

EAST WALLASEY (LISCARD & SEACOMBE) AREA FORUM

Co-ordinator's report

3rd February 2004

Contents

Section one

Community Initiative's Funding 2004/05

Section two

Developing and implementing a local area plan

Section three

Youth Update

Section four

Streetscene

Section five

Local Updates

Section Six

Minutes from the East Wallasey Area Forum on
14th October 2004

SECTION ONE

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE'S FUNDING

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND UPDATE JANUARY 2005

Consultations:

The Community Initiatives Fund was advertised in the Globe on 10th and 24th November 2004, with a closing date of 20th December 2004.

Posters and leaflets were sent to:

- Local and Wirral Wide Information Points
- Forum members
- Interested Persons
- Wirral Voluntary & Community Sectors Network

Details were sent to / included on:

Public Relations (to arrange a press release)

- Wirral Council's Website
- GME Website

Response

We surveyed some of the 498 requests for application packs for the 11 area forums to find out how they heard about the funding with the following results:

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| • Website | 4 |
| • Leaflets/Mailshot | 60 |
| • Globe | 26 |
| • Forums/Forum Members | 33 |
| • Requests via e-mail | 17 |
| • Word of mouth | 6 |
| • Applied previously | 14 |

Applications received

A total of 282 applications have been received with a total of over £260,119.34 being requested (some of the applications didn't specify an amount so the amounts requested may be higher as these have not been included in the figures), for a variety of different projects across Wirral. These are broken down as follows:

• Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie	£18,742.00
• East Wallasey (Liscard / Seacombe)	£16,613.73
• New Brighton / Wallasey	£22,020.33
• Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch	£37,139.78
• West Wirral	£32,191.75
• Heswall / Pensby and Thingwall	£20,056.00
• Bromborough / Eastham	£20,440.54
• Bebington / Clatterbridge	£25,818.02
• Birkenhead and Tranmere / Rock Ferry	£28,152.19
• Oxtton / Prenton	£17,550.00
• Bidston and Claughton	£21,395.00

There was an amount of £10,322.06 in the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF). A total of 23 applications were received. As agreed at the last area forum meeting on 14th October 2004 the CIF panel is made up of community representatives

- ◆ Jo McCourt - Liscard Community Representative
- ◆ Carole Thomas - Liscard Community Representative
- ◆ Margie Allen - Seacombe Community Representative
- ◆ Ann Mather - Seacombe Community Representative

The panel met on Thursday 13th January 2005 to look at the bids. It is anticipated that an overall report will go to Cabinet on Thursday 10 February 2005 for the bids to be approved. The applicants will be informed towards the end of February 2005 following the ten-day waiting period after the Cabinet decision.

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

Draft Area Plans

The draft area plans have been produced using information from a variety of sources, including:

- ward roadshows
- area forums
- youth forums
- the Wirral Show and other local events
- The Citizen's Panel and census information etc.

The area plans bring together – under the overarching themes of the community strategy – those broader issues that local people have said are important to them. They therefore do not attempt to pick up all of those specific local issues that have been raised but rather to provide a 'flavour' of the main issues that affect the area.

Since the preparation of the area plans began a number of changes have taken place, including changes to wards boundaries and the re-grouping of wards within area forums. As such, the original information collected during 2004 has been re-aligned where possible to reflect the new boundaries/area forums.

From June to August 2004 consultation took place around the draft area plans with a number of different stakeholders and organisations including:

- area forums members
- elected members
- Primary Care Trusts
- departmental co-ordinators
- Chief Officers
- Wirral Voluntary and Community Sectors (WVCSN)

The consultation plan adopted across the area forums was designed to ensure that as far as possible the information in the area plans reflected local needs and was up to date and relevant.

The area plans now provide a baseline for the area forums to further develop them into truly local plans, which reflect local needs and aspirations and provide a list of priorities to which the area forum can respond over the coming months. During February 2005 the area forums will be asked to adopt the draft area plans and consider ways in which to expand/improve upon them and take the local issues identified forward.

For further information on area plans please contact:

Rachel Flood
Community Planning Co-ordinator
Tel: 0151 691 8063
E: rachelflood@wirral.gov.uk

SECTION THREE

YOUTH UPDATE

Youth Forums Update

Since the last set of forum meetings the Youth Forums have met once. The purpose of these meetings was to start a programme of grant giving. Each youth forum has a small amount of money to grant to other youth groups, and therefore these meetings focused on the protocols and procedures for doing this. The method used was giving the group examples of bids and discussing the process and relative merits of each bid. This will prepare the members to do the exercise for real in the March forums.

The groups also discussed the consultation requests that have been made:
Work based Learning
Community Safety
Local Transport Plan

Youth Conference Update

As part of local democracy week Wirral organised a youth conference. Key elements of the day included:

- Stands from local organisations and council departments
- A variety of workshops will take place on the day
- Hotseating session

What is Hotseating?

Hotseating provides an opportunity for the young people present on the day to get up close and personal with key decision makers and question them about issues of their concern and to interview key people about issues which have emerged during their debate and discussions.

Speakers involved in the Hotseating session included 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.

A report is currently being written to evaluate the success of the event, and to provide pointers for the next conference. The evaluations from the young people that attended the event, have largely, been very positive, as well from the agencies and organisations that took part in the day. Overwhelmingly the Hotseating was the most popular part of the day from all that attended, and this session will be extended at the next conference.

The following agencies, organisations and individuals were involved in providing stands / workshops and or the Hotseating

Bebington and West Wirral Primary Care Trust
Ben Chapman MP
Birkenhead and Wallasey Primary Care Trust
Connexions
Councillor Hilary Jones
Councillor John Cocker
Councillor Simon Holbrook
Education and Cultural Services
Forum Housing
HMP Liverpool Prison
Housing and Regeneration
Merseyside Police
Merseytravel
Social Services Department
Stephen Hesford MP
Technical Services Department
Wirral Children's Champion
Wirral Children's Fund
Wirral Drug and Alcohol Outreach Team
Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Wisch Arrowe Park Hospital

The following people were involved in the planning and delivery of the conference:

Debbie Dawson – Youth & Community Service
Lauren Elliott – Community Planning Team
Chris Rummery – Advisory Teacher Humanities
Marie Jones - Advisory Teacher Humanities
Katrina Roberts – THRP
Lorraine Jones – Greater Merseyside Connexions
Tricia Jones – Children's Champion

UK Youth Parliament Members

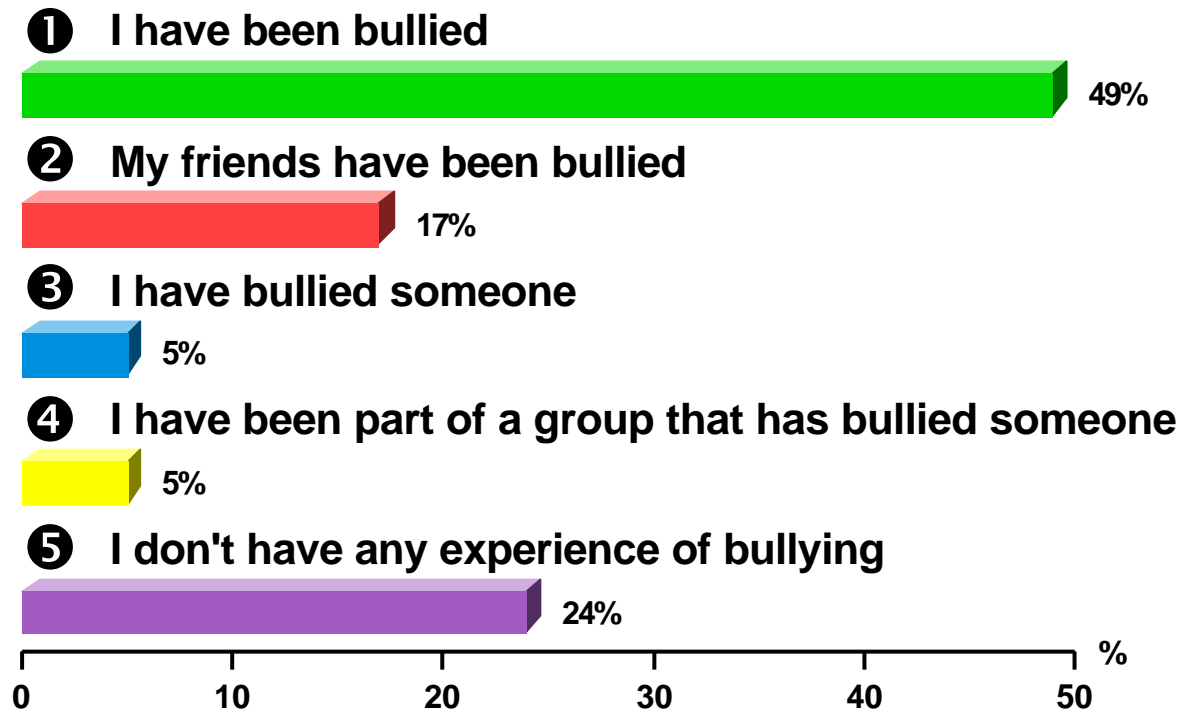
This year Wirral has 2 Members of the Youth Parliament (MYP's) and 4 deputies, previously it has always been 2 MYP's and 2 Deputies. To ensure as many young people as possible had an opportunity to get involved and vote the elections were conducted electronically.

This meant that there were 43 candidates, from a variety of schools, and a total of 634 votes were cast. Previously only the candidates have been able to vote.

The election results were announced at a session held at Wallasey Town Hall. This consisted of a buffet lunch, an electronic voting session on the issues that most concerned them and finally announcing the results. Below are a selection of the responses from the electronic voting session:

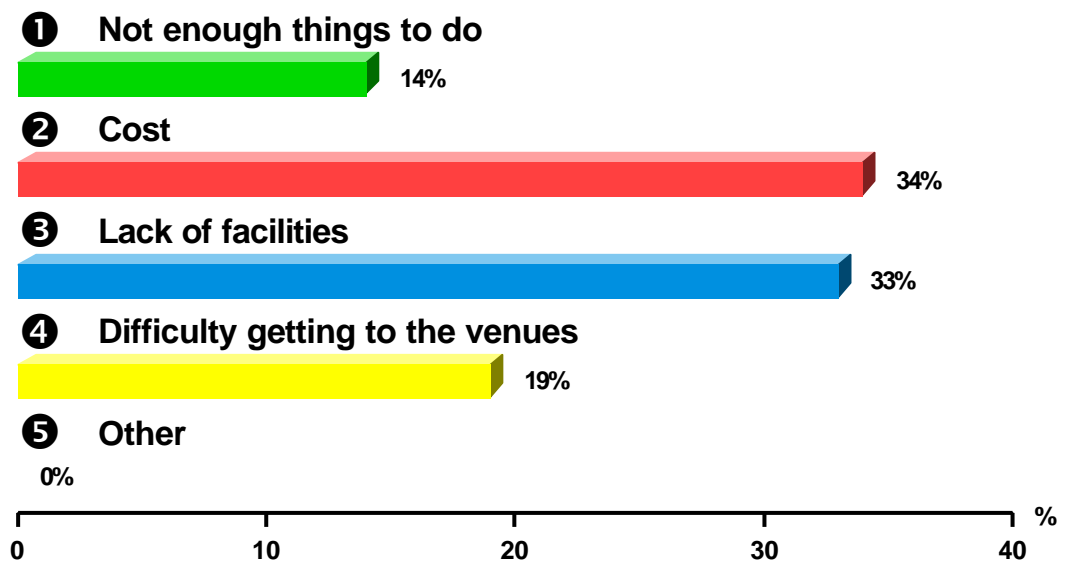
Bullying

What is your experience of Bullying?



Leisure & Entertainment

What is your main concern?



Risk Taking Behaviours Sub Group

This group is a multi agency approach to working together to minimise young people's risk taking behaviours.

The group is made up of representatives from:

- Primary Care Trusts
- Wirral Brook
- Merseytravel
- Community Safety Team
- Youth & Community Service
- Response
- Wallasey Extended School
- Community Planning Team
- Social Services

The group had an away day to work up a set of priorities to turn into effective actions to minimise the effects of risk taking.

The priority the group has decided to take forward is education for both young people and parents. The parents of primary school age children will be approached in the pilot scheme, it is hoped that another agency such as sure start or parentline plus could become partners in this initiative. The session for parents will be called "keeping your child safe".

If any forum member is interested in this please contact either Lauren Elliott on 0151 691 8213 or Tracey Smith on 0151 691 8026.

SECTION FOUR

STREETSCENE

Report from Street Scene Manager

Saughall Massie Road Improvement Scheme

WORK on Saughall Massie Road Improvement scheme remains on schedule.

West Kirby Road, which runs from Three Lanes End to Saughall Massie Road, Upton is currently closed to through traffic. The road is being widened and re-routed so that it bypasses Saughall Massie Village to the south. The eight month project is expected to be completed by April 2005.

Dowhigh Ltd has been appointed as the contractor to carry out the scheme on behalf of Wirral Council.

Diversion signs are in place and motorists are advised to allow themselves additional journey time. Traffic travelling towards Upton is being diverted along Pump Lane, Frankby Road, Greasby Road, Upton Bypass and Saughall Massie Road. Traffic travelling towards Hoylake and West Kirby is being diverted along Saughall Road, Hoylake Road, Birkenhead Road and Heron Road.

Safe cycling

The Council's road safety team is turning attention to keeping cyclists safe in Wirral this winter. With the appointment of a dedicated cycling road safety officer, Stephen Corlett, members of the public will see more and more educational initiatives aimed at getting people out and about on their bikes over the coming months.

School Crossing Patrols go orange

Wirral Council is trialling a new uniform for its School Crossing Patrollers in a bid to make them more visible and promote a more responsible attitude from drivers.

Patrollers at six sites across the borough can be seen sporting the new-look fluorescent orange outfit.

The new uniform is being given a 'test-run' in Wirral to coincide with national Road Safety Week 2004, organised by the charity Brake. Council officers are trialling the orange outfit to see if it improves safety for school crossing staff and the thousands of pedestrians that they help across the road every day.

For some inattentive motorists the local lollipop person alarmingly goes unnoticed. The switch to orange has proven popular elsewhere in the country for increasing visibility and ensuring that motorists stop for the patroller.

Director David Green said: “Any initiatives that improve road safety are given a high priority here at Wirral Council. Thankfully we live in a safety-conscious age, where increasing numbers of people can be seen out on our roads wearing fluorescent yellow. But this means that we need to do more to make our School Crossing Patrollers distinguishable – and we hope to achieve this by switching to orange outfits.”

Tranmere Clean Up

A MAJOR Christmas clean up campaign has taken place in Tranmere and Rock Ferry.

‘Together’ Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder is working in partnership with the Council’s Streetscene officers to encourage residents to have a clear out and help rid the streets of rubbish. The move is aimed at raising awareness about litter problems and reducing instances of fly-tipping in alleyways in Tranmere and Rock Ferry over the Christmas period.

In December there is a marked increase in the amount of waste generated in Wirral, as residents clearout their homes for the festive celebrations. ‘Together’ provided the funding for Wirral Council’s dedicated bulky household waste collection service, known as the ERIC service, to operate in different roads in the Tranmere and Rock Ferry area every Monday in the run up to Christmas. Residents were asked to use the service to get rid of any unwanted furniture and ‘white goods’ such as old fridges, cookers and washing machines. More than 5,500 homes were leafleted with details about the collection service.

The Council’s environmental hit squad has also be working with Onyx during this period to clear back entries of rubbish. The campaign has been made possible thanks to funding for Neighbourhood Management from central government.

Litter prosecutions

WIRRAL Council is taking a tough stance with people caught dropping litter in the borough.

Thoughtless residents are being warned that illegal dumping could cost them dearly – as four people were fined up to £100 each for failing to pay on spot litter fines after dropping rubbish.

Lesley Bailie from Price Street in Birkenhead, Leslie Moran from Newling Street in Birkenhead and Claire Unsworth from Bentinck Place in Birkenhead

were each fined £100 plus costs of £75 at a hearing at Birkenhead Magistrates last month (Tuesday, December 7, 2004). Natalie Taylor from Mount Grove in Oxton was fined £50 plus costs. All four failed to appear at court, but were found guilty of the offence in their absence.

The Council has served some 160 fixed penalties for 'fly tipping' and littering over the last 12 months and people who don't pay up have been taken to court and given hefty fines ranging from £100 to £1200. These latest cases bring the total number of successful litter and fly-tipping prosecutions in Wirral this year to nine with a further 15 pending.

Dealing with dangerous skips

UNSAFE and poorly lit skips on Wirral roads are being targeted in a Council campaign this winter.

From Monday, December 13 enforcement officers have embarked on drive to remove any skips found on the borough's roads without an approved Council permit.

When it comes to hiring and paying for a skip, the Council is calling upon members of the public and builders to make sure the company they use is operating within the law. Here are some guidelines to avoid getting caught out:

- The company must have approval from the Council to site each skip – you can ask to see a copy of a skip permit.
- The telephone number of the skip hire company must be clearly marked on the sides.
- Lamps must be attached to the skip and lit when it is dark.
- Each skip must not exceed five metres by two metres in size.
- All waste removal companies should be registered with the Environment Agency and hold an official licence to carry waste – you can ask to see a copy of this licence.

Skip prosecutions

THE OWNERS of four Wirral skip-hire companies have been fined for illegally placing more than 80 skips on the borough's roads.

Martin Campbell, owner of A1 Skip Hire, was fined £1,900 including costs for a total of 28 offences at a hearing at Birkenhead Magistrates this week (Tuesday, December 14). And Bernard Campbell, owner of Dial A Skip and Wirral Skips, was fined £2100 including costs for a total of 33 offences.

At the same hearing Martin Campbell and Bernard Campbell, who also co-own A2B Skip Hire Ltd – were fined an additional £1,750 including costs, for a further 23 offences by this company.

The four skip operators work out of the same yard in Old Gorse Lane, Wallasey. The court heard that they had not gained permission from the Council to place a total of 84 skips on roads throughout Wirral between January and June this year. This was in contravention of the Highways Act 1980, Section 139 and both men pleaded guilty to the charges.

This is the largest successful skip prosecution of its kind in Wirral – upping the total number of successful prosecutions for the Council from three to 87 in just one day.

Enforcement officer Lisa Knowles said: “Unsafe skips have become an increasing problem across the borough, posing a risk to both motorists and pedestrians. Many skips are being left poorly lit, creating an obstruction, looking unsightly and causing damage to pavements.

“We would ask people to plan ahead and choose their skip hire company carefully. The company must have an approved permit before a skip can be put on the road. Any skip without a permit could be removed by one of our enforcement officers.”

Work begins on Hoylake park and ride scheme

COMMUTERS in Wirral are set to benefit from a £450,000 park and ride scheme being introduced at Hoylake railway station. Work has now begun creating a 137-space car park and improved pedestrian and cycling facilities at the Carr Lane site.

Currently there are a limited number of parking spaces outside the West Wirral station. The scheme, designed by Wirral Council engineers, was given the go-ahead after being identified as part of the Merseyside Local Transport Plan. It is being funded by central government and aims to promote the greater use of rail by motorists and reduce pollution caused by cars.

Some 6,000 square metres of land adjacent to Hoylake Municipal Golf Course, will be transformed to make way for the car park. The existing public footpath, running from Anglesey Road in West Kirby to Carr Lane, is also being revamped to include a designated cycle path that will eventually link with networks elsewhere in the borough. The scheme is particularly unusual in that special design and construction arrangements have been made to protect a rare plant growing in the area – Mackay’s Horsetail. Engineers have been consulting with Wirral Wildlife Trust about the primitive plant, which is only known to exist in two locations in Wirral.

Contractors Bethell Construction will be carrying out the work on behalf of the Council. And Kenny Bradshaw from Highway Improvements is the on-site engineer overseeing the project. Work started on November 22 and the scheme is expected to take up to six months to complete. There will be some disruption for motorists using Carr Lane, and drivers are advised to allow themselves additional journey time. Walkers are also advised that the existing footpath will be temporarily closed during construction for safety reasons.

Director David Green said: "Wirral Council is committed to the provision of a good and sustainable transport network. We are working closely with Merseytravel and our neighbouring authorities to meet local transport needs more effectively. This scheme has been more than two years in the planning and we are thrilled to see work now starting on site. The park and ride facilities will hopefully encourage even more commuters and shoppers to think twice before taking their car into the local town centres. Like public transport, cycling is also an effective alternative form of transport, especially for short journeys – and we hope people will also make use of the improved cycling facilities included in the scheme."

Winter parking

Wirral Council has a legal duty to keep roads and pavements in a safe condition.

We are appealing to car owners not to park on grass verges this winter. The Council has been inundated with complaints about the tyre damage caused to verges because of recent wet weather.

Many residents are surprised to learn that there are legal obligations to keep pavements and grass verges free from obstructions, such as cars. And anyone found responsible for causing damage to the verge could be billed for the cost of repair work.

Our Council enforcement team is currently reviewing how we tackle this problem.

In the meantime, if you are suffering at the hand of inconsiderate parking, you might be interested in adopting a tree for a nearby grass verge. Planting a tree has proven successful elsewhere in the borough in deterring motorists from parking on verges.

If you have any additional queries or want information about the 'Adopt a Tree' scheme that Wirral council operates, please call our Streetscene contact centre on 606 2004.

Parking attendants prove popular

PARKING attendants have proved they are popular in parts of Wirral – after the Council has received a rush of requests from residents and businesses for enforcement action against dangerous motorists.

Within the last twelve months, more than 500 people have contacted Wirral Council to ask for tougher measures to deal with problem parking. The Parking Services section has responded to concerns by sending out attendants to ‘blitz’ each area. This news comes one year on from the introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in the borough in late November 2003. Service managers say they receive as many as five requests for help per day – from residents who are frustrated by motorists flouting parking rules. And many of these callers get back in touch with the department to express their appreciation for Council efforts. Areas where parking attendants have helped residents over the last year include:

- Tackling abuse of the resident’s parking scheme in the area surrounding Tranmere Rovers football club on match days.
- Addressing a safety issue caused by parents parking on yellow lines outside Allport School in Bromborough.
- Easing congestion caused by Sunday car boot sales in Leasowe – after residents complained about people parking on double yellow lines outside their homes in Pasture Road.
- Attendants have been working with Birkenhead market and The Grange shopping precinct to address problems caused by shoppers parking in the access road at the back of the market.
- Responding to residents of Menai Street in Birkenhead who expressed safety concerns over HGV vehicles parking on yellow lines at night narrowing access for both the road and pavement.

Director David Green said: “Many people are quick to criticise the work of parking attendants – but the reality is that these enforcement measures are vital if we are to keep our roads safe and free from congestion. There are residents out there who fully support the work that our parking services team are doing. In fact we’ve received more than 25 thank you letters from people who are extremely grateful that we have addressed parking problems that have previously made their lives a misery.”

Garden waste update for West Wirral

WIRRAL Council is appealing for West Wirral residents to keep on using the garden waste service throughout the winter months.

The grass may well have stopped growing, but there is plenty more greenery for home-owners to find in their back garden to put in the white recycling bags for kerbside collection.

It's the time of year to get stuck into pruning hedges and clearing away dead leaves. And in the New Year, residents will even be able to recycle their Christmas trees using the service, providing it is chopped down into manageable branches.

An estimated 17% of household waste is believed to be from the garden. The garden collection has proved overwhelmingly popular since it started in May this year. More than 2000 tonnes of heavy grass cuttings and clippings have been diverted from landfill and sent to a nearby composting facility.

Residents will be pleased to learn that this compost is now available to 'buy-back' for a small charge. Sacks of the high-grade compost are on sale at Warrens Nursery in Thingwall (open weekday mornings and Sunday afternoons).

Shortlisted for awards

THE shortlist for the Merseyside 21 Awards has been announced and once again Wirral has done well. Although the winners of the prestigious environmental awards are not announced until 3rd February, projects from Wirral Council departments and schools are in with a chance as they go forward to the next stage. Within Streetscene related services we have been shortlisted for our work with aggregate recycling, anti-litter roadshows and green garden waste collections.

SECTION FIVE

LOCAL UPDATE

Local Updates

Pride in Our Promenades Update

The first stage is drawing to a close with the completion of a business plan. The purpose of the business plan was to consider a range of projects along the whole length of the promenade. We are now working with members of Wirral Waterfront to identify a short list of desirable projects to take to the next stage, which is detailed design, and costing.

As part of the detail design process the community will be consulted. We aim to do this in the next 2/3 months. The Mersey Basin Campaign is working with Wirral Borough Council on the proposals to pay for the work. We hope to start making improvements in the summer.

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

Are you registered to vote?

6 January 2005

Are you registered to vote?

Wirral Council electoral staff are reminding local adults to check they are registered to vote – as if a general election were called for May, voters would need to have applied for inclusion on the register of electors by 11 March to be eligible.

Anyone who has moved address or moved into the area since December 2004 needs to notify the Town Hall of the change by the March deadline if they want to be included on the register and be eligible to vote.

To check you are on the register, call 691 8046, or call in at Wallasey Town Hall during normal office hours.

FEEDBACK FORM CONSULTATION OF LICENSING POLICY

Following the Consultation process a Statement of Licensing Policy has been developed. The Council approved this policy on 20 December. This Policy is now available on our web site.

As the Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003, we are now able to transfer existing licences into the new system of licensing from 7 February. These licences will not come into effect until after the second appointed date which is yet to be announced by the Government.

Should there be any applications to vary existing licences the holder of the licence will have to advertise this application and a process of consultation will take place. All applications to vary will be sent to Ward Councillors as well as the Police, Fire Service and other responsible authorities.

Tsunami Disaster –How Wirral MBC is supporting the fundraising:

This note is to bring you up to date with developments around fundraising in Wirral for the tsunami disaster.

A meeting of Wirral Council staff fundraisers, chaired by the Chief Executive Steve Maddox, was called late last week to respond to the many approaches from staff, the media and the public, all asking for guidance and a focus to the local effort.

The following points were agreed:

- Many people have already given very generously, and many council sections are organising their own events. The Chief Executive's meeting did not seek to 'control' any of these activities, but to try to support them and offer an added focus to them.
- Wirral has adopted **Friday January 21** as a special day of fundraising across the Authority, with staff from all sectors being encouraged to raise more money. (It is emerging as the day many authorities up and down the country are having a special effort). **In Wirral, this day has been dubbed "Snowdrop Day".** (*Snowdrops, which will be in flower by then, are a symbol of better times to come, and white is the colour of mourning in the east*).
- All staff are being strongly urged to take advantage of the Gift Aid scheme. *This scheme means the charity can add 28p to every £1 donated by a UK taxpayer. For example, Finance Department staff have already collected a fantastic £2,100 which has swollen to £2,614 because of Gift Aid.* There are two forms which can be used – a "gift aid form" which is sealed in an envelope with your donation and remains private and Sponsorship Forms which are open for all to see,

but is easier for a group of people who don't mind their colleagues knowing what they have given. Both attract the additional 28p for every £1 given.

- We know many of you have already given very generously, but if you can manage a little more, please do. It's up to you what you do – a 'non-work clothes' day, staff collection, coffee morning. All the money being collected from staff until Snowdrop Day is being donated to the DEC Tsunami Earthquake Appeal.
- Collections can be taken to any bank, building society or Post Office, none of which are charging. Money should be counted and bagged, gift aid/sponsorship forms collated, cheques made out to DEC Tsunami Earthquake Appeal.
- Friday Jan 21 is not intended be the end of fundraising, but it will provide a focus for the current activities.
- The Council is already being advised of medium-term help, which may be required, such as adopting a village, supporting a school etc. Details will be passed on to staff as soon as the position is clear.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATION

Area Forums

There appears to be general concern being expressed in Area Forums about the problems presented by alcohol in terms of drunkenness ease of access and underage purchase and consumption of alcohol.

Forums also identified that vandalism and youths causing annoyance was a real problem effecting communities. However, it was also considered that part of this problem related to a perceived lack of facilities for young people.

What has become clear from Area Forum discussions is that communities want the Police to deal with antisocial behaviour. At the same time there is a recognition prompted by the police that due to resource issues and the subjectivity of the problem, this problem will only be solved by the Police, the Local Authority and the affected communities working together.

Positive feedback was also given at many forums and areas gave approval of alleygates and praise was given in the New Brighton forum for how the police and Local Authority deal with Antisocial Behaviour and problem families.

Area Forum Consultation Conclusions

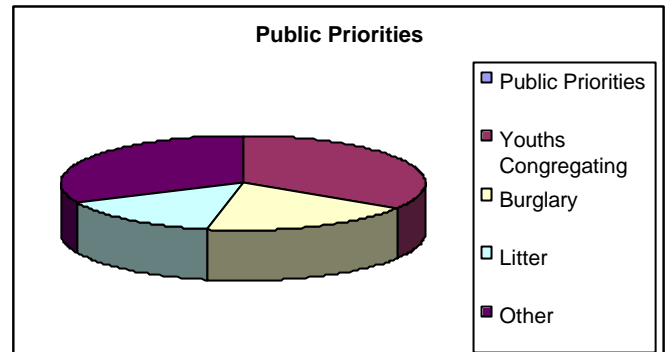
In 2004 the number of forums increased from 8 to 11. All of the residents attending the 11 Area Forums were given a brief presentation from the Wirral CDRP on the findings of the Crime and Disorder Audit and the Drugs and

Alcohol Audit. A short questionnaire was handed out and the results compiled as follows:

Out of 116 residents who responded, 93% felt very or fairly safe in the daytime and 54.4% felt fairly or very safe at night.

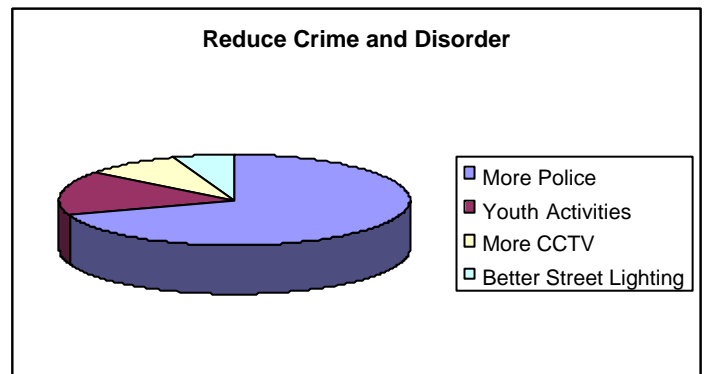
The top two priorities for Community Safety perceived by the sample of Wirral residents were:

Youths Congregating, (34%)
Burglary (19.9%)



When asked what they thought would help reduce Crime and Disorder

64% thought more police,
15% thought more youth activities
8% believed more CCTV
5.3% thought better street lighting



When asked how threatened they felt by general crime in Wirral, 35% felt not threatened or not very threatened by crime.

When results were analysed and broken down by postcode, the majority of residents identified youths congregating at the most serious problem, except in CH60 and CH61, who perceived burglary as the most serious problem in Wirral.

Wirral Youth Forums

Youth Forums are held every 2 months and represent the four main areas of Wirral; Wallasey, Birkenhead, West Kirby and South Wirral. The following feedback was taken from the July 2004 youth forums.

In the **Wallasey** youth forum, the local community issues that the youths reported were:-

- Not enough police
- More activities in local areas -skate parks + Football area
- More activities for youths
- More lighting in parks
- Improvement on the state of roads and pavements and need to clear up rubbish.
- Need for more football Cages – Improve cages outside youth club in Moreton.
- Sports facilities improved and more accessible.

Birkenhead Youth Forum stated that their local community safety issues were - More facilities/ activities and improvements of existing facilities/parks.

- Drug use and users- More workers to deal with drug users
- Vandalism
- Improve the feeling of safety in their area
- Better lighting
- Phone boxes that work
- Public transport
- More youth clubs
- Reduce and eradicate bullying incidences
- More speed cameras
- More police patrolling the streets
- Shatter proof windows in bus stops
- More cameras around the estate
- More Alleygates in the area

West Kirby Youth Forum

The main community issues that were important to the youths of West Kirby were:-

- Need for greater Police engagement with young people.- Would like conference with Police
- Improvements and repair of phone boxes
- Curfew is wrong – should be imposed by parents not Police
- Should be cheaper fares on public transport – more accessible for young people.
- More facilities/activities -Open Youth club at w/e - Football pitches

- Groups of no more than two causes problems with social activities, just target the troublemakers not the whole group – introduce a form of self-responsibility.
- Somewhere for bands to practice

South Wirral Youth Forum

The local issues that most effect the young people of south Wirral were:

- Glass in skate park
 - Groups of young people aged 16-20 hanging round Eastham shops / flats – they are very intimidating.
 - Community Patrol / Police should visit the area more often.
 - Vandalism / graffiti
 - More activities especially over summer holidays –
- Re-open Ritzy for under 18 nights
- Caged sports area

Summary of Key Action Points:

For West Kirby the issue of designated area (Group Dispersal) was the biggest concern for the young people in the area. (*)¹ The group felt that individuals would be vulnerable on their own, and they shouldn't be separated on the streets. It would be really useful for them to discuss this with the Police.

For all areas the common concerns were the need for more activities for young people, more police patrols and an improved environment with better street- lighting and a reduction in vandalism and graffiti.

Specific to Birkenhead, the youths highlighted a concern with drug users in the area and stated that they would like to see more workers involved in reduction of users in the area. It was also minuted that they would like to see more alleyways gated.

Children's Views on Being Safe

At the Youth Voice Conference on 22nd October 2004, the Local Authority held a focus group on the five outcomes of the green paper " Every Child Matters". Young peoples safety was amongst many of the issues, which were discussed. The main concerns highlighted were;

Gangs hanging around/roaming the streets – Intimidation
Not enough Police around Birkenhead
Lack of security on public transport

¹ (*)The designated area for group dispersal was introduced in West Kirby in May 2004

Young people drinking and peer pressure to drink
Scared to report incidents to police
The young people involved suggested ways in which to improve safety in Wirral:
Greater police presence to raise confidence
Raising awareness of services

UPDATE ON VCH PROPOSED WARD CLOSURE

Proposals to modernise and improve services for older people in Wirral have been the subject of a 12- week public consultation exercise led by Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT and Bebington and West Wirral PCT from 18 October 2004 to 14 January 2005.

The consultation sought views on the proposed improvements, the future of the two elderly care wards at Victoria Central Hospital, Wallasey and the changes to the way in which the Total Care and Relief of Carers teams deliver their services.

The exercise completed on Friday 14th January 2005. Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT and Bebington and West Wirral PCT will be provided with all the responses to the consultation. This will enable the PCT Boards to discuss the responses and to make a decision on the proposals outlined in the consultation document.

Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT board meets on Thursday 27th January 2005 and Bebington and West Wirral board meets on 1st February 2005.

Tricia Maguire - Birkenhead and West Wallasey PCT

Next area forum meeting

15th June 2005, Committee Room 1, Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey. 7.00 pm

SECTION SIX

AREA FORUM MINUTES

**Minutes - East Wallasey Area Forum (Liscard/Seacombe)
Meeting - 14 October 2004**

Present	
Chair	AER Jones
Councillors	D Hawkins , C M Jones , JJ Salter
Community Representative s	Margaret Allen (Seacombe Community Representative) , Jo McCourt (Wallasey YMCA) , Carole Thomas (Community Action Team)
Lead Officer	Colin Walker (Assistant Director, Development Control)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith
Merseyside Police	Inspector Kate Aspinall
Council Officers	Bob Williams (Director of Personnel & Policy)
In attendance:	Andy Dams (Community Safety Co-ordinator) , Ritchie Humphreys (DAAT) , Chris Jones (Area Streetscene Manager) , Jo McCourt (Wallasey YMCA) , Sean Moonan (CBED) , Margaret O'Donnell (Principal Officer, Licensing) , Fr. Leon Ostaszewski
Apologies	DT Knowles , Ann Matthews

Index to Minutes

- Minute 1 - WELCOME
- Minute 2 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT
- Minute 3 - AREA PLANS
- Minute 4 - LICENSING POLICY PRESENTATION
- Minute 5 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
- Minute 6 - COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE
- Minute 7 - COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND (CIF)
- Minute 8 - PCT UPDATE
- Minute 9 - FUTURE MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

Minute 1 - WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00 pm and welcomed the members of the Forum and approximately 25 members of the public. He explained that the Area Forums had been restructured and that the previous New Brighton members were now in the New Brighton Forum. However, they had been invited to tonight's forum because of the close connections between Seacombe and New Brighton. The Chair also informed the meeting that the Forum had a new name – East Wallasey Area Forum - and also welcomed

Carole Ann Thomas the new Liscard Community Representative.

As there was a very full agenda to get through during the evening only 15 minutes was available for public question time.

Minute 2 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

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

- CIF stood at £10,322 in this financial year. £332 had been donated to the CIF from the Poulton Community Association. Adverts would be placed on 10 and 24 November inviting applications for funding.

- Youth Forums

- Streetscene update

- Local update - The Area Co-ordinator drew attention to the update, Pride in our Promenades, a joint initiative to improve the promenades at Egremont and Otterspool. A team of consultants had been appointed to produce a business plan to support bids for European and North West Development Association funding.

The 'proms team' was keen to receive ideas and input from local people and would be available at the end of the meeting if anyone wished to speak to them.

Minute 3 - AREA PLANS

The Area Co-ordinator explained that each Area Forum was charged with the responsibility for preparing a local area plan. Working with elected representatives and members of local communities, considerable progress had been made on the plan for this Area Forum. The community needs and priorities identified in the Wards covered by the former Area Forum had been incorporated into the Area Plan for the Liscard and Seacombe areas.

Copies of the plans for all Area Forums had been sent for consultation to all the Forum's partners, including Council Departments, the Police, Primary Care Trust and voluntary and community organisations. The feedback received would be incorporated into the report, prior to circulation to members of the public. The final draft report would be presented at this Area

Forum's meeting in February 2005.

Area plans were in process of consultation and the Area Co-ordinator would bring a full copy to the February 2005 meeting. The Area Plan would cover the work plan for the next 12 months and the Forum would be given the opportunity to agree or amend the Plan.

Future presentations – Liscard Hall. Perhaps this could be included as an item at a future Area Forum, possibly June 2005.

Minute 4 - LICENSING POLICY PRESENTATION

The Chair brought this item forward because Margaret O'Donnell, Principal Licensing Officer had another Forum to attend during the evening.

Margaret O'Donnell gave a presentation on the changes that would be introduced in the new year on how the licensing of premises would be dealt with. Entertainment licenses were administered and processed by the Council. She informed the Forum that there would be a transition period from 7 February 2005 which would be the start of transferring licences on premises which sell alcohol. At present there was no date set for the end of the transition period. All such premises would come under the jurisdiction of the Council. The council had to produce a Statement of Licensing Policy and the Forum was invited to collect a copy of the consultation document which was in draft form and let her have any comments they thought appropriate. The Final Policy document would be presented to Council in December 2004 and completed by 7 January 2005.

Minute 5 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Father Leon asked if help could be given to the security at Liscard Hall from the time of end of school to midnight. The Chair asked if Inspector Kate Aspinall could look into this matter.

John Drew asked if there were any plans regarding the old Dale Inn site (next to Seacombe Library) for instance, flats. Colin Walker, Assistant Director of Planning, replied that he was not aware of any current application. However, Councillor Salter informed the meeting that an application has been made and everyone in the area notified, but that this had not yet been put to Planning.

The Sports Barn next to St. Joseph's school had been discussed at a previous meeting as a possible project. It now looks as if it has

been built. Is this facility for community use. Councillor Knowles will be asked for a response to this question.

A representative of Liscard Residents' Association asked whether the Council would be prepared to change their position in respect of the times of use of Liscard Centre due to people parking. Would they be prepared to close at 5.00 or 5.30 pm and not open on Sundays? Chris Jones, Streetscene Manager responded - the question of parking in areas of Liscard was a problem, which was currently being reviewed. Chris Jones, Area Streetscene Manager reported that discussions had taken place with the Residents Association and a response was currently being prepared to the various queries raised by them.

Councillor Adrian Jones asked about the future of Seacombe House. It had now been empty for sometime. It is planned for demolition and at this time we do not know what will be happening to it, although increased security would be introduced.

Cllr Dave Hawkins said that the possible closure of two wards at the Victoria Central Hospital (VCH) and been discussed at Committee on 13 October 2004 (Health and Social Care). He felt that it was important that this Forum should participate and takes a view of the closure of the two wards. He had presented an 8,000-signature petition against the closure of the wards.

Jane Harvey of the PCT responded to the effect that the feelings of residents will be taken into account and the Forum would be welcome to participate. The Chair felt that there seemed to be a contradiction between getting involved in the consultation exercise and purchasing the beds before the consultation process had taken place. Margaret Allen felt that if beds were purchased beforehand this indicated that the consultation period was already a 'fait accompli'.

Dr Mukharjee, a local GP (he has worked in the area for 25 years as well as working at the VCH) advised that attempts had been made to save the Renal Unit from being transferred to Arrowe Park. The current beds are taken by caring for elderly patients who should be cared for in their own homes. He has been told that there will be no job losses at the VCH as a result of these closures. Seventeen practices have the same health contract and they will be opposing any loss of service. He fully supported the Area Forum's wishes in being involved in the consultation.

Work on coronary heart disease in the Wallasey area has improved drastically. The care provided in this area should be improved and

more spaces made available. Clinics are held here and consultants attend VCH. He would be happy to discuss these issues with the Forum in greater depth. He felt that we must not stand in the way of progress. The beds being bought do not mean that the consultation has already been agreed. We must improve the process and take it forward.

The Chair said that Dr. Mukharjee had explained everything clearly. He felt that it would be a good idea to call a special forum just for this item. Bob Williams suggested that perhaps other Area Forums might wish to be involved in this Special Forum. The Chair agreed with this suggestion.

Colin Walker, Assistant Director, Development Control who has planning responsibilities reported that a report had been put to Committee last night and there was a 12 week consultation period before putting it to the Select Committee in February 2005. Although this date was outside the consultation period views could be taken to the Select Committee.

Jane Harvey pointed out that if the Forum wanted to take part in the consultation it should do so before the 12-week consultation period was up.

The Chair suggested that if the Resolution were for debate at a future meeting he would be happy for this evening's forum not to vote tonight. The Forum agreed with the Chair's suggestion and the proposition would be debated at this area forum in about one month's time and that it will be the only or significant item on the agenda.

Tracey Smith, Area Co-ordinator will arrange this meeting.

Cllr Dave Hawkins raised concerns about the long-term future of the YMCA in Manor Road. Although meetings with Jim Lester and council officers had been very useful we are no further forward on the future of the YMCA than we were when we started to discuss this matter.

Jo McCourt agreed that the YMCA board had made a decision to become a Joint Management Committee but the lease would be owned by Wirral Borough Council and a decision by the Estates Department still has not been made as to who is responsible for the upkeep of the building.

Bob Williams felt that it would be appropriate for this Forum to

sustain the viability of the YMCA. There are liabilities on the building that will pass to Education and Cultural services should they take over the lease. This means financial liability and they will have to thoroughly investigate this matter. Bob Williams offered to take this matter up with Jim Lester to find out what action would be necessary to unblock the impasse that we are now facing. Jo McCourt believed that this building would fall into disrepair without the work the volunteers did. YMCA volunteers were excellent only asking for materials to do the work.

Minute Decision :
Resolved:

1. That the East Wallasey Area Forum opposes the closure of the two wards and welcomes the views of other members of the Forum. The Chair suggested that the Area Forum add to the resolution that we would like to be consulted and to take part in the consultation.

2. That this Area Forum supports the YMCA and asks the Council to do all it can to support the YMCA and move matters forward.

Minute 6 - COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Andy Dams - from Community Safety team and Ritchy Humphries from DAAT [Drug & Alcohol Action Team]. The Officers presented statistical information based on issues identified in the Wirral Crime and Disorder Audit for 2001/2004. The findings from the Audit would inform the Crime and Disorder Plan for 2005/2008. The two key priorities would be violence [including domestic violence] and anti-social behavior [including youth issues]; although other problems, [eg burglary] would not be ignored.

In their presentation, the Officers explained that the work of the Drugs & Alcohol Team was primarily concerned with -

- preventing today's young people from becoming tomorrow's problematic drug users;
- reducing the availability of illegal drugs
- reducing drug-related crime and its effects on communities;
- reducing drug use and drug-related offending through treatment and support.

The two Officers explained that members of the team had visited all the Area Forums to inform the public about the work of DAAT, and to provide opportunities for Forum members and the general public to air their views on issues that affected their families and neighbourhoods. Comments would be welcome at Forum meetings, or questionnaires could be taken away for completion.

Margie Allen praised all the work that had been done by the DAT but asked what help could be given to the parents and families of those receiving drug treatment. She felt that DAT needed to work with parents at the start of the programme and to be shown how they can resist drugs.

Sean Moonan reported that there was an organisation in the voluntary sector that worked to address these issues, but we did not seem to be developing this area very well.

Andy Dams reported that Community Safety support a post in Education (Terry White) and work closely with the Response Teams, but we will take any help we can.

Ken Harrison queried the accuracy of the figures that have been presented on the prioritising of calls to the police. If response is not prioritised then people will not continue to report incidents.

Andy Dams reported that there has been concern about this matter, but the Police have to make their own decisions on prioritising. The figures are reasonably accurate although there is some under-reporting.

Ken Harrison agreed with Andy Dams' reporting - there were only limited resources just as in other public services. Inspector Kate Aspinall responded that there were occasions when we do not make it to an incident. Operators work hard to prioritise and to make sure resources available were deployed appropriately. She was aware that everyone would not be satisfied at all times. Everyone was working towards improving the situation, and that all should be aware that the Wirral Response was one of the best on Merseyside.

The Chair informed the Forum that he had recently attended a Police call centre in Garston and was impressed by the vast amount of work being undertaken in this area.

The Forum members appreciated that the local police were extremely good, that there were not enough police, but this was a problem for central government.

A member of the public referred to the drinking of alcohol by underage young people at the Allotments, particularly young girls aged from about 13 to 17.

Andy Dams and Kate Aspinall would look at this area.

David Hale reported that they had a very fast response in the Liscard area. Behaviour Improvement Programme has had a dramatic effect on the young people there.

Inspector Kate Aspinall and Andy Dams – This programme was one of the many programmes that were running to address this particular problem, and were aware how important it was to provide preventative activities in order that young people's energies could be channelled into other areas.

Sean Moonan felt that these programmes should take try to include the whole of Central Park. The Central Park Forum had recognised this and had been approaching the Police and Community Safety Patrol.

Andy Dams said with the Joint Agency working there had been significant successes and he explained some of the activities they had been undertaking. Although not able to put the same resources into this area this year there had still been some successes.

Minute Decision :

The Chair thanked Andy Dams and Ritchy Humphries for their presentation.

Minute 7 - COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND (CIF)

Tracey Smith asked if the same priorities as last year for the disbursement of the funds available could be adopted. She also asked if there were any organisation that anyone wanted to recommend to apply for the funding and asked them to contact her to apply for an application form as soon as possible.

Minute Decision :

Resolved –

1. That it be agreed that the CIF Panel will not have any councillors on it.

2. The Panel will consist of:

Jo McCourt - Liscard Community Representative
Margie Allen - Seacombe Community Representative
Carole Thomas - Liscard Community Representative
Ann Mather - Seacombe Community Representative

The panel will meet again on 10 January 2005 during the day.

Minute 8 - PCT UPDATE

Jane Harvey of the PCT reported that it was the first time she had had the opportunity to visit an Area Forum. The PCT were working hard to improve services in this area. As this was the first time she had had an item on the agenda she took the opportunity of asking the Forum what they would like her to concentrate on and a report would be brought to a future Forum.

If anyone had any specific views could they take the time to talk to Jane at the end of the meeting or make Tracey Smith aware of them.

John Drew from Seacombe Neighbourhood Partnership explained that previously Trish Maguire attended their monthly meetings and asked could a representative from the PCT attend the Seacombe Neighbourhood Partnership. Jane would refer back to her colleagues and report back to the Forum on this matter. Egremont and Liscard Partnerships would also need to be included.

Minute 9 - FUTURE MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

A Special meeting in about one month's time would be required to discuss the future of VCH.

The next Forum meetings would be held on the following dates:

3rd February 2005 and 15 June 2005.

Margie Allen would be interested to hear a presentation by the Community Support Officers and requested that Bob Little make this presentation.

Jane Harvey (PCT) agreed to attend the special meeting on Thursday 25 November.

Ron Jones referred to the Chair's invitation to continue the links with other Area Forums and thanked him for the consideration.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.15 pm and thanked everyone for attending.