

**East Wallasey Area Forum**  
**Area Co-ordinator's Report**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> November 2005**

**Tracey Smith, 691 8026, [traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk)**

# **Contents**

## **Section One**

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

## **Section Two**

Local Updates

## **Section Three**

Community Initiatives Funding

## **Section Four**

Local Area Plan

## **Section Five**

Youth Update

## **Section Six**

Streetscene

# **Section One**

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

### Minutes - East Wallasey Area Forum (Liscard/Seacombe) Meeting - 15 June 2005

Present	
Chair	AER Jones
Ward Councillors	D Hawkins , C M Jones , DT Knowles , G Leech
Community Representatives	Margaret Allen (Seacombe Community Representative) , John Drew (Seacombe LCP) , Dianne Ledger , Jo McCourt (Wallasey YMCA) , Fr. Leon Ostaszewski
Lead Officer	David Green (Director of Technical Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith - Area Services Co-ordinator
Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT	Jane Harvey (Director of Public Health, Bir. & Wall. PCT) , Dr Shymal Mukherjee, Medical Director, Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT
Merseyside Police	Inspector John Hogan
Council Officers	Chris Jones (Area Streetscene Manager)
In attendance:	Peter Jenkinson (Deputy Head of Community Services) , Cathy McNulty (Cycling Officer) , Mindy Rutherford (Head of DAAT)
Apologies	Ann Mather (Seacombe Community Representative) , Cllr John Salter , Carole Thomas (Liscard Community Representative)

#### Index to Minutes

Minute 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Minute 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minute 3 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Minute 4 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Minute 5 - PRESENTATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF CYCLE NETWORKS

Minute 6 - PRIMARY CARE TRUST UPDATE - HEALTH PROFILE OF LISCARD AND SEACOMBE

Minute 7 - PRESENTATION ON YOUTH PROVISION

Minute 8 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Minute 9 - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Minute 10 - CLOSE OF MEETING

#### Minute 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Adrian Jones, welcomed 50 members of the public to the meeting of the East Wallasey Area Forum. He welcomed Diane Ledger, Wallasey CBED, as a member of the Forum in place of Sean Moonan.

#### Minute 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting of the Area Forum of 3 February 2005 be confirmed.

#### Minute 3 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Members of the Area Forum had received the Area Co-ordinator's Report in advance. The Area Co-ordinator introduced the report, section by section, under the headings: Community Initiatives' Fund, Local Area Plan, Youth, Streetscene, and local updates. She highlighted the following issues:

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- Community Initiatives' Fund - Grants totalling £6,583.00 had been awarded to 11 local projects in 2004/2005. The recipients had been asked to produce receipts and give brief written reports on the use of the funding. The results would be collated and a full report would be presented at the next meeting of the Area Forum.

A total of £19,239.06 will be available to support local projects and initiatives in 2005/2006. The availability of funds will be advertised in the Wirral Globe on 6 July, with a closing date of 15 August. Publicity materials will be circulated to groups and organisations and posted in Council buildings accessed by the public. The Area Forum is responsible for determining the process and setting priorities for the allocation of the funds.

- Area Plan - The East Wallasey (Liscard/Seacombe) Area Plan contains local information and an action plan to address the priorities identified by members of the forum. The Plan - a working document that will be revised and amended as appropriate - reflect the eight themes in the Community Strategy.

John Drew commented that the action plan was very comprehensive and contained many issues raised by the local partnerships. He was concerned about the possibility of duplication, and the need for Forum representation at partnership meetings. Councillor Knowles replied that there was already adequate representation. Diane Ledder was Chair of the Seacombe Partnership and that in addition to John Drew, he regularly attended meetings himself.

The Area Co-ordinator recommended that the Area Forum approves the plan and develops a work programme to support forum activities. The sum of £3,000 has been awarded to the forum, specifically for initiatives dedicated to tackling crime and nuisance.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: To -

i- agree that Community Initiative Funding is directed at projects within the East Wallasey (Liscard/Seacombe) areas that will benefit all sectors of the community. The forum will consider all applications, but would specifically welcome bids for Young People and Older People and those that provide an interface between younger people and elderly people in the area;

ii -approve the East Wallasey (Liscard/Seacombe) Area Plan;

iii - agree to form a sub-group to monitor and progress the relevant issues in the Area Plan, beginning with the theme, Safer Communities;

iv - agree that the sub-group will comprise the Community Representatives, Margaret Allen, David Hale, Father Leon Ostaszewski and other community representatives who wish to join the sub-group;

v - ask the Area Co-ordinator to finalise the membership and arrange the

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

first meeting of the sub-group;

vi - thank the Area Co-ordinator for a comprehensive report.

### Minute 4 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Peter Lee, secretary of The Manor Junior Football Club, Liscard, had responded to an invitation to attend the meeting to discuss the problems associated with vandalism to the club's ground and equipment. The club was actively encouraging the young people suspected of causing the vandalism to join the club and channel their energies into football and sporting activities. The club, which catered for boys and girls at all levels between the ages of 8 and 18, was seeking Community Plus status.

The Chair welcomed the attendance of Inspector John Hogan, and two Community Support Officers at the Forum meeting. He paid tribute to the Police's activity at an incident during the past weekend. People living in the area had been very appreciative of the Police's reaction and the way the incident had been dealt with.

Father Leon explained his involvement as a member of the Wirral Advisory Panel concerned with Transport, and a discussion about the restoration of the Bidston Triangle, the railway line running from Wallasey Village to Bidston. He sought the support of the Area Forum, and eventually the Council, to a proposal to put pressure on MerseyRail to continue use of the line.

The Chair suggested that Councillor Knowles, a member of the MerseyTravel Advisory Panel, would have noted the issue. He suggested that a presentation by MerseyTravel would be useful at a future Forum meeting.

A member of the public representing the Norwood Road Residents' Committee raised an issue concerning a specific family. The Chair curtailed discussion on the issue because of the sensitivity of the matter.

In response to a query by Father Leon, Inspector Hogan gave an assurance that an order had been placed with BT for a specialist telephone outside Wallasey Police Station for use by the public at times the station is not manned. An official complaint had been lodged with BT concerning the delay in the installation of the telephone.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - that MerseyTravel be invited to give a presentation at a future Forum meeting.

### Minute 5 - PRESENTATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF CYCLE NETWORKS

The Chair invited Cathy McNulty, Wirral Cycling Officer, to address the Area Forum.

Cathy thanked the Forum for the opportunity to discuss cycling in the Wirral. Her presentation was in three parts

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- Why people should cycle more;
- Cycling, nationally and on Wirral; and
- future proposals.

Copies of the presentation, in paper or electronic format, were available on request.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chair commented that it was pleasing to note that the highest number of people who cycle in Wirral live in Eastham, followed closely by people in the Liscard and Seacombe Wards.

Cathy responded to questions and comments on - a pilot scheme by a major supermarket in another area to loan equipment to enable cyclists to carry their shopping home, and a proposal to work with retailers in Wirral to introduce a similar scheme; the current provision in Wirral for parking bicycles, the availability of Sheffield bicycle parking stands that, on request, could be installed quickly and easily on Council property; the measures by companies involved in Wirral's Green Travel Plan to provide secure parking for their staff, and the encouragement being given to other companies to follow suit.

David Hale gave an account of a discussion with a person who was taking photographs near his home in a quiet avenue in Wallasey. The person referred to identified himself in the audience and explained his involvement in plans for a revised cycle route around Liscard centre, as part of the Agenda 21 initiative.

Tony Forder commented that as a cyclist he was concerned that the cycle ways stopped at Liscard. He had experienced difficulty in contacting cycling officers by telephone to bring issues concerning traffic lights to their attention. – Cathy McNulty replied that the purpose of the Cycle network project was to identify and address the breaks in cycle routes. She offered to provide details of her direct line telephone number. She and other Cycling Officers could be contacted via the Council's website or Streetscene.

Councillor Knowles referred to the many activities, facilities and suitable sites in Seacombe, and suggested that the area would be ideal for use as a project model for cycling.

The Chair thanked Cathy McNulty for an interesting and informative presentation.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - that Cathy McNulty be thanked for the presentation.

### **Minute 6 - PRIMARY CARE TRUST UPDATE - HEALTH PROFILE OF LISCARD AND SEACOMBE**

The Chair advised that the Council had declared its position on the NHS Trust's proposals to close hospital wards and the matter had been referred to the Secretary of State for Health. The situation would not be improved by the Area Forum raising questions on the issue at the current meeting.

Jane Harvey, Director of Public Health, added that the decision to close

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

two wards at Victoria Central Hospital had provoked many strong opinions on both sides. She suggested that it would be appropriate to defer the proposed presentation on the age profile and health needs of the local population to the next meeting of the Area Forum. She proposed, instead, a discussion on the outcomes of a survey involving approximately one thousand people in Birkenhead and Wallasey on their experiences as a patient in a GP practice and in accessing dental services.

Dr Mukherjee distributed copies of the independent survey on Local Health Services 2005. He commented that the report in general was very positive, and the results confirmed that overall the services provided by GPs, dentists and pharmacies in this area were better than those for the rest of the country.

Dr Mukherjee drew attention to the 'Issues for Action', upon which the PCT would concentrate and try to address in the coming months. He would welcome feedback from the Area Forum on any additional issues they wished to bring forward.

Councillor Chris Jones highlighted the problems experienced by people locally and nationally in accessing dental services. The Chair was aware of anecdotal reports that some dentists try to persuade people to register as private patients.

Dr Mukherjee explained the new contractual and remuneration arrangements for dentists in the area. The survey indicated that 18% of local people were not on any dentist's list. There were spaces in surgeries' lists, and there were no reasons why people should not be registered. Any problems with registration should be brought to the attention of the PCT. The PCT was aware of the private issue and did not encourage it.

Councillor Hawkins referred to the excellent work of the PCT in carrying out health checks and preventative work with residents at Liscard House. He enquired whether there were plans to extend the facilities to the general community.

Dr Mukherjee agreed that the provision made a significant contribution towards keeping people healthy and improving the quality of their lives. So far, the health of the whole population living in residential and nursing homes had been screened. The service would be extended, in the next phase, to vulnerable adults living on their own.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved - that:

- i. the proposed presentation on the age profile and health needs of the local population be deferred to the next meeting of the Area Forum
- ii. Jane Harvey and Dr Mukherjee be thanked for their input.

### **Minute 7 - PRESENTATION ON YOUTH PROVISION**

Peter Jenkinson, Deputy Head of Youth and Community Services in Wirral, gave a presentation on the services provided for young people in the Liscard and Seacombe areas and on Play provision for younger children.



## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The presentation included statistical information on the attendances, opening hours, and a selection of activities involving young people in the Wallasey YMCA, the Allendale Youth Club, and the Wallasey Young Peoples project, and on two new play schemes in Seacombe Community Centre and in Central Park.

A new inspection framework has been introduced for all the services provided by local authorities for children and young people. The Youth and Community Service will be inspected as part of the joint area review to be carried out in Wirral Authority's Children's Services in the Autumn 2005. The outcome of all youth work activities will be judged against the five key outcomes highlighted in the Government's document, 'Every Child Matters': staying safe; being healthy; enjoying and achieving; making a positive contribution; and achieving economic well-being. The curriculum for future Youth work would be planned in relation to the five outcomes.

To meet national performance indicators and targets, Wirral Youth Service was required to contact 25% of the youth population between the ages 13 and 19, and engage 15%; ensure that 60% of those engaged gain a recorded outcome; and that 30% gain an accredited outcome.

Councillor Knowles pointed out that 15% engagement meant non-engagement for the remaining 85% of young people. He asked what measures and methodologies were in place to engage the vast majority of children who do not attend Youth projects.

Jo McCourt commented that it was important when looking at the provision for children and young people to acknowledge the significant input made by the voluntary sector. The Summer projects involving the voluntary organisations had not been reflected in the presentation. There were three major projects, all voluntary organisations, who were trying to survive. These organisations depended on financial support from external agencies, the Youth Service and other providers [including the Police] - but all the funding was short-term, without any guarantees.

In response to a query about the ownership of and responsibility for the upkeep of Youth Shelters, Fr Leon explained that the Shelters were the concern of the North West Crime Prevention Panel. Peter Jenkinson responded to the issues raised and on the availability of computer training facilities for children who prefer not to attend school but who engage in nuisance behaviour instead.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - that Peter Jenkinson be thanked for the presentation.

### Minute 8 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1- The Chair announced that the Boundary Commission had made a decision not to change the Parliamentary boundaries to link parts of Wirral with parts of Liverpool.

9.2 - Mindy Rutherford, Manager of the Drug and Alcohol team [DAAT] imparted information on three topics - 1) A proposal to produce of an area plan to address the effects of drug abuse and alcohol use; 2) the

## **Section 1**

### **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

promotion of one of the many projects the DAAT were working on to tackle illicit drug and alcohol use across Wirral; and 3) to ask people to complete a questionnaire on their perception of problems arising from alcohol and drug use on Wirral.

In response to a question on the support and back-up services for people who give up drug use, Mindy Rutherford stated that she would be happy to attend a future Forum meeting to describe the national strategy and the investment and treatment programmes available locally to help people overcome addiction.

9.3 - Father Leon advised that the Seacombe Space Port would be opened on 26 July by Emma Challoner, Wirral Archivist. In anticipation of this event, he had arranged a small exhibition of modern astronomy at Wallasey Central Library from 18 to 20 July.

9.4 - Tracey Smith was attending her final meeting as Area Co-ordinator for the Area Forum. The Chair commented that this Area Forum had been one of two Area Forums chosen to pilot the initiative in Wirral. Tracey had been Area Co-ordinator from the outset and had continued her involvement since that time. He thanked her for her efforts that had enabled the successful development of the Area Forum.

Tracey replied that she had enjoyed her involvement with the Area Forum, and she thanked everyone for the high level of support and co-operation she had unflinchingly received.

#### **Minute 9 - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting will be held on 2 November 2005, 7pm in Committee Room 1, Wallasey Town Hall.

#### **Minute 10 - CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.

# Section Two

## Local Updates

### **Section 3            Community Initiative Funding**

Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership (a partnership of key members from the council, police, health, private and voluntary and community sectors) has a lead role to play in supporting the delivery of the themes listed below and in planning existing services better to deliver their vision for the people of Wirral.

They have undertaken a lot of work over the last 12 months to ensure that they are focusing on those area that matter most to local people. They have updated their first community strategy to keep it in line with the views and priorities of local people, focusing on those issues that you have said will make Wirral a better place both now and in the future.

Wirral's second community strategy "*Getting Better Together 2005 - 2008*", sets out all that they will be doing over the next three years to make Wirral a better place where people will want to live, work, visit and invest.

Based on your views they have agreed to focus on the following four main themes, and these will be adopted by the area forums to enable them to link into the community strategy:

- ◆ **Worklessness** – *We want all residents of Wirral to have access to well paid jobs. We want to ensure a range of opportunities and training are open to all of our communities, supporting work as an option and the development of an enterprise culture where local businesses are supported and entrepreneurship is encouraged.*
- ◆ **Cohesive and Sustainable Communities** – *We want to make Wirral a place that people are proud of, where all of our communities are safe and supported and where our young people are given the best possible start in life to achieve their potential and secure their futures.*
- ◆ **A Quality Environment** – *We want to make Wirral a clean, green, attractive borough, and through working with, and supporting our local communities, we will protect and improve the built environment, ensuring Wirral is a place where people want to live, work and visit.*
- ◆ **Access and Equity** – *We want to make Wirral a place where all people can easily access services and local facilities such as shops and healthcare. We want our communities to be empowered and involved in local decisions affecting local services and where all people in all areas have similar life chances.*

## Section 3      Community Initiative Funding

### • Cohesive and Sustainable Communities



#### **WIRRAL PATIENT & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORUMS**

Have you got an interest in local health services? Would you like to join the **Extraordinary Voice** on the Wirral? Wirral Patient and Public Involvement Forums are helping to re-shape health services on Wirral for the better and have the power to influence change.

Forum Members are ordinary people with an **Extraordinary Voice** and are all volunteers who care deeply for the National Health Service but are completely independent of it.

Join one of the 4 Wirral Patient and Public Involvement Forums who work with:

**Birkenhead & Wallasey Primary Care Trust  
Bebington & West Wirral Primary Care Trust  
Clatterbridge Centre of Oncology NHS Trust  
Wirral Hospital Trust**

By joining a Forum:-

- You can gain the satisfaction of knowing you are shaping and influencing the way local health services are delivered.
- Create a great impact by giving just a few hours per week of your time.
- Receive free training relevant to the role of Forum Member.
- Receive out of pocket expenses including carer/childcare costs, which will be reimbursed for all Forum business and meetings.

**FOR AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION AND FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:  
LYNDA DENMAN OR KAREN PRIOR  
AT THE FORUM SUPPORT ORGANISATION: WIRED  
ON 0151 670 1500/Email: [senppico\\_ord@btconnect.com](mailto:senppico_ord@btconnect.com)**

## Section 3

## Community Initiative Funding

### • Cohesive and Sustainable Communities

#### ASBO Campaign Turns Heads

**WIRRAL Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team has launched its second awareness campaign focusing on the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.**

The first phase of the campaign uses local buses and pay & display parking tickets to get the message across to the public. The campaign features 'mug shots' of a male and female, entitled "Get a life, not an ASBO".

Caroline Laing, Manager of Wirral's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, explains that: ASBO's are used to place restrictions on the behaviour of people who have engaged in conduct that has caused harassment, alarm or distress to other residents. "The purpose of the campaign is to make clear the impact that an Anti-Social Behaviour Order can have on a person's life, in the hope that in some cases this will act as a deterrent to behaving anti-socially."

The campaign poses key questions. Did you know that:

An ASBO could ban you from swearing or shouting in public, from being aggressive or intimidating?

An ASBO could ban you from visiting certain areas, such as a particular road, shopping centre or town?

An ASBO could ban you from leaving your home after a certain time at night?

An ASBO could ban you from associating with your friends?

If you breach an ASBO you could be arrested?

Breach of an ASBO can result in up to 2 years' detention for a person under 18 and up to 5 years' imprisonment for an adult?

The campaign runs on from an earlier campaign in November 2004, which won the Team a national award, presented by Viacom Outdoor, part of the largest media and entertainment group in the world. Local resident, Mr Edwards from Greasby, said, "The posters are very eye catching, I did a double take when one went past me and I saw the two large faces looking at me. Hopefully they will have the desired effect."

Mrs Brown of Moreton, said, " Anti-social behaviour is a terrible worry and I hope people think twice about what will happen to them if they do not change their behaviour. The posters are very striking and I am sure they will get the message across." The second phase of the campaign will be extended into local secondary schools during the new school term, spearheaded by Youth Enforcement Officer, Lucy Pritchard, who has responsibility for dealing specifically with anti-social behaviour perpetrated by gangs of youths. Caroline Laing, added: "The second phase of this campaign recognises that most young people are decent members of our community. The campaign is aimed at the minority who do not behave in a way that our communities expect."

## Section 3      Community Initiative Funding

- **Cohesive and Sustainable Communities**



### **Older people invited to shape future of local services**

Older people in Wirral are being invited to share their views of today's society at Wirral's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Older Persons Conference.

The one day event, "New for Old", is being held at Hulme Hall in Port Sunlight, and will bring together local older people and local professionals from across all sectors, including Social Services, local Health organisations, and Wirral Borough Council, to consider new developments and new ways of working that will affect the independence and well-being of older people living in Wirral.

BBC Radio Merseyside presenter, Roger Phillips will host a "Question Time" style debate with a guest panel, including senior representatives from Wirral Borough Council, Wirral NHS Hospital Trust, the local Primary Care Trusts and a local MP.

Myrtle Lacey, Chief Executive of Age Concern Wirral says: "It will be a great opportunity for local older people to make a contribution to service development and to make their voices heard on the issues affecting older people here on Wirral."

The Conference is being held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October from 9.30 to 4.30pm. Anyone wishing to attend this conference, should ring 0151 666 2220 to request a conference booking form. Entry will be by ticket only.

Delegates will take part in workshops to shape proposed services, such as the Bereavement and Loss service and also comment on the formation of the anticipated Wirral Pensioners Parliament. An electronic voting system will be used to enable local policy makers and service providers to consult conference delegates on current issues and future plans for the area.

Throughout the day, presentations will be delivered to inform delegates about local new service provision, as well as there being lots of displays and exhibitions to visit.

For more information about this conference, or about Age Concern Wirral, please contact:

Jamie Anderson, Senior Manager, Support Services, Age Concern Wirral.  
t: 0151 666 2220 email: [jamieanderson@ageconcernwirral.org](mailto:jamieanderson@ageconcernwirral.org)

## **Section 3            Community Initiative Funding**

### **• Cohesive and Sustainable Communities**

Mark O'Brian from Wirral has been selected for the England & Wales Cricket Board's first-ever team of players with learning difficulties.

Mark who lives in Liscard, will be joined on the tour by fellow Merseysider Dave Lyons from Dovecote, Liverpool. They have been selected for the 15-man squad that will be touring South Africa this November.

During the tour, the team will take on South Africa and Australia in an inaugural tri-nations tournament, which is taking place in Western Cape Province between 10th and 20th November. A series of one-day matches will take place on some of the province's famous grounds including the Sahara Newlands test-match venue, culminating in a final at Boland Park.

Mark has had an outstanding season with Cheshire with both bat and ball and helped them to their first-ever County Championship final at the Hampshire Rose Bowl this year. Meanwhile Dave, who plays for Lancashire in the ECB Disabilities County Championship, is likely to spearhead the England bowling attack. He is widely regarded as the best fielder in the championship – which Lancashire have won 5 times since its inception in 1999.

Wirral's Disability Sports Development Officer, Dawn Tolcher said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for 2 local people to take part in such an event. "The opportunities within disability cricket are developing fast. Wirral's Sports Development Unit is currently working with New Brighton Cricket Club to organise training sessions for disabled cricketers". Dawn continued: "If anyone wants to find out more about opportunities to play cricket in Wirral, all they have to do is give me a call on 653 1321".

As a result of the late withdrawal of a potential South African sponsor, the England players are being asked to raise funds towards the cost of accommodation and internal transport. Any individuals or organisations who might like to help Dave and Mark's fundraising efforts can contact Peter Edmondson, the Tour Manager, on 01772 532806 or email [peter.edmondson@ed.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto:peter.edmondson@ed.lancscc.gov.uk).



## **Section 3            Community Initiative Funding**

### **• A Quality Environment**

#### **WIRRAL IS SPEAKING YOUR LANGUAGE**

##### **At a glance...**

- Interpreting service offers up to 150 languages for easier access to Council services
- Interpreters accurately and securely relay information between the operator and caller

Wirral Council's One Stop Shops and main Call Centre can now offer its customers an interpreting service covering 150 languages by using the telephone interpreting and document translation facilities of National Interpreting Service.

With this new on-demand capability, Wirral Council can now communicate with its customers swiftly and easily in their own language through the use of highly skilled professional interpreters.

Through a three way telephone conversation, interpreters accurately and securely relay information between the limited English speaker and the One Stop Shop / Call Centre member of staff.

Contact Wirral Council on:

All departments and general enquiries: 0151-606 2000

Housing Benefits or Council Tax: 0151-606 2002

Streetscene (roads & pavements, refuse collection, street lighting): 0151-606 2004

Social Services, (information and advice): 0151-606 2006

- **A Quality Environment**

**Children's Parliament on the Environment****SCHOOLCHILDREN across Wirral have had their say at the Children's Parliament on the Environment.**

The debate-style event considered the proposal: 'The Open Golf Tournament in Hoylake in July 2006 will bring a unique opportunity for Wirral people to improve their environment'.

Pairs of Yr6 and Yr7 schoolchildren from 18 schools brought up a range of issues both for and against the borough hosting the internationally important tournament. Short-term impacts were balanced against improvements to the infrastructure in support of the golf.

Everyone also recognised the potential for tourism to help the sustainable development of Wirral. Ultimately they voted in favour of the event being of positive value to the borough.

Steve Maddox, Chief Executive of Wirral Council said: "The Children's Parliament is a fantastically successful annual event and I learn a great deal from the comments the youngsters make.

Environmental issues are one of Wirral's main priorities and the impacts of the golf tournament on environment, transport, wildlife and residents are vitally important to the organisers."

In two hard-fought contests, winners of the individual debates in the Primary School category, were New Brighton Primary and, in the Secondary School category Wirral Grammar School for Girls.

One of the judges, John Turner, Captain of Royal Liverpool Golf Club, said: "It was an immensely high standard of debating.

The Open is very exciting for us, and important for long term economic benefits for the region, bringing more money and jobs in the longer term. It is a matter of balance"

## **Section 3            Community Initiative Funding**

### **• A Quality Environment**

#### **Electoral Register**

- A newly revised electoral register will be in force from 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2005
- Return your registration form for your chance to have a say in local, national and European elections.
- Just turned 18? Moved house? New voter? Sign up now!

WIRRAL Council is urging residents to return their voting registration forms to ensure that no one misses out on their right to vote in forthcoming elections.

New electoral registration forms will soon be arriving on doorsteps throughout Wirral in order to update the list and ensure it is accurate. Everyone should fill in or amend the registration form whether they are regular voters or not, as in order to have the opportunity to vote, your name must be on the new list.

Lesley Hales, Senior Electoral Registration Officer states: "People who have recently moved house, young people who will soon be 18, and new voters should all sign up to the new list to enable them to have their say in future national, local and EU elections.

"Having your name on the new register is also useful as banks and finance companies check this when deciding on approving or disapproving financial applications."

If you have not received a new registration form by the 14 September or if you have any queries telephone the Helpline on (0151) 691 8046.

For more information on the revised electoral list, please go to [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)

## Section 3            Community Initiative Funding

### • A Quality Environment

All Change for Cash Payers - Wirral Council is set to make major changes to cash payment facilities involving the closure of six of the seven cash offices and replacing them with the Paypoint and Post office network.

The changes will greatly enhance the service on offer to customers, as they will be able to pay cash for their council services at 171 locations in Wirral as opposed to the current seven.

The Paypoint sites are located at convenience stores, newsagents and petrol stations. Many of these facilities offer extended opening times and some offer 24 hr, 7 days a week access. Payments by cash and cheque will also be possible at your local Post Office. Ian Coleman, Director of Finance, said: "Residents will be able to pay their bills when they want to rather than when we are at work. Getting the Post Offices on board with this is of major significance as many of our customers, particularly the elderly, feel very comfortable with using their local Post Office and will be able to collect their pension and pay their bills all in one trip from now on."

If you wish to pay by either of these methods in the future you will need to order a new bill with a converted bar-code on it. All bills issued after 15th August 2005 will have the correct bar-code.

Six cash offices based in the One-Stop Shops at Bebington, Moreton, Rock Ferry, Seacombe, Heswall and West Kirby will close from 14th October 2005. However, the main cash office based in Birkenhead at the Conway Centre will remain open. All of the One-stop shops will remain open for other business. The cash offices based in the Housing Offices in Liscard, North Birkenhead and Woodchurch (now managed by Wirral Partnership Homes) will also remain open for customers who need to pay rent only.

As well as enhancing the cash payment facilities, Wirral Council have also introduced credit and debit card payment facilities via One-stop shops, the Call Centre, the Internet and an automated telephone payment facility for some services. Customers will be notified on their bill of the types of payments that are available.

#### **Payments via Paypoint and Post Offices will be available from 5th September, initially for the following services: -**

Council Tax/Housing Benefit overpayments/Miscellaneous income invoices/Social Services – Domiciliary care (only via swipe card) More services will follow and customers will be notified on their bills when this happens.

#### **Why are we making these changes?**

Over recent years, Wirral Council has noticed a steady reduction in the use of cash offices as customers move to more convenient ways to pay such as Direct Debit. Also, by moving to the Paypoint and Post Office network the Council can significantly reduce the charges incurred for collecting cash. This means that more of the money paid to the Council will go towards improving services and less on cash processing

## **Section 3            Community Initiative Funding**

charges.

### **So what do you need to do next?**

If you don't pay by cash these changes will not affect you. If you currently pay by cash but wish to switch to another method of payment such as Direct Debit you can visit your local One-stop shop who will help you to change over. If you wish to continue paying cash you can do so by either:- Continuing to pay at the Conway Centre.

If the Conway Centre is inconvenient for you and you would rather pay your Council Tax at your nearest Paypoint facility or Post Office, you will need to order a new bill with a bar-code on it.

**You can do this by phoning 0151 606 2002 or by visiting your nearest One-stop shop**

## **Have a say on Rights of Way**

WIRRAL Council is encouraging more residents to 'have a say' about the Rights of Way network in the borough.

Walkers have access to more than 70 miles of public footpath in Wirral.

A Merseyside-wide forum has now been established to help make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable. The Local Access Forum meets every three months and includes representatives from the local authority, land managers and user groups.

Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council David Green said: "Together, with land owners, the Council shares a joint responsibility to look after Wirral's Rights of Way network.

"We already have good contacts with the Ramblers Association and the British Horse Society - and through this new Forum we hope to reach wider audiences and encourage more people to make use of the many countryside footpaths we have here in Wirral."

"We welcome feedback from members of the public to register concerns over surface conditions, overhanging trees and hedges, mud and water problems, blocked ditches or obstructions. This helps our Rights of Way officer to identify if we need to take enforcement action or include a maintenance scheme in our improvement plan." Anyone who wants to report a Rights Of Way matter or attend a meeting of the new Merseyside Local Access Forum can phone the Streetscene contact centre on 606 2004 for more information.

# Section Three

## Community Initiative Funding

## Section 3

## Community Initiative Funding

Progress Report on projects that have previously received funding from East Wallasey (Liscard / Seacombe) Area Forum through the Community Initiatives Fund  
– September 2005

St Pauls Monday Tea Party	To fund a twice weekly get together for the elderly who meet to chat, play bingo and have light refreshment.	Report received from St Pauls Monday Tea Party - July 2005: The funding has covered the rental for the hall and enabled the purchase of prizes for our special Christmas party.
Seacombe Premier Youth (SPY)	To purchase musical instruments for the younger members of the group, to take members of the group to a pantomime and to hire a minibus to take the older members of the group to camp for a week.	Report received from Seacombe Premier Youth - August 2005: Thank you for the funding, which has allowed us to work with youngsters giving them an insight into the pleasures of music.
Centre Stage Youth Theatre	To purchase equipment to help the theatre expand their performance of plays and give them valuable experience in the use of the equipment.	Report received from Centre Stage Youth Theatre - August 2005: The equipment will be extremely useful and will enable our young people to be self critical about their performances and how they will be able to improve in the future.
Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability (WIRED)	To purchase two manual wheelchairs due to increased demand for Liscard shopmobility service, and funding for scooter and powerchair parts.	Report received from Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability - August 2005: The wheelchair and scooter fleet have been able to meet all demands for services over the past year thanks to this funding and the number of days scooters or chairs have been unavailable due to faults has been minimal.

### Section 3

### Community Initiative Funding

273 (Wallasey) Air Training Corp	To purchase sports equipment to encourage sporting activities.	Report received from 273 (Wallasey) Air Training Corp - August 2005: The staff and cadets send their thanks for this funding which will help those wanting to learn about sports and encourage others to get into sports. With this equipment we hope that the young people can develop and improve their fitness, health and team building skills.
Liscard House Tenants Association	To refurbish communal room (new carpet and redecoration).	Report received from Liscard House Tenants Association - August 2005: Thanks to the funding we are now able to give our residents comfortable surroundings for our activities.



## **Section 3            Community Initiative Funding**

### **Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) Update**

The area forum had £14,739.06 in the CIF, £3,000.00 from the Community Safety fund and £1,500.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.

The CIF panel met on 18th August, 2005, the panel consisted of Margie Allen community representative, Ann Mather community representative, Carol Thomas community representative, Ian Lowrie (advisory role) and Tracey Smith (advisory role).

The total amount spent on

- **CIF** £13,490.00 leaving a balance of £1,249.06
- **Community Safety** £1,580.00 leaving a balance of £1,420.00
- **LA21** £1500.00 leaving a balance of Nil

Details of the recommendations of the panel are attached. A report went to Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005 for final approval. Cheques will be issued to successful applicants at the beginning of October after the 10-day call in period.

ID	Bid No	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Comments of Panel	Community Initiatives Fund	Community Safety Fund	Local Agenda 21 Fund
<b>Budget</b>							<b>£14,739.06</b>	<b>£3,000.00</b>	<b>£1,500.00</b>
728	1	£880.00	£880.00	Central Liscard Residents Association	To fund the servicing of the association, and to help set up an ERIC collection point.	Panel agreed to fund this project from the Community Initiatives Fund as it will help the residents of Central Liscard.	£880.00	£0.00	£0.00
519	2	£500.00	£400.00	Manor Club JFC	To purchase equipment and kit for the club.	Panel considered the additional information received from this group and agreed to fund £400.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund specifically for the purchase of the goals, bibs and balls.	£400.00	£0.00	£0.00
763	3	£1,000.00	£0.00	Lighthouse Productions	To contribute towards producing a documentary (involving young people in secondary schools who are struggling with main stream education) on topical issues which young people on Wirral feel strongly about.	Panel agreed to reconsider the application with the next round of bids to enable more information to be gathered on how the project will benefit East Wallasey.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
774	4	£650.00	£0.00	Liscard House Tenants Association	To install a heating system in the foyer.	The panel felt unable to support this application at the current time but were pleased to see that the organisation had received support previously from this area forum.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

### Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

777	5	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	Seacombe Soccer Skills	To contribute towards provision of free coaching sessions for boys and girls aged between 8 and 16 years.	Panel agreed to fund this from the Community Initiatives Fund as considered this to be a good initiative that helped young people.	£2,500.00	£0.00	£0.00
778	6	£1,000.00	£0.00	Stanley Special School PTA	To set up a Parent / Carer Resource Unit.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it is not area specific.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
796	7	£2,500.00	£1,580.00	CBED	To refurbish the Place in the Park	Panel agreed to award £1,580.00, from the Community Safety Fund, to fit the window grilles to the rear of the building.	£0.00	£1,580.00	£0.00
797	8	£2,440.00	£2,440.00	CBED	To purchase 8 new highseat / back chairs for the Place in the Park.	Panel agreed to fund this, from the Community Initiatives Fund, as it is helping more vulnerable people and carers in the forum area.	£2,440.00	£0.00	£0.00
811	9	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	The Aspire Trust Limited	To develop, together with local communities, a series of taster workshops and outreach events which will lead towards the production of the Wallasey Community Play in July 2006.	Panel agreed to award £3,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund specifically for marketing costs, publicity, printing and web design only.	£3,000.00	£0.00	£0.00

### Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

812	10	£3,800.00	£3,800.00	Love Lane Allotment Society	To provide the materials needed for the construction of community plots by young people.	Panel considered this to be an excellent project and agreed to award £1,500.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund and £2,300.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£2,300.00	£0.00	£1,500.00
813	11	£500.00	£0.00	Love Lane Allotment Society	To provide the materials needed for the construction of community plots by young people.	Panel did not agree to fund this as have funded another bid submitted by this group to the forum in this round.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
814	12	£500.00	£570.00	Wirral Local Agenda 21 Forum	To run a community exchange day.	Panel agreed to award £570.00, from the Community Initiatives Fund, on condition that the community exchange days are held within the Liscard and Seacombe wards.	£570.00	£0.00	£0.00
815	13	£800.00	£0.00	Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability (WIRED)	To purchase one new scooter for Liscard shopmobility to meet the need of an expanding membership.	The panel felt unable to support this application at the current time but were pleased to see that the organisation had received support previously from this area forum.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

### Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

816	14	£250.00	£0.00	Partnership for Racial Equality (PRE)	To produce leaflets and posters to encourage the Black and Racial Minority population in Wirral to report racial incidents to the Police, Local Authority and other agencies.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as the Community Safety Team have a specific poster campaign running at present.  They asked that the organisation be informed that posters can be obtained from Cathy Newman (Tel 0151 606	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
817	15	£3,250.00	£0.00	Poulton Victoria Football Club	To erect a security fence, to install a security camera and razor wire and a new concrete path at the club.	Panel agreed to re-consider this bid with the next round of funding and suggested that a full security site visit is carried out by the police crime reduction officers.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
818	16	£2,550.00	£550.00	Poulton Victoria Football Club	To employ professional trainers / coaches for both the players and managers at the club.	Panel agreed to award £550.00, from the Community Initiatives Fund, for the training equipment, update physio and first aid equipment only.	£550.00	£0.00	£0.00
819	17	£710.87	£850.00	Seacombe Community Association Luncheon Club	To purchase equipment for use by the luncheon club.	Panel considered this to be a very good project and agreed to award the group £850.00, from the Community Initiatives Fund, to cover the cost of the project including the VAT.	£850.00	£0.00	£0.00

### Section 3      Community Initiative Funding

930	18	£325.00	£0.00	Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	To train all victim support staff and volunteers, and to cover travel expenses for volunteers, to conduct home visits to support victims of domestic violence.		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total Spend</b>							<b>£13,490.00</b>	<b>£1,580.00</b>	<b>£1,500.00</b>
<b>Total Carried Forward</b>							<b>£1,249.06</b>	<b>£1,420.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

# **Section Four**

## Local Area Plan

**Background**

One of the key tasks envisaged for all area forums since their introduction in 2001 was the development of specific local area plans which reflected the needs and priorities of the area forum. The area plans form a key element of the overarching community strategy – developed through Wirral’s Local Strategic Partnership – which sets out how the council and its partners will work towards improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of all communities in Wirral.

Area plans are designed to:

- Identify the needs and aspirations of the local community;
- Identify significant social, economic and environmental trends through establishing an overall demographic picture of the area;
- Promote initiatives that will address the local needs and priorities;
- Provide a work plan for the area forum;
- Provide a more local perspective to the overarching community strategy through identifying ‘common’ issues and needs across the area forums;
- Feed into the service planning cycles of the council and its partners to ensure that the identified local needs are influencing business plans and strategies.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be members of the area plan sub-group. Members of the sub-group are

- Tracey Smith – Area co-ordinator
- Gary Evans – Community representative
- Cynthia Radford – Community representative
- Inspector John Smith - Merseyside Police
- Tony Garrett - Wirral Transport Users Association

A meeting is to be arranged for November 2005. The purpose of the meeting is to look at the area plan and to through the issues part and select a theme for the group to work on.

The sub-group can then look at how they can address the issues raised, what partners they need to help achieve this and will feed back to the area forum on any decisions that are made.



# **Section Five**

## Youth Update

## Section 5

## Youth Update

Over the past 6 months the participation work on Wirral has involved the following:

**UKYP:** the support of the current Members of Youth Parliament (MYP's) for Wirral. This work has included enabling MYP's to attend a regional conference in Hawkshead and a national conference in Leicester. As part of these conferences MYP's have to sign up to one of 7 constitutional issues. The Wirral MYP's have signed up to the teen pregnancy strategy and are in the process of applying for places on a teen pregnancy conference in Brussels. As well as this they are meeting with Brook Advisory to look at the educational material available for young people in Wirral. This information will then be shared at a regional meeting in Oct with a view to producing some material for the region. The MYP's are currently organising a Democracy Dinner as part of a national initiative to consult on issues around voting. The Dinner will be hosted on Sept 28<sup>th</sup> for a group of ten young people. The MYP's are currently involved in planning this year's UKYP election.

**Area Youth Forums:** the area youth forums have recently been involved in consultation on the Charter of Participation, their results have been fed back to the planning group. The forums are beginning to look at more local issues. Birkenhead forum is concerned with safety for young people and lighting in sports cages. West Wirral are concerned with lack of facilities in a local park. South Wirral would like to look at facilities for young people particularly the Youth Engagement Scheme and Wallasey are concerned with skateboard parks.

Young people from the youth forums have recently completed training to be Youth Evaluators, which will enable them to assist in monitoring the youth service. We have now joined British Youth Council and this will enable us to access national training and opportunities.

Next meeting of youth forums;

- ◆ Wallasey Forum on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at Wallasey YMCA, Manor Road Wallasey.
- ◆ Birkenhead Forum on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at Shaftesbury Youth Club, Mendip Road, Prenton.
- ◆ West Wirral Forum on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at Kylemore Community Centre, Kylemore Drive, Pensby.
- ◆ South Wirral Forum on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at Bromborough Youth Club, Acre Lane, Bromborough.

Other initiatives: As well as the above participation work has also included:

- The development of a pack to skill up young people to be involved in club forums, management committees etc.
- Raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities of young people
- Provide resources to increase participation
- Plan the youth conference
- Plan the UKYP elections
- Involvement in a range of initiatives including hear by rights strategy, Beacon Status bid, Children's Plan consultation and regional and a national participation networks.

### WIRRAL'S ANTI LITTER CAMPAIGNING SHORT-LISTED

#### At a glance...

- ❑ Council short-listed for national Association of Public Service Excellence award.
- ❑ Work with anti-litter campaigning to teenagers receives recognition.
- ❑ Ceremony to take place in Glasgow on Thursday, September 9.

WIRRAL COUNCIL has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award – in recognition of its achievements with anti-litter campaigning to teenagers.

The X:CELL4WIRRAL campaign has seen innovative partnership working between the Council, secondary schools, Radio City and Tranmere Rovers FC. Last year all were involved in the co-ordinated targeting of anti-litter messages at school children using the web, radio advertising, live stage shows, text messaging and community litter picks.

The campaign has been deemed so impressive that it has been shortlisted for the annual Association of Public Service Excellence awards taking place in Glasgow on Thursday, September 9.

Director of Technical Services David Green: "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 hard with local schools and the regional station Radio City (96.7fm) to come up with this 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 were overjoyed that this campaign has received so much recognition – at both a regional and national level and look forward to attending the APSE awards ceremony."

The association organises the awards to highlight best practice among local authorities. Officers within Technical Services environmental team will be keeping their fingers crossed to see if they win the category for Best Sustainability initiative.

Wirral's anti litter campaigning has already received regional and national - recognition – winning the category for Innovation and Technology at the Merseyside 21 Awards and being short-listed for the national ENCAMS environmental awards.

# Section Six

Streetscene update

**Streetscene;**

The last co-ordinators report for this forum detailed the Councils preparation for the Open golf championship in 2006.

Whilst Hoylake will become the centre of interest, it is important not to forget the remainder of the borough, as no doubt many visitors will take the opportunity to explore the area.

A key factor when forming a view on an area can be the condition of the footpaths and roads.

The Government has set local authorities the target of ensuring there are no roads left, requiring structural maintenance by the year 2010.

A challenging target. However not one we are going to shirk, whilst most of you will be aware that reporting simple highway faults can be carried out through the Streetscene call centre (606 2004), it may of some interest to describe the detail behind the structural maintenance programme.

This is the method through which we plan and carry out our pro-active maintenance programmes for footway and carriageway renewal.

Each year external consultant's tender to carry out a highway condition survey. The successful contractor utilises the United Kingdom Pavement System (UKPMS). This allows the existing highway condition to be ascertained using either machine or visual inspection methods. These results are then analysed with the appropriate computer software which produces a list of roads and their condition, the worst being first.

At this point suggestions from the Area Forums, Members and officers are integrated where possible into the programme. The finished list is then presented to Members for approval.

To give an indication of the size of the programme, this year will see 49 footways reconstructed and a further 35 tarmac footways given a sealing coat to extend the working life. This will cost in the region of £1.6m.

For carriageways, 65 schemes will be completed; with 51 other sites receiving a sealing coat. The cost of the work is expected to be £2.1m.