicity campaign.

Radio City DJ, Scott Hughes, took to the road with a live stage show, visiting more than 2,500 school pupils as part of Wirral Council’s ‘X:CELL 4 Wirral’ litter campaign.

Earlier this summer young people across the borough were listening to Radio City and logging on to the station’s website, to nominate their school for a roadshow tour.

The winning schools selected for the tour were Mosslands, Weatherhead, St Mary's and Woodchurch. Pupils were given the opportunity to swap lessons in the classroom for the chance to take part in games, win prizes and see up and coming girl-band Genie Queen performing live in the school last week.

The campaign, aimed at 11-16 year olds, spread the message – ‘Stop the Drop’ – pick up litter and help us keep Wirral clean.

Director David Green said: "Wirral Council recognises that there is a problem with litter in the borough. This is a national issue, which our officers are keen to tackle locally. We have been working with the regional station Radio City (96.7fm) to come up with an innovative and effective way of educating young people not to drop rubbish and to take more pride in their local environment.

"Run-of-the-mill educational posters, leaflets and presentations aren't always effective when dealing with teenagers. By using radio, the web and live events we are more able to successfully communicate anti-litter messages to secondary school children. We see these mediums as an acceptable way of reaching a notoriously 'hard to reach' age group.”

Making it easier to contact ERIC!

Requests for the ERIC service are now being directed through the Streetscene contact centre. This is the Council service for the collection of bulky household waste. To find out more information or to request the ERIC service, call 606 2004.

Rummaging through rubbish

PUPILS at one Wirral primary school have been rummaging through their rubbish bins... as part of an exercise to examine what they throw away.

Wirral Council recycling officers and representatives from the environmental charity, Global Action Plan, visited Stanton Road Primary School in Bebington to host a waste workshop on Wednesday, July 7.

Children took part in a range of fun educational activities to raise awareness about the three Rs – reduce, re-use, recycle.

The main focus of the workshop was measuring the different types and amounts of school waste, calculating daily, weekly and annual figures. Teachers and pupils were then encouraged to draw up an action plan to help reduce the amount of rubbish they throw out everyday.

This initiative is part of an ongoing programme of waste workshops across Wirral primary schools.

Recycling reminder to school pupils

WIRRAL students celebrating the end of term and exams have been urged to recycle their unwanted revision notes to help the environment.

The appeal was made as part of national Paper Recycling awareness week, which ran from Monday, July 12 to Friday, July 16. As the school bell rang out to signal the start of the six-week break, scholars across the borough were asked to make sure their papers were recycled and not binned.

In Wirral hundreds of tonnes of paper will needlessly be heading for the wheelie bin over the summer holidays. The Council reminded students to make use of facilities and services that ensure waste paper is recycled for re-use again and again after processing.

More than 70 schools have signed up to the Council's recycling collection service. Containers for recycling paper, cans, foil, fluorescent tubes, cardboard and toner cartridges are collected regularly from these sites. This service will hopefully be extended to cover the remaining schools in the borough later this year.

Thurstaston roundabout

Scheme history and details:

- Wirral Council first looked at introducing a scheme in the Thurstaston area back in the late 1990s. Following investigations by traffic management officers it became apparent that considerable investment would be needed for any safety scheme in this area. It would involve road widening and land acquisition. In order to secure funding it was submitted to be included as part of a five year programme of work in the Merseyside Local Transport Plan and it has now been prioritised for action.
- The current design involves introducing a medium-sized roundabout (30m long and 20m wide) at the junction where Telegraph road, Station Road and Thurstaston Road meet. It will be slightly larger than the nearby roundabout at Caldy and we will be endeavouring to keep the access to the former Ismay estate as it is at present.
- There are plans to introduce a 30mph speed limit on the approaches to the roundabout.
- The scheme will reduce the speed of traffic along Telegraph Road and help motorists with manoeuvres into Station Road and Thurstaston Road (particularly motorists making right turns).

Why a roundabout?

- Engineers have looked at a range of schemes and designs for the area. This is the final design that the Council will now take forward to seek approval from Councillors.
- A roundabout will physically force motorists to slow down and reduce the risk of high speed side impact crashes.
- Alternatives have previously been considered. A junction improvement scheme with traffic signals would involve more road widening and land acquisition than a roundabout, making the scheme more costly. Safety auditors have also expressed concerns over the visibility of lights to approaching traffic. Reducing the speed limit alone does not guarantee traffic will slow down.
- This location has seen six injury accidents within the last three years.
- Local residents and land owners expressed a preference for a roundabout scheme during the early stages of consultation. A petition of 2,179 names was submitted requesting a roundabout.

Environmental issues:

- We are in consultation with conservation officers about the scheme. We want to preserve the appearance of this conservation area.
- The roundabout will be landscaped in keeping with the surrounding environment.
- There will be noise reduction and spray reduction properties in the surfacing of the road.
- Lighting on the roundabout will be shielded to reduce light pollution.
- The new scheme includes enhanced cycling and pedestrian facilities – to assist people crossing the road.

What happens next?

- Cabinet members have now approved the proposed layout for the junction. We will now seek planning permission from the Council's Planning Committee. At this stage in the process any residents wishing to object will be able to make comments in writing to the Director of Planning and Economic Development.
- Planning officers will make a recommendation either approving or refusing the scheme and it will be for Councillors to decide whether or not it should go ahead. If approved this means that officers will then be authorized to purchase land, finalise plans and start work on the scheme.
- We will then buy the relevant land to enable us to go-ahead with the scheme. This will involve the Council entering into discussions and gaining the support of four different land-owners.
- Land acquisition is a lengthy process – we are hoping it will be completed as soon as possible. Cabinet has authorised the use of compulsory purchase powers to acquire the land, should this be necessary.
- The roundabout scheme itself should take approximately six months to build.

SECTION FIVE

LOCAL UPDATE

Local Update

Pride in Our Promenades

The Mersey Basin Campaign is working with Mersey Waterfront, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council and Liverpool City Council to improve the promenades at Egremont and Otterspool. The Campaign has appointed Cass Associates and Inner City Solutions to produce a Business Plan to make the case for European and NWDA funds.

Phase 1 of the project will make significant improvements to the Egremont Promenade (from Seacombe to New Brighton) and Otterspool Promenade. This is the first time a pan waterfront project has been launched within Mersey Waterfront. A key aim is that the experience of local authorities working together to create world-class waterfronts will further enhance the quality of the promenades and the maintenance plan.

The proms team are very keen to get the ideas and input from local people and are holding workshops at:

10am to 2pm, Saturday 2nd October at the Harry Jones Suite, Room 1, Wallasey Town Hall about Egremont promenade and,

10am to 2pm, Sunday 3rd October at the Rangers room at The Otterspool pub about Otterspool promenade.

For more information about this project, please contact Iain Taylor on 0161 242 8209 or by email at: i.taylor@merseybasin.org.uk

Future presentations

Suggestions have been made for presentations at the area forum on the following subjects.

- ◆ Maritime Wardens
- ◆ Time Bank
- ◆ Community Fire Safety
- ◆ Astronomy Centre

There may be requests from Education & Cultural Services to discuss some of the major service changes, with the Area Forums, however once a request is made I will inform the forum.

If there are any matters of priority for forum members please get in touch, to see if it is possible to arrange a presentation / information about the matter. It may be useful to decide presentations on the basis of priorities identified within the area plan.

The future dates have been agreed for this year's meetings:

3rd February 2005

15th June 2005

APPENDIX 1

MINUTES:

EAST WALLASEY AREA FORUM
12 FEBRUARY 2004

Minutes - Area Forum (East Wallasey) Meeting - 12 February 2004

Present	
Chair	AER Jones
Councillors	WA Duffey , D Hawkins , DT Knowles , A Pritchard , AC Robinson , JJ Salter
Community Representatives	Margaret Allen (Seacombe Community Representative) , Rita Fraser (New Brighton Community Partnership) , Anthony Jones (New Brighton Community Representative) , Sheila Simpson (Liscard Community Representative)
Lead Officer	Bob Williams (Director of Personnel & Policy)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith
Merseyside Police	Inspector Kate Aspinall
Council Officers	Chris Jones (Area Streetscene Manager) , Christina Jones (Education & Cultural Services) , Brian Simpson (Deputy Director of Housing & Environmental Protection) , Rod Tann (Emergency Planning Officer)
In attendance:	Paul Hayes (Young People's representative) , Ron Jones (President, NBTABA) , Jo McCourt (Wallasey YMCA) , Sean Moonan (CBED) , Fr. Leon Ostaszewski
Apologies	John Drew (Seacombe LCP) , Cllr Leah Fraser , Cllr Pat Hackett , Peter Joiner (New Brighton Community Association) , Trish Maguire (Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT) , Ann Mather (Seacombe Community Representative)

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Minute 44 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Minute 45 - DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Minute 46 - CLOSE OF MEETING

Minute 36 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed the members of the Forum and approximately 50 members of the public, including 20 young people.

Minute 37 - MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 November 2003 were agreed as a true record, subject to amending the reference in minute 34(c) from Waterloo Road to Victoria Road and the reference in minute 34(d) from Councillor Robinson to Ron Jones.

The Chair asked for any matters arising out of the minutes that might not be covered elsewhere on the agenda to be raised at that point in the meeting (see minute 38 below).

Minute 38 - MATTERS ARISING

Further to minute 27(b), a member of the public commented on the fact that no funding had been secured for the YMCA building and that funding was coming to an end. She went on to say that the manager had been working 2 months with no salary forthcoming and asked the Forum to assist.

The Area Co-ordinator replied that she has been involved in fortnightly meetings along with Jim Lester, Terry Hall and Steve Russell trying to get a package for YMCA. They have been encouraged to apply for funding and given information about the relevant funding streams. However, the individual's concern was for the short term, otherwise the building would no longer be able to offer its current services to the people of Egremont, namely somewhere safe for young people to go. A financial package was needed immediately to allow the service to continue. The concerns regarding the YMCA had been raised a year ago and nothing had been done, giving the impression that the area forum was just a talking shop.

The Chair responded: there were many voluntary organisations in a similar position, and the Forum was due to hear some of the issues that face the young people from the Allandale Centre. The Area Forum does not have a great deal of authority but has supported the YMCA.

Cllr Robinson suggested that perhaps a commercial loan could be considered in the short term. The response was that the YMCA has nothing to offer in collateral - if a loan were taken out it would have to be repaid and YMCA were not in a position to repay it. Almost a year later this forum has not used the voice that it has to help the YMCA and Egremont in maintaining the one and only asset it has.

The Chair responded that he believed that the Council Officers and the forum had done as much as they can. Bob Williams advised that considerable work has been done in the past few months. Assessing the availability of funding streams, etc. took time but the concerns being expressed at the meeting were noted.

Further to minute 27(c), Margie Allen (Seacombe Community representative) advised that she and Ron Jones had attended a Community Safety meeting. The meeting was about Community support officers in Wirral. There was an excellent presentation along with a video. There are at present Community Support Officers working in Rock Ferry and Tranmere, this releases Police Officers to do other jobs. She suggested that the presentation be given to the area forum at the next meeting, which was agreed.

Further to minute 27(a), Bob Williams advised that additional funding had been made available for alley-gates. The first phase of the spending has started in New Brighton and it will be progressed to Egremont.

Further to minute 34(c), a member of the public expressed concern regarding the pavement café in Victoria Road. The meeting was advised that there is no problem with tables and chairs being placed outside it. Ron Jones felt that in his opinion there was. Cllr Bill Duffey defended the café and said he had visited it and it has been resolved now.

Further to minute 27(b), Shaun Moonan asked if there was any more information available regarding Liscard Hall. Tracey Smith responded that discussions about future uses have taken place with the community group and the college. These discussions are continuing but there is, as yet, no conclusion. He asked for an item on Liscard Hall to be included on the agenda for future meetings, which was agreed.

Minute Decision :
Resolved -

(1) That this Forum record its strong and unanimous support for securing the future of the YMCA in Egremont and accordingly the Lead Officer and the Area Co-ordinator be requested to see whether there are any short-term solutions that this Forum might be able to pursue to that end.

(2) That the Forum receive a presentation at its next meeting on the role of Community Support Officers.

(3) That a regular item be placed on future agendas to keep the Forum apprised of progress in respect of Liscard Hall.

Minute 39 - CONSTITUTION AND SELECTION OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Maddox, Chief Executive provided background information on the development of area forums and the changes to their operation that had been introduced following a review in April 2003. He explained that each area forum was serviced by a chief officer and an area co-ordinator. In the case of East Wallasey, Bob Williams, Director of Personnel and Policy was the Lead Officer and Tracey Smith was the Area Co-ordinator. He advised that he had undertaken to speak to each of the area forums to get their views on selection of community representatives and voting rights. He explained that as the forums had been developing they had better attendance and was pleased to see that so many members of the public had turned out for the meeting.

The Chair mentioned that this Area Forum was non-political and he thought that this had been demonstrated in its decision making. He pointed out that when the sub-group for the Community Initiatives Fund was formed it was made up of community representatives only, with no Councillors sitting on this group. He mentioned that there had never been a time when the forum has needed to vote on any issues - they had always managed to reach a consensus. He accepted the need to review the area forums and look to the future. He then invited the members of the Forum and the wider audience to join in the debate.

Margie Allen said she held to the old premise that "if it's not broken, why fix it?". She believed the East Wallasey Forum had been working well both at Council and Co-ordinator level. With regards to length of tenure of community representatives, if the job is going very well why put a time limit on people if the people work well together: there should not be a fixed term of tenure. Councillor Dave Hawkins agreed with Margie Allen's comments.

The Chair voiced his concern that he would be worried if a number of new local organisations sprung up in order to compete with existing ones if the voting right was agreed.

Ron Jones commented that he thought key figures should be chosen as community representatives and the forum decide whether they are worthwhile or not. It takes at least 12 months to understand the working of the forum and be able to speak out. To remove someone who has got experience would be stupid.

A member of the public mentioned there was a lot of concern in Liscard concerning the community representatives. They were not feeding back to anyone. They had been invited on a number of occasions to community group meetings but had not attended and she was annoyed about that.

A member of the public stated how good she thought area forums were. It was somewhere where she could come, receive presentations and have her say about issues and be listened and responded to.

Mr Hale (member of the public) advised there had been a meeting on 8 February 2004 of the new Central Liscard Residents Association. Both Councillors Dave Hawkins and Alan Robinson were at the meeting. They had made it clear that they were as one for the people of Liscard, regardless of their political parties. He was very happy that they had agreed to come to the meeting and appreciated their support.

Minute 40 - ALLANDALE YOUTH WORKS

The Chair introduced Andrea, youth worker from the Allandale Centre along with four young people. He advised they are going to start a Local History Project, taking photographs and using the new computers at the centre to put it together. He then invited the young people to speak.

Melissa was the first young person to speak mentioned she had been going to Allendale for 3 years, she had made new friends and told the panel that if you are bored "go to Allandale and have some fun". If you have a problem then you can go to one of the workers in Allandale. Melissa mentioned that there are lots of different activities to enjoy, football, netball, dance arts and crafts. Voluntary workers run it and without them there would be no club. This Youth Club costs only £1.00.

Sophie was next and told everyone that she had been attending for 3 years, she said she enjoyed the games, she can draw and she had been making CDs, if she had a problem the workers sort it out for you. Sophie finished by saying "If you have a chance please come".

Stephen said he had been going for 2 years it is the only club he had been to. He enjoyed football and some of his trips included Chester Zoo and Oaklands, he said Oaklands was his favourite and he thought Allandale was brilliant.

The Chair asked the panel if there were any questions. Rita Fraser asked how old you had to be to attend the Allandale, Melissa replied age 8-13. Councillor Robinson asked how much money they needed for their project and was told £500.

The Chair said The Allandale Centre would apply to the community initiative fund for materials for the local Social History project. He hoped that some of the local shops and businesses could perhaps donate some digital cameras to start the project off.

Margie Allen said she would arrange for an advertisement to go in the local schools in Seacombe advertising the Allandale Youth Club. Andrea thanked Margie and said she would provide some posters.

The Chair then invited the three girls from the other group of young people who were at the forum to speak. They brought with them some signatures to be added to a petition for somewhere for them to go near to Mosslands School. The aforementioned petition had been handed to Tracey Smith at the Youth Forum on Thursday 5 February 2004. She had given it to Councillor Leslie Rennie who had presented it to the Council on 9 February 2004. Tracey Smith asked the young people what would they like would a youth shelter similar to the one at Seacombe be useful and they agreed.

Mike Holbrook, Neighbourhood Youth worker, from Youth Service spoke about Mosslands School. They run a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and on the night that it is run a lot of young people hang around outside and it gets very busy outside the school. He would like to look at other resources available in the area for the young people and perhaps look at running a youth club at the same time as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is on,

he has spoken to Mr Fair, the Headteacher at Mosslands. If the problems continue the residents may try and stop the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme meeting.

Councillor Pritchard asked if St Mary's Youth Club is still going. One of the young people replied that it does still run but it only allows pupils from St Mary's to attend.

A member of the public asked could we encourage the schools to work more closely together in this area.

The Chair said we should encourage the young people as much as we can.

Minute 41 - HOUSING STOCK TRANSFER

The Deputy Director of Housing and Environmental Protection, Brian Simpson, gave a presentation entitled Housing Stock Transfer and Home Choice. He explained that the Government had introduced minimum standards (Decent Homes) that, by 2010, required all Council-owned dwellings to have reasonably modern kitchens and bathrooms, central heating, with good thermal efficiency through double glazing and insulation.

In 2002, Wirral Council had embarked on a stock option study to consider the resources it could raise, not only to meet the minimum requirements for its housing stock of 14,000 dwellings but also to maintain the properties in good order for the next thirty years. The Council had invested in its housing stock over many years, but resources were limited and as the age of properties increased so the need for repair and modernisation had become more acute. It had been estimated that a minimum investment of £200 million would be required over the next ten years to bring the dwellings to standard, increasing to more than £350 million when the cost of maintenance work over the next thirty years had been included. The Council received revenue from rents and Government subsidies, but an estimated shortfall of £130 million would arise in meeting minimum standards alone.

The Council had considered other potential ways of providing social housing. Under one option, the Council would retain ownership of the stock, but would transfer the management to an 'arms length' organisation. This arrangement would attract additional funding but would still leave a shortfall of £53 million. The repair and improvement of housing could be achieved through a Private Finance Initiative (PFI). This scheme, which offered a very limited, complicated process would produce operating deficits, and had been rejected.

The final option, upon which the Council would be consulting all tenants, involved the transfer of the ownership and management of Council properties to a new, independent, not-for-profit, locally based local housing organisation. During the past twelve months, the Council had been assisting in setting up the new organisation, which would be known as Wirral Partnership Homes. The transfer would only happen if a majority of the Council's tenants voted in favour.

Wirral Partnership Homes was a new, socially managed organisation, which would be free of the borrowing and other restrictions placed on local authorities. There would be no shareholders and all surplus cash would be ploughed back into improving homes and services. The organisation would be run by a board of management of 15 members made up of three constituent parts - 5 Councillors, 5 tenants and 5 independent people from the local community. A clear focus for the organisation would be to deliver £172 million investments on homes in the first seven years to bring them up to a good standard. In the longer term, the organisation would work with the Council on developing new housing for rent at affordable rents. On

transfer, all tenancies would be secure, and tenants would remain in their existing homes; the rights in the Council current tenancy agreement would be broadly the same as assured tenancies in the new agreement; entitlement to Housing Benefit would continue; and the Right to Buy for existing tenants would be protected after transfer. The Offer document set out rent charges and promised that rents would remain along similar lines to Council rents.

The new organisation would operate and work in partnership with tenants on the running of estates and in setting out policies and procedures. It would improve sheltered housing and work with the Council to tackle anti-social behaviour and nuisance neighbours.

The Offer document would be submitted to the Council which, if approved, would be delivered to all Council tenants. At the end of the consultation period, in late February/March, the Council would decide, in the light of the responses received, whether The Offer needed to be reviewed and changed, whether there was a reasonable level of support, and would then go forward to ballot all tenants. Tenants would be asked the question: 'Do you wish to stay with the Council or transfer to Wirral Partnership Homes as set out in The Offer document?' The change would only happen if the majority of tenants voted in favour of the proposal.

Currently, a separate process was taking place for the management of the Beechwood and Ballantyne estates, in accordance with the residents' wishes, as put forward by the Estate Management Board.

Brian Simpson responded to questions as follows -

Councillor Robinson asked questions regarding tenants' rights and if they would still have the right to buy. Brian Simpson confirmed that that was the case.

A member of the public asked if the employment rights of the workforce have been taken into consideration. Brian Simpson responded, part of the deal is to make sure there is a workforce in place to deliver a quality service and that staff transferring will still have the same rights, under TUPE regulations, as previously.

Gentleman asked where all money was coming from to do up the houses. It was explained that a new organisation is able to borrow resources and the Council cannot borrow. The £172 million will be spent over 7 years and where possible it is hoped to create local apprenticeships and training schemes for local people.

Councillor Pritchard asked is there going to be any improvement in procedure for complaints from residents. Brian Simpson replied that new organisation will support tenants' groups and there will be set out procedures.

Minute 42 - EMERGENCY PLANNING

Rod Tann, the District Emergency Planning Officer, gave a presentation on how Wirral Council played its part in providing support to the emergency services and the community by making available staff and reserves.

He mentioned a few incidents that have affected Wirral over the years - for example, evacuation after unsafe church spire found at Oxtun in 1998, chemical lead at Eastham and the serious fire at Rock Ferry High School.

He responded to the following questions from the forum

What would happen if there was a threat of terrorism? There was a lot of work being put in on this especially by the emergency services and the NHS, given the special circumstances that could well apply if the incident was terrorist-inspired. From the local authority's side we would respond as best we could, in accordance with the requests that were made of us.

How are tunnel emergencies dealt with? If a bomb was planted in the tunnel, then the effects on those vehicles and their occupants would clearly be very serious. Mr Tann had been assured that a serious incident affecting a tunnel was only likely to have implications for the tunnel itself. There would not be a wide impact beyond the tunnel, other than there being traffic problems generated as a result.

Minute 43 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Copies of the Area Co-ordinator's report for February 2004 had been distributed to Forum members in advance of the meeting. Tracey Smith, Area Co-ordinator, expanded on the points detailed below.

- Position statements
- Community initiatives fund
- Area Plans
- Youth Forums
- Update on queries raised at Area Forums

Community Initiatives Fund - The youth engagement shelter has proved to be a huge success and the Forum could be proud that part of the community initiatives fund went towards supporting it.

Paul Hayes asked if there were plans for youth engagement shelters in other parts of Wallasey. Councillor Salter advised that there had been requests, and funding is being looked into for them to be placed in other areas of Wallasey and Birkenhead.

Cllr Pritchard asked if there is evidence that the shelter could be used for drug use. Inspector Aspinall advised there was no evidence of this and only positive things had come from this. It was noted that good locations are important.

Area Plans - Inspector Aspinall commented on a phrase in the area plans that related to neighbourhood policing, as she had not been able to attend the meeting when Community Safety was discussed. She felt it was unfair, as an explanation could have been given. There was a discussion between the forum members and the area co-ordinator concerning the phrase. Tony Jones, Community Rep., asked for details of the area plan to be changed. He pointed out that a third party raised this at a meeting he could not attend. Councillor Robinson requested that it should not be changed, as that was what was stated at the sub-group meeting. However, he invited Inspector Aspinall to the next area plan sub-group meeting on Monday 16 February 2004 to discuss the phrase and see how it could be amended. The area plans are only in draft form.

The area forum did feel that it would be a good thing to have a community police officer in each ward. The Chair advised that having policeman like George Thomas in the Seacombe area, whom everyone knew and respected, was a good thing.

Inspector Aspinall responded that perhaps with the introduction of the community safety officers this could be addressed in one way as they would be ward-specific and would provide an opportunity for people in the community to get to know them. They are fully committed to getting closer to the community. In the past 12 months incidents involving anti-social

behaviour were down as were other crimes in Wallasey and this has happened during Neighbourhood policing.

Minute 44 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A gentleman from the public area of the meeting mentioned that he did not think it appropriate to have so many presentations at the Area Forum as the Co-ordinator's report and public question time was being left until later on in the evening. Tracey Smith explained to the Forum that as the area forums are getting popular more people want to consult with them and give presentations. Tonight's meeting was an exception as there had been two presentations and a discussion. If the Forum kept to one presentation per meeting then as it met only four times a year then it would mean that there would be limited consultation. The gentleman advised that if this was going to continue then perhaps the public might stop coming to the meetings.

Fr Leon mentioned that more of the Council's business was moving to Cheshire Lines (i.e. North Annexe) and did not want to see departments that were based in Wallasey going to Birkenhead. Bob Williams responded to Father Leon that the Council was going through considerable changes/processes in its structure and some departments will be moving to the Cheshire Lines. There will also be a corporate all centre based there, which was intended to provide a better service to the public.

A female member of the public from New Brighton voiced her concern over the lack of Wirral Globe/News deliveries in the area where she lived. The people in question missed the publication on licensing applications in their area and did not have time to comment first. Fortunately their local councillor addressed the issue. The forum agreed that there were problems over the circulation of the Globe and News and that there were areas of Wirral that were not covered. Bob Williams advised that the Council issue "Wirral Now" is published four times a year and the Council pay extra to make sure it is delivered to all areas. He went on to say that the Council do need to advertise for planning and licensing applications and he will be looking at the Council's contract for Wirral Now which is actually circulated within the Wirral Globe.

Tracey Smith responded that there had been a meeting on 11 February 2004 with the Editor of Wirral News, some of their technical staff and the Council's Public Relations department to look at other avenues of distributing the free newspapers. She will report back any progress at the next area forum meeting.

The Chair asked a Mr Hale (member of the public) to speak about the query he raised with the Area Co-ordinator with regard to alley-gates in Moseley Avenue. He explained that at a Planning meeting on 26 June 2003, Weatherspoons agreed to install alley-gates - the Council would put up the alley-gates and Weatherspoons would reimburse the cost. Mr Hale wanted to know why this had not been done. The pub is opening at the end of February 2004 and this issue has not been resolved.

The Chair thanked Mr Hale for raising this issue and assured that it would be looked into.

A member of the public asked if trees by Penny Bridge could be cut back.

Minute Decision :
Resolved -

(1) That the Area Co-ordinator's report be placed earlier on the agenda along with public question time, with presentations to take place after that.

(2) That the Area Street-scene Manager look into the question of trees in the vicinity of the Penny Bridge.

Minute 45 - DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Minute Decision :

Resolved - That the next Area Forum meeting be held on Wednesday 21 July 2004 at 7.00pm, in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey.

Minute 46 - CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair thanked everyone who had attended and closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

APPENDIX 2

FEEDBACK:

TRANMERE SHOW
27 JUNE 2004

WIRRAL SHOW
10 - 11 JULY 2004

Results from consultations carried out at Shows in 2004

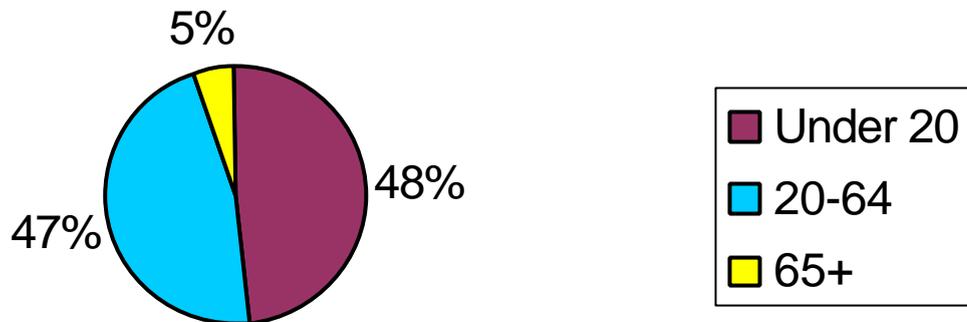
The Community Planning Team produced a questionnaire for the Tranmere and Wirral Shows held in 2004 to find out people's views on the local area where they live, together with a questionnaire to find out the views of visitors to Wirral (for the Wirral Show).

We received 625 completed questionnaires, 140 from the Tranmere Show and 485 from the Wirral Show. 48% of these were completed by Under 20's, 46% were completed by 20-64 year olds and 6% were completed by over 64 year olds.

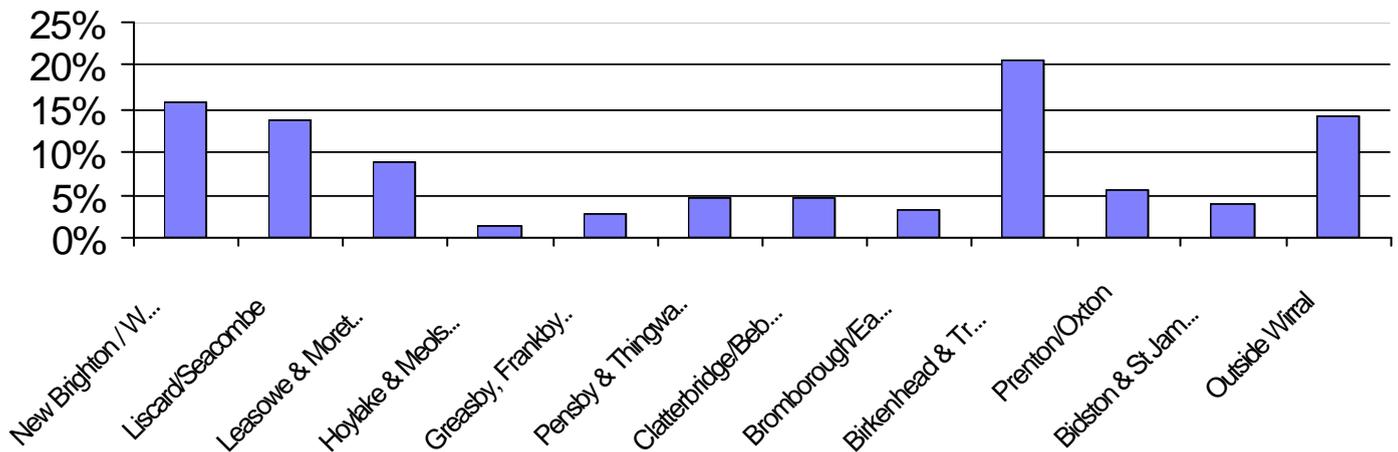
8% of those completing the questionnaires requested further information on community representatives, and 14% requested information on area forums.

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

% of age groups completing questionnaires at Wirral and Tranmere Shows - 2004



% of questionnaires completed from different areas



Results of questionnaire for all age groups

How Good do you think your local area (Wirral in general for visitors) is:	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
As a place to live	31%	53%	8%	6%	2%
As a place to shop	20%	46%	15%	14%	5%
As a place for travelling on public transport	28%	48%	11%	10%	3%
As a place for leisure activities / sport and culture	21%	33%	15%	23%	8%
As a safe place to live, work or visit	22%	45%	16%	13%	4%
As a place for education and learning	31%	44%	14%	9%	2%
As a place where there is a good choice of affordable local housing	22%	41%	19%	13%	5%
As a place for good quality, accessible health care	29%	50%	12%	6%	3%

Results of questionnaire for Under 20 Year Olds

How Good do you think your local area (Wirral in general for visitors) is:	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
As a place to live	28%	55%	8%	6%	3%
As a place to shop	23%	47%	14%	12%	4%
As a place for travelling on public transport	29%	49%	12%	7%	3%
As a place for leisure activities / sport and culture	26%	28%	16%	21%	9%
As a safe place to live, work or visit	26%	40%	19%	11%	4%
As a place for education and learning	39%	40%	13%	6%	2%
As a place where there is a good choice of affordable local housing	31%	40%	18%	6%	5%
As a place for good quality, accessible health care	32%	47%	12%	6%	3%

Results of questionnaire for 20 - 64 Year Olds

How Good do you think your local area (Wirral in general for visitors) is:	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
As a place to live	29%	53%	8%	6%	4%
As a place to shop	24%	49%	13%	10%	4%
As a place for travelling on public transport	29%	50%	12%	6%	3%
As a place for leisure activities / sport and culture	28%	29%	15%	19%	9%
As a safe place to live, work or visit	26%	39%	19%	11%	5%
As a place for education and learning	41%	39%	11%	6%	3%
As a place where there is a good choice of affordable local housing	33%	39%	18%	6%	4%
As a place for good quality, accessible health care	33%	45%	11%	7%	4%

Results of questionnaire for people aged over 64 Years

How Good do you think your local area (Wirral in general for visitors) is:	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
As a place to live	48%	33%	4%	15%	0%
As a place to shop	17%	46%	8%	20%	9%
As a place for travelling on public transport	30%	46%	9%	9%	6%
As a place for leisure activities / sport and culture	18%	35%	12%	20%	15%
As a safe place to live, work or visit	29%	35%	12%	15%	9%
As a place for education and learning	31%	50%	6%	13%	0%
As a place where there is a good choice of affordable local housing	9%	47%	13%	25%	6%
As a place for good quality, accessible health care	29%	53%	6%	9%	3%

APPENDIX 3

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND:

EAST WALLASEY

East Wallasey

ID	Bid No	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
438	1	£1,300.00	North Wirral Crime Prevention Panel	To contribute to providing a Youth Shelter, where young people can meet in a safe environment and can be accessed by Youth Service.	Report received from North Wirral Crime Prevention Panel - July 2004: The shelter, sited in the grounds of Guinea Gap Baths, is a valuable resource that is in continuous use as an engagement area. The area is being used positively by a large number of young people who have shown their respect. This can be seen by the lack of new graffiti.
179	1	£1,000.00	Wirral Swallows and Amazons Adventure Group	To provide opportunities for recreational and leisure time activities of an enterprising and challenging nature, based on swallows and amazons adventure pursuits, for young people, particularly those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds in Wirral.	Report received from Wirral Swallows and Amazons Adventure Group, Dec 2003: The funding has been used to secure bookings for 4 adventure weekend courses to be held in 2004, and will contribute towards the cost of 10 disadvantaged children from Wirral attending the courses.
309	3	£1,000.00	273 (Wallasey) Squadron Air Training Corps	To purchase a minibus to transport cadets to expeditions, necessary to achieve Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and to other activities. Further details of this project are included in the bid.	Report from 273 (Wallasey) Squadron air cadets - October 2003: The grant has supported and helped generate the fundraising motivation needed by the squadron to raise money for the purchase of a minibus.

ID	Bid No	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
310	4	£1,000.00	Merseyside Autistic Children's Society	To set up a fund to enable parents of children with autism to go on relevant courses and training around autism.	Report received from Merseyside Autistic Children's Society - February 2004: A number of families have taken advantage of the fund by attending various training events, including Picture Exchange Communication System, Sleep Problems in Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
314	8	£850.00	Relate Cheshire & Merseyside	To train an experienced Relate Councillor In Relateen work, which is a new service providing support within the school setting to young people aged between 11-18 who are experiencing the relationship breakdown of their parents/carers.	Report received from Relate Cheshire and Merseyside - June 2004: Thank you for the funding which was used toward training our Counsellors in Relateen skills to work in schools locally.
318	12	£2,000.00	Manor Trust Limited	To provide, install and make available 10 reconditioned computers for people with visual/hearing impairment.	Report received from Manor trust Limited, June 2004: The IT suite is invaluable and provides a gateway to the worlds database, which can be accessed by the community for a wealth of information. Since its inception more than 20 people from the area have been able to gain pre-vocational qualifications, first aid certification plus a safety awareness module delivered by Merseyside Fire Brigade.

ID	Bid No	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
322	16	£872.00	Wallasey Sea Cadets	<p>To replace obsolete and purchase new equipment to enable the continuation of voluntary work with young people from the Wirral area.</p> <p>Further details of the project and the organisation are included in this bid.</p>	Report received from Wallasey Sea Cadets, March 2004: Thanks to the forum for the funding that was used to purchase equipment, including sailing suits, paddles and a compass.
323	17	£1,000.00	Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability (WIRED)	To purchase scooter parts to continue vital service for people with limited mobility.	Report received from Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability (WIRED) - June 2004: The funding was used to purchase scooter parts to maintain the service for people with limited mobility.
325	19	£1,000.00	The Learning Lighthouse	To produce a 10 minute documentary on the career of Lieutenant Ian Edward Fraser.	Report received from The Learning Lighthouse, March 2004: The filming for Operation Struggle, made in conjunction with pupils from Oldershaw School and New Brighton Primary School will be completed at the end of March and will be celebrated at a film festival to be held on 24 June 2004 at Pacific Road Theatre, along with three other films made by young people.

ID	Bid No	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
326	20	£300.00	Partnership for Racial Equality (PRE)	To bring an exhibition on Black and Asian history to Wirral (from London).	Report received from Partnership for Racial Equality (PRE) - June 2004: The exhibition, together with another exhibition on black writers, were housed at Heswall, Birkenhead and Wallasey Central Libraries; Acre Lane Professional Centre; Prenton High; Hilbre High; St Mary's College; St Andrews and Pacific Road Arts Centre.
329	23	£1,000.00	Wallasey Chess Club	To publicise the facilities of both Wallasey Chess Club and Wallasey Junior Chess Club.	Report received from Wallasey Chess Club - June 2004: Thanks to the fund we were able to stage a highly successful Junior Chess Congress at Somerville primary School in March. All of the children enjoyed themselves enormously. Each child received a cash prize or a gift and all were presented with a certificate. We were also able to organise a successful Junior Chess Championships within our Junior Club.

APPENDIX 4

GENERAL FORUM UPDATE

UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2004

Area Forum Attendance

In 2002/3 the average public attendance at a forum meeting was 32, this increased to 37 in 2003/4 - a 15.6% increase.

Community Planning Website

The Council recognises the growth of the number of people who have access to and use the Internet, and the importance of e-government. This offers an additional way for people to access information and communicate with the Council, and may attract interest from different client groups, such as young people or people with disabilities.

Therefore we have developed community issues pages on the Council's website, with a link to these on the home page, to enable people to find out more about the services mentioned below. This went "live" in December 2003.

The pages include information on the area forums, roadshows, community initiatives fund, local strategic partnership, local area plans and youth forums. It is also possible to put forward questions for consideration/discussion at the forum meetings.

The community Issues Homepage has been accessed 2777 for the period January – August 2004.

The site address www.wirral.gov.uk/community