

Liscard and Seacombe

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

19th June 2006

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Section One		
	Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising	Page 3
Section Two - Local Updates		Page 12
	Safer & Stronger Communities	Page 13
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New community police station opens in Wirral • Wirral's Mayor unveils report on accessibility of services for disabled people • Making the Prom a Safer Place • Wirral Trading Standards join Forces with Residents to tackle cold callers • Wirral Trader Scheme 	
	Healthier Communities & Older People	Page 17
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £280,000 cash boost for older people's swimming • Survey of Faith Community Activity in Wirral 	
	Children & Young People	Page 19
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Education Centres (Wirral) • Swim Wirral Launched by Olympic Star • Play Like Brazil • Wirral Youngest Awarded • Skaters set to Benefit 	
	Economic Development & Enterprise	Page 22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism partners announce plans for the Open Championship 	
	Cross Cutting	Page 23
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wirral projects recognised in environmental 'oscar's' • Local Agenda 21 Awards - Wirral Winners Feb 06 • Royal approval for new park pavilion • Wirral Open to All – Community Grants • Wirral Beach of England's Best • £9.4 Boost for Wirral Homes 	
Section Three		Page 28
	Community Initiatives Funding	
Section Four		Page 29
	Local Area Plan	
Section Five		Page 30
	Youth Update	
Section Six		Page 31
	Streetscene	
Section Seven		Page 35
	Merseyside Fire & Rescue	
Section Eight		Page 37
	Community Safety	
Section Nine		Page 40
	Highway Maintenance Programme 06/07	
Section Ten		Page 42
	Results of Citizens Panel Consultation	

Section One

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes - East Wallasey Area Forum (Liscard/Seacombe)

Meeting - 8 February 2006

Present	
Chair	AER Jones
Ward Councillors	C M Jones, DT Knowles, G Leech
Community Representatives	Margaret Allen (Seacombe Community Representative), John Drew (Seacombe LCP), Dianne Ledder, Jo McCourt (Wallasey YMCA), Fr. Leon Ostaszewski, Carole Thomas (Liscard Community Representative)
Lead Officer	Mark Camborne (Corporate Health, Safety and Hazards Manager)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Andrew Brannan, Tracey Smith
Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT	Kath Doran (Chief Executive, Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT), Dr Shymal Mukherjee, Medical Director, Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT, Frances Street (Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT)
Merseyside Police	Inspector John Hogan
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Ken Ross
Merseytravel	Neil Scales (Chief Executive, Merseytravel)
Council Officers	Chris Jones (Area Streetscene Manager), Stephen Maddox (Chief Executive), Carol Sharratt (Community Planning Assistant)
Apologies	Cllr Dave Hawkins, Cllr John Salter

Index to Minutes

Minute 1 - The Chief Executive of Wirral Council will be present as part of the Annual Review of Area Forums to invite views, comments and observations on the Forum and any suggestions for improvement or development

Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions

Minute 2 - Area co-ordinators report

Minute 3 - Public question time

Minute 4 - Neil Scales Chief Executive Merseytravel Questions and answer session

Minute 5 - Presentation on Wirral's Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy

Minute 6 - Primary Care Trust update 'Consultation on New Primary Care Trust Arrangements in Wirral'

Minute 7 - Dates of future forums/presentations

Minute 8 - Any other business

Minute 1 - The Chief Executive of Wirral Council will be present as part of the Annual Review of Area Forums to invite views, comments and observations on the Forum and any suggestions for improvement or development

Steve Maddox informed the forum that as part of the commitment to the area forum structure the forums will be constantly reviewed, and a visit will be made to all of the forums once a year as part of this process. The purpose of the visits is to get opinions

on the area forums, and comments are welcomed. These can be given to Steve at the end the meeting, or can be made directly to Steve at the town Hall or through Andrew or Tracey.

Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions

The Chair introduced the members of the forum and welcomed 13 members of the public to the meeting.

He also introduced Andrew Brannan, the new area service co-ordinator for this forum, formerly a Community Legal Service Co-ordinator; Ken Ross, a new member of the forum, from the Merseyside Fire Service. Ken is the manager of the Greater Wallasey area.

Steve Maddox, the Chief Executive, who is visiting all of the forums and preparing a report on the review of area forums; Neil Scales, Chief Executive of Merseytravel, who will be answering questions relating to local transport issues; and Eddie Fleming, to answer any questions relating to Telecommunications (mentioned on page 32 of the area co-ordinators report).

The Chair also asked everyone to complete the questionnaire on promoting equal opportunities and return them to Tracey.

Minute 2 - Area co-ordinators report

The Area Co-ordinator talked through the sections of her report, copies of which were available on the evening, which includes the minutes of the last meeting and the special meeting re: the phone mast and asked if there were any matters arising from these.

Councillor Leech pointed out that his apologies had not been noted on the minutes of the special area forum meeting.

Chair informed the forum that the survey results re: the phone mast at Manor Church Centre. Of the 76 people that attended 22 surveys were completed showing a 95.2% support for residents. The overall reaction was to support the residents and the church, who also want the mast to be removed.

Page 32 of the report gives details of the Proposed Supplementary Planning Document - Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Operators and Eddie Fleming is available to answer any questions on this. No questions were raised.

The forum did not advertise for applications for funding this round as has allocated most of its funding, the next round of funding will be advertised in April 2006.

Local Area Plan - Andrew will be arranging the next sub-group meeting in march 2006.

The report also includes local, youth and streetscene updates.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for her report.

Minute 3 - Public question time

Dave Hanlon - wishes to bring problems with the football pitches in the area to the attention of the Councillors.

- Central Park changing rooms are not in a useable condition due to flooding. Mending and lagging the pipes could solve this.
- Rycroft Road Playing Fields, there are three entrances to the pitches and children's

play areas. Two of these have blocked off, causing young children to have to enter the play area via a main road.

- Wallacre Park, drainage sewers have been installed but the drain is blocked and the pitch is unusable.

Mark Camborne agreed to note these points, speak about these issues in more detail with Mr Hanlon at the end of the meeting, and report back on these.

The Chair also mentioned that issues have also been raised about quad bikes and that this will also be looked into.

Councillor Knowles informed the forum that a request was received from local residents to close the Grove Street entrance as they were having problems with footballers walking up and down the road in muddy boots. As a result to this Roger Calvert, from Cultural Services, arranged for a four week closure. In the meantime a petition from 200+ people was received and presented to the Council requesting this closure. The Council was reluctant to close the entrance permanently, so checked with the residents that signed the petition to ask if they really wanted the entrance closed and they did. The Council agreed to the closure, as it was the wish of the local people in the area.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Mark Camborne to report back on issues raised re: football pitches in area.

Minute 4 - Neil Scales Chief Executive Merseytravel Questions and answer session

The Chair welcomed Neil Scales to the meeting and informed the forum that two written questions had been received, and asked Neil to comment on these prior to taking more questions from the forum.

Question from John Drew, Seacombe Neighbourhood Partnership - re: tunnel traffic noise, what are Merseytravel proposing to do about this? There was a report given by Bullen indicating that 300 properties were affected by noise and should receive some kind of compensation. Another report has now been written, that the residents have not seen, indicating that there are only 24 properties affected - why this had changed so dramatically and is there any written evidence on this?

Neil - under the County of Merseyside Act 1980 we weren't allowed to insulate the roads, but this was fixed as part of the Mersey Tunnels Act and the approach road has been resurfaced and new fencing barriers have been installed which has reduced some of the noise problems. Merseytravel employed Consultants to look at properties along the approach road to identify properties eligible for assistance under the 1988 Road Traffic Noise Regulations. 97 houses have been identified and we intend to contact the owners on this, with a proposal to offer a straight cash grant.

John - these improvements have not affected the noise problems at my property, and there is now more traffic using the tunnel so the benefits are not the same as they would have been.

Neil - we are constrained by the regulations, and have interpreted this as widely as possible to offer assistance to as many property owners as possible. Once we have talked to the residents of the properties we will come back to the forum to discuss this further with the person who calculated the number of properties affected.

Question from Mr Robert Lockheart - what is the situation regarding the withdrawal of bus service 433 from Liverpool to New Brighton.

Neil - the service is not being withdrawn, but there are extensive changes proposed. It will be re-routed in New Brighton, between Rowson Street and Earlston Road direct via Rake Lane, and will actually be increased in frequency from 30 minutes to 20 minutes during off-peak and on Saturdays. The area previously covered by Service 433 (Victoria Street, Atherton Street Albion Street, Hamilton Road, Mount Road, Kirkway and Earlston Road) will have their daytime service replaced, still on a half hourly basis, by the Merseytravel subsidised services 211/310/311, providing links to New Brighton and Liscard, and new links to Arrowe Park Hospital. This area will still have the half-hourly evening and Sunday service 118/119 provided by Merseytravel. Merseytravel have no control over the 37 commercial bus operators in the area, but is doing what it can to fill the gaps in provision. We are trying to change the law to give us better control over route changes, quality and pricing thresholds for bus operators. At present the bus operators can make changes every 56 days. We have been able to fix rail fares to the Retail Price Index for 25 years.

Councillor Knowles endorsed the above and agreed that more control is needed over bus operators.

Dave Hanlon - a lot of people are unhappy with route changes (e.g. Warren Drive) as the bus cuts across by the library not giving people the opportunity to go to Asda. He also mentioned that 433 service should be extended to run on Sundays. Neil agreed to respond directly on this.

The Chair informed the forum that the same questions could be taken to Councillors surgeries.

Dianne Ledder - it has been brought to my attention that the disabled access ramps have been screwed down on some buses to stop them being used and that lifts are not being serviced at stations. (An elderly lady had to use the stairs at Hamilton Square as the lift was not operating and she had a fall).

Neil - if a disabled access ramp is fitted then it has to work. If you can pass me the registration number of the buses then I will take this up with the Traffic Regulator. All lifts should be working all times, if you let me know of lifts that are not working I will take this up with Network Rail.

John Drew - the 403 bus service, that runs through Seacombe every 30 minutes, nearly always runs 15 minutes late from this part of Seacombe to Arrowe park and it stops at 6pm. After this time have to get a bus to Wallasey Village and then catch another bus, can anything be done about this?

Neil - the 1985 Transport Act only allows Merseytravel to intervene and offer bus services where there is a gap, as is not allowed to use public money to provide a service that is already offered regardless of how many bus changes have to be made, but I will raise this issue.

Bob Latcard (New Brighton Resident) - will the 433 be covered by the replacement services?

Neil - yes this will be replaced by the new service.

Father Leon Ostasewski - the rear windows often do not display bus numbers making it impossible to know which bus is at the terminus. This is the case for most of the arriva services, and the buses normally remain on the same route all day so these could be set up in the mornings - can this be looked into?

Neil - the driver is responsible for changing the triple route numeral on the bus, and

if you can pass me more details on this I will look into this.

Councillor Leech - since the Birkenhead Tunnel was closed to HGVs there has been problems caused by just having two pay booths (as these are bigger than the other booths) for the HGVs. This creates blocks to the entrance to the approach to the Wallasey Tunnel from Gorsey Lane, causing tailbacks into Wallasey. Are there any proposals to increase the size of the other booths to alleviate this?

Neil - there are no specific plans for this, but will take this into consideration when looking at the redesigning of the booths.

Dave Hanlon - the moving of the bus stop at Mount Road causes some people to miss some of the buses (118 and 119) in the evenings and on Sundays.

Neil - will look into this.

Father Leon Ostasewski - Bidston Triangle Rail Link, are there any plans to upgrade the section of this track to restore the link from Wallasey Village to Bidston? This would make it easier for people to get from a) Wallasey to Arrowe Park, b) Chester to New Brighton and will reduce congestion.

Neil - a lot of investment, time and effort has been made to electrify the railway from Bidston to Wrexham to create better links from New Brighton through to Wales, and we have managed to secure some of the rolling stock for this. We are waiting for the results of a borderland study into this proposal (which will include a costing for the project).

Margie Allen - commented that she is happy with the bus service.

The Chair thanked Neil for attending the meeting.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Neil Scales be thanked for attending the meeting and be invited to attend a future forum to discuss the noise pollution at the tunnel approach road and bring along the person who calculated the number of properties affected.

Minute 5 - Presentation on Wirral's Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy

The Chair introduced Stuart Crompton, attending as a member of the Community Safety Team. Stuart was seconded to the team to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour and Youth Issues.

Stuart informed the forum that the aim of the Community Safety Team (CST) is to ensure Wirral is a safe place to live, work and visit. The CST is the tactical arm of the Crime and Disorder Partnership, the central point of contact for all crime reduction agencies and is responsible for the co-ordination of crime reduction activities of the four lead agencies: Police, Council, Fire and Rescue Service, Primary Care Trust. It is a multi-agency service set up to work in partnership to tackle issues more effectively.

There are six areas of responsibility, each with a manager, and they report to the manager of the Community Safety Team.

1. Delivery - this includes community patrol, alleygates programme, street lighting, CCTV (there are 84 cameras that are monitored by a dedicated control centre).
2. Information/Communications/Evaluation - this includes data sharing protocols, evaluation of plans to see if they are working, and marketing of plans.
3. Volume Property Crime - this covers property crime, burglary, theft of / from a motor vehicle etc.

4. Violent and Hate Crime - this includes assault and violence, alcohol and race related crime etc.
5. Anti-Social Behaviour - this includes youth anti-social behaviour, nuisance neighbours, public disorder etc.
6. Drug and Drug Related Crime.

Crime Measurements - anti-social behaviour (ASB)

These are recorded by populations of 1000 or households as this gives more fair / represented targets. If they are recorded by wards they may be disproportionate figures, as some areas are not as densely populated. One of the problems with recording crime data is that people require this in different formats e.g. forums want it in forum area, but this may not be suitable for other agencies - such as the Police. The best way to deal with this is to map the whole of Wirral and then look at hotspots - such as Central Birkenhead. A hotspot is where more than eight occurrences of ASB are recorded in a three month period. Then the aim is to target these hotspots first to try and bring them down to levels in other areas. Wirral can also be mapped to show ASB in areas, using colours to represent different levels of ASB.

The Chair thanked Stuart for his presentation.

The following questions and points were raised:

Chair - I understand that there is a considerable increase in reporting crime rather than an actual increase in crime, and the statistics include more types of crime (such as verbal abuse with no actual bodily harm). Wirral has the best crime reduction figures and the best performing Police Service on Merseyside.

Stuart - crime on Wirral has fallen dramatically, in the last year anti-social behaviour has been reduced by 15% and burglaries by 20%, but the perception of crimes has gone up and we are looking at reasons for this.

Inspector Hogan - a lot of relatively minor incidents / disorders are now recorded (e.g. throwing eggs at houses) causing more time to be spent on these and an increase in crime figures.

Dave Hale - would areas with lower density of hotspots be investigated in the same way as those with higher density of hotspots? In Conningsbury Drive area there have been five burglaries in 2- 1/2 years that seem to have been deliberately targeted at old and disabled people. Would you agree that this is a hotspot, where vulnerable people are picked as a soft target?

Inspector Hogan - when defining a hotspot we analyse crime figures, information from Councillors, current intelligence, research etc. over a 5-6 week period. Five burglaries over a 2-1/2 year period is not considered to be a hotspot, it may look like a hotspot but we ideally look at more current period of between 2 to 3 months. Vulnerable people are always a soft target.

Dave Hale - a possible solution to avoid such incidents would be to change the wall in the area.

Inspector Hogan - we could look at identifying tactical operations to try and stop incidents and work our way through options such as security paint / wire on the wall etc.

Chair requested that the issue be put in writing and this will be looked into.

John Drew - a few years ago three roads were defined by the Council as being main pedestrian roads for residents to get to and from bus stops and homes. These were targeted for putting in new lighting for reasons including high levels of crime from club goers on their way home on a Saturday night. Nothing further has been heard on this - has this been passed onto the Community Safety Team to action on this?

Chris Jones - this falls within the remit of Streetscene and if you could let me have more details on this at the end of the meeting I will get an answer on this.

Steve Maddox - The Area Commanders and Senior Officers on Wirral have excellent delivery mechanisms in place, the arrangement with the Fire Service provides a unique contribution to the general level of community safety advice, above and beyond normal responsibilities. Wirral have a model of very best practice that is to be replicated in other areas.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- (i) Start be thanked for his presentation
- (ii) Chris Jones to provide a response to the issue raised on street lighting

Minute 6 - Primary Care Trust update 'Consultation on New Primary Care Trust Arrangements in Wirral'

The Chair welcomed Kathy Doran, Frances Street and Dr Mukherjee to the meeting to discuss the proposed New Primary Care Trust (PCT) Arrangements in Wirral.

Kathy informed the forum that for the last 4/5 years there have been two PCTs covering Wirral. In July 2005 the Strategic Health Authorities asked the PCTs to develop proposals for the Trusts with an aim to improve how they work and save money and use these savings to increase resources for frontline services. Several options were considered, including leaving PCTs as they are, linking with the Wirral Council area, Linking Wirral / Chester / Ellesmere Port and linking Wirral / County of Cheshire. Cheshire and Merseyside have put forward proposals to reduce the existing PCTs from 15 to 7 and are consulting on this. The PCT felt that the best option was that linking the PCT to the Wirral Council area and the consultation is based on this. The consultation period will run until Wednesday 22 March 2006, a freepost consultation questionnaire (this can also be downloaded from the Strategic Health Authority website www.cmha.nhs.uk/cmconsult.htm) is available at this meeting, and we would welcome your views on these proposals. Comments can also be e-mailed to consult@cmha.nhs.uk or via freephone at 0800 389 1366. All the comments received will be summarised and passed to the Health Minister. At the moment the majority of the PCTs do not link with the Local Councils. It is proposed that all the PCTs in Cheshire and Merseyside will have a one-to-one link (with the exception of St Helens and Halton as these will link as one PCT as they cover a small area).
The role of the PCTs

Health Improvements - to improve and protect the local population's health. This involves more than just visiting your local GPs and it is critical to link in with Local Councils on issues that may affect health - such as housing.

Commissioning - to buy in health care and balance priorities, the PCTs spent £450m on patients' behalf.

Out of Hospital Care - to run care services - such as District Nurses, Health Visitors etc.

There are also consultations taking place on proposals to link Cheshire and Merseyside with Greater Manchester creating a reduction, in North West England, of the number of Strategic Health Authorities from three to one and of the number of

Ambulance Service Trusts from four to one.

A further consultation is being held on 2nd March in Birkenhead Town Hall.

The Chair thanked Kathy for her presentation and the following questions / issues were raised:

Carole Thomas - people who are at home during the day can visit the GPs in the mornings, will there going to be drop in session in the evenings for people who work during the day?

Kathy - there are two walk in centres on Wirral that are open from 7am to 10pm, they are nurse led and are able to deal with minor illnesses and appointments can be arranged for blood tests, dressings etc. A Community Health Service White Paper asked PCTs to work with Doctors to extend surgery hours. We are looking at this but it will take time to implement and monitor changes, a balance needs to be struck on this, as doctors can't be expected to provide 24-hour cover. At present surgery hours are form 8.30am - 6.30pm followed by an out of hours service.

Dr Mukherjee - It should be possible to get an appointment in the evening, all GP surgeries are signed up to scheme giving patients access to a GP within 48 hours and we are encouraging practices to meet this. The Medical Director is interested to know if there are problems on this so please let me know of any incidents and I will investigate these.

Carole Thomas - can the nurses at the walk in centres prescribe medication? A member of my family had an incident where he went to the doctors then the walk-in and still ended up having to go to Arrowe Park.

Kathy - the nurses can prescribe some medications, but we are working on improving this. Dr Mukherjee added that this is being looked at, including possibly placing a doctor at the walk in centres.

Margie Allen - is it now becoming common practice to make appointments for the next day? If this is the case why is it not possible to make an appointment in the evening, for the next day, at the Gorse Lane Practice?

Dr Mukherjee - I will look into this and report back.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- i. Kathy be thanked for her presentation
- ii. Dr Mukherjee to report back on appointment system at the Gorse Lane practice.

Minute 7 - Dates of future forums/presentations

The date of the next meeting is Monday 19 June 2006 at 7.00pm, presentations will given on:

- Local Neighbourhood Wardens
- youth participation at area forums

Minute 8 - Any other business

No other matters were raised, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.

Matters Arising

Page 5:

-Minute Decision :

Resolved that Mark Camborne to report back on issues raised re: football pitches in area.

Work has taken place on the football pitches to improve the drainage and playing surface. The improvements should make the pitches more reliable and ensure that more games can be played next season.

Page 9:

-Minute Decision:

Chris Jones to provide a response to the issue raised on street lighting

Chris will cover this issue in his Streetscene update.

Page 11:

-Minute Decision:

Dr Mukherjee to report back on appointment system at the Gorsey Lane practice.

We have alerted the practice to the issue raised and have asked them to consider any appropriate actions, may we thank the Area Forum for highlighting this particular matter

All Wallasey practices operate Advanced Access, which is a method whereby the practice attempts to match the amount of available appointments with the fluctuating demand for appointments.

Generally, this method works well, ensuring patients can access an appointment within the agreed targets of 24 hour for urgent / 48 hours for routine appointments.

However, there can be times when the demand exceeds the available appointments on a particular day or time e.g. this could be a result of one of the GPs having to leave the surgery for an urgent home visit, or having to take time off for personal/family reasons.

In these instances, patients may experience some difficulty in obtaining the appointment they want at the time they want it. I would recommend the patient(s) contact the practice manager at the particular practice to discuss their frustrations

Future meeting: The date of the next area forum is Wednesday 18th October 2006

Section Two

Local Updates

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

Wirral has been chosen as a pilot area for the next round of LAA's. The purpose is to build much stronger links between central government and local partners with outcomes, objectives and targets set for the next 3 years. Key priorities for Wirral have already been established within the Community Strategy and partners own plans and strategies such as the Council's Corporate Plan, and the task now is to draw these priorities together and establish if there are any gaps and include some new additions if necessary.

The aim is to bring together LAA's and Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs) to deliver local solutions to local issues. There is NO additional money with the LAA (apart from a reward grant for delivering 'stretch' on certain targets which replaces the previous LPSA regime) but this is an opportunity for Wirral to achieve more with given/current resources.

Basically, the aim is to 'pool' or align current resources across partner organisations. Within the LAA, Government have identified four 'Blocks' as priority areas, and the Council – with their partners in the LSP – have identified key officers to lead on each one, they are:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • Safer and Stronger Communities | Alan Stennard |
| • Healthier Communities and Older People | John Webb |
| • Children and Young People | Chris Batman |
| • Economic Development and Enterprise | Kevin Adderley |

SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES

New community police station opens in Wirral

A new mobile police station opening in Wirral aims to make a positive impact on areas suffering high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Wirral's Community Safety Team has launched a new Community Police Station to help cut crime and anti-social behaviour. The aim of the unit is for the community to see and feel reassured about the reduction in crime and anti social behaviour in their neighbourhood when the community police station is present.

Funded by Wirral Council and staffed by Police Officers, Community Support Officers, Council Security Patrols - and soon to be the base of a Community Development Officer - the fully functional unit will be deployed into areas suffering high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The unit will be moved approximately 6 times during the year remaining in those communities long enough to make a significant impact on the quality of life of residents in the area.

The station is currently based in Highfield Road, Rock Ferry, following numerous complaints from residents about anti social behaviour in the area.

Acting Area Commander for Wirral, Superintendent John Young said: "We fully support this initiative, it ties into our style of neighbourhood policing in that we are able to move and site the community police station in areas we have identified through intelligence as being 'hotspots' for Anti-Social Behaviour. We want to reassure communities living in these areas that we are taking positive action to address local issues.

"Dedicated officers will work from the station, getting into the heart of the community to address and problem solve local quality of life concerns and issues. We want to encourage local residents to speak with the police officers and use the opportunity to communicate any concerns they have and pass on any information about those involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour activities."

The Community Police Station will bring the work of Wirral's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to the communities that need it most. Equipped with CCTV cameras producing high quality images, a public enquiry office and linked to networked computers, the alarmed unit has all the facilities of a modern office.

Leaflets will inform local communities of the unit's opening hours for public enquiries but the Community Police Station can be open at any time for use by the patrols working in that area.

The work of the Community Development Worker will be to build up public awareness and confidence so residents know where and who to turn to if crime levels rise once the Community Police Station moves on to its next location.

Wirral Council Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Councillor George Davies said: "We see this Police Station as another opportunity to bring the work of community safety into the heart of Wirral's communities and to tackle the local issues that are blighting our resident's quality of life."

Wirral's Mayor unveils report on accessibility of services for disabled people in the Borough

A report and DVD into the challenges faced by disabled people in Wirral will be launched on April 21 at the Lauries Centre in Birkenhead. The event is being jointly organised by the DARE Foundation, a registered charity whose aims are to work with disabled people to promote social inclusion for disabled people, and Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services.

The report and DVD will be launched officially by Wirral's Mayor, Cllr Chris Meaden, and will feature presentations by six teams of disabled people and service providers who worked together for six months. The presentations focus on how disabled people can overcome challenges and make services more accessible.

Cllr Meaden has followed the work closely since it started in April of last year: "Since I became a councillor in Wirral, I have come into contact with many disabled constituents. I am acutely aware of the challenges they face when trying to use services the rest of us take for granted. I have every confidence that this partnership will lead to significant improvements in services for disabled people in the Borough".

The six teams comprised disabled people and representatives from health and social care providers. Their brief was to explore the challenges around six issues and activities:

- Making a film about access to public amenities entitled "A Great Day Out! (NOT)!"
- Exploring issues around people's perceptions of risk, and how this can limit disabled people's choices and independence.
- Exploring accessible toilets in the Wirral area.

Producing a package to raise awareness of disability among primary school children.

- Assessing local venues, looking at access and attitudes.
- Focussing on "the words we use", which relate to disability issues.

DARE's Chief Executive, Jill Fardell, said: "What these projects clearly demonstrate is that disabled people in Wirral are prepared to tackle head-on issues of concern. "They've created a solid foundation for working from now on, and I'm confident that their projects will be used widely throughout Wirral".

Jill continued: "DARE has developed and used this model of working across the UK for the past 6 years, but this is the first time a Social Services Department has initiated and collaborated fully in a programme – and what a difference that has made".

Once the Mayor has unveiled the report, there will be an opportunity for people in the audience to put questions to a panel including John Webb, Wirral's Head of Services for Older People and People with Physical and Sensory Disabilities, Chris Smith, the Occupational Team Manager, Roz Davison who facilitated the work of one of the teams and two disabled service-users.

Kathy Byrne is a service-user who has made extensive use of various services in Wirral and has played an active role in this event: "I have been able to teach others directly from my personal experiences. "As a disabled person, I have been denied opportunities and quality in my life but now feel that society is changing. It is exciting to know that my life has already changed through the DARE Foundation approach. I feel that people are beginning to take an interest in disabled people". And one positive change in Kathy's life is the DARE Foundation's Step up to Learning Course. The course is accredited by the Open College Network and aims to get disabled people back into education or employment.

Kathy completed the course in March of this year and feels that she has benefited from the opportunity.

Making the Prom a safer place!

Residents are being reminded about the importance of lifesaving equipment through a new awareness campaign.

Stickers are being placed on all lifebelts and rope ladders along the Promenade in Wallasey, as part of a joint initiative between Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, the Beach Patrol, Wirral Council and the RNLI.

It follows a spate of vandalism last year that saw more than £20,000 of damage caused when equipment was tampered with or stolen.

Group Manager for the Wirral district, Daryl Oprey, from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, said: "This lifesaving equipment is there for a reason and damaging it could have really serious implications – it could cost someone's life. I would urge these people to think about what they are doing, don't risk the safety of others for a moment of high jinx."



Chief Lifeguard Tony Jones said: "This is the first of many new initiatives we plan to undertake with partners to try to eradicate the theft and vandalism of public rescue equipment."

Alongside the sticker campaign, local young people will be sprucing up the area with a clean-up campaign, organised by Wirral Youth Service

Wirral Trading Standards join forces with residents to tackle cold calling

What is it?



A 'No Cold Calling Zone' is an area or street where the residents have got together to stop uninvited salespeople and warn rogue traders that they are not welcome, by having the confidence to say no.

The scheme is being introduced to reduce doorstep crime. This is crime arising from doorstep callers, bogus workmen, high-pressure salespeople, bogus officials and distraction burglary. The scheme is being backed by key partners including Trading Standards, Police, Local Councillors, Community Safety Partnership and Neighbourhood Watch.

Selecting an area? Ideally the area should be relatively small (20-40 properties) and easily defined by its boundary. A street, cul-de-sac, small estate or neighbourhood watch area are types of areas that can benefit from the scheme.

Marsden Close in Liscard is one of the first areas in Wirral who will be operating a No Cold Call Zone after the residents decided to get together to tackle the issues they are facing.

Anyone interested in introducing a No Cold Call Zone in their area should contact Steve Brown at Wirral Trading Standards on 0151 691 8369 to find out more.

Wirral Trader Scheme

Are you looking for a business that cares about its customers?

Do you need ;

- a roofer
- an electrician
- a builder
- an accountant
- double glazing ?



Are you looking for a trader you can trust to come into your home?

The Wirral Trader Scheme is a Wirral Council initiative managed by the Wirral Trading Standards Service, aiming to create a trading environment where consumers can buy goods and services with confidence from Wirral traders.

Traders must have permanent business premises within Wirral Borough and satisfy strict assessment criteria and vetting by Trading Standards.

They must be reputable, demonstrate a commitment to trade fairly, honestly and deal efficiently and effectively with any dissatisfaction. If however, you are unhappy with any aspect of the goods or services you buy from a member, you must first address this with them.

If this cannot be resolved then Trading Standards will take up your dispute with them and where you have a justified complaint this will be rectified by the trader. A warning will be given to the trader and advice to ensure that any failure remains an isolated case. Further breakdowns will result in the trader being removed from the Scheme.

How to find a Trader!

Some of the accredited businesses are advertised here on this folder and there may be a list of the rest inside your information pack, otherwise;

Visit the Trading Standards website at www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/wirral and click on our logo

You can see the Code of Practice that governs members of the Scheme in the business section of the website.

You can also telephone us to check the up to date membership of the Scheme. **Contact Trading Standards on 0151 691 8639 or 0151 691 8535.**

Visit Wirral Council One-Stop Shops or Libraries, Age Concern (Wirral) or local Citizens Advice Bureaux for details of Traders.

Can you recommend a trader to us? If so, you could be helping in our mission to leave the rogues out of work!

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE

£280,000 cash boost for older people's swimming in Wirral

WIRRAL'S older people are set to benefit from a funding boost of £280,000 as part of the Everyday Swim initiative. It will fund activities over the next two years for older people to access the borough's six swimming pools.

Wirral is one of only seven areas picked by the Amateur Swimming Association to take on the pioneering new scheme.

The scheme, which has been funded by both the Council and Sport England, aims to look at the barriers to swimming and provide best practice examples to affect a culture change across the country.

Wirral will now lead the way in encouraging older people into the pool for leisure, fitness and fun.

The Council's Head of Cultural Services Jim Lester said: "We are delighted to have been chosen as the pilot for the Everyday Swim campaign.

"Our Everyday Swim project will focus on increasing the percentage of older people swimming and swimming regularly in Wirral.

"We will seek to widen access for the increasing older population of Wirral through the introduction of targeted free sessions at each of our six swimming pools."

The seven successful authorities were whittled down from a list of more than 30 applicants and each pilot will focus on a different potential audience who could benefit from regular swimming – including obese adults and children, disabled people and, as in Wirral's case, older people.

Wirral's pilot will be further developed over the coming weeks.

Everyday Swim ambassador and Olympic gold medalist Duncan Goodhew believes the chosen pilots have real potential for making a difference:

"The pilot areas have embraced the concept of a culture change in swimming and I am really excited about seeing the ideas on paper come to life over the coming months."

Stephen Baddeley, Interim Chief Executive of Sport England, said: "Swimming has such great health benefits and we are delighted to be supporting Everyday Swim as part of our drive to get the nation more active through sport."



Churches Together in Wirral

Representing christian opinion across the borough

Welcome to the Churches Together in Wirral web site - where you can search our database of religious activity in the Wirral. www.churcheswirral.co.uk

Churches Together in Wirral seeks to unite its members in response to Jesus' prayer that His followers may be one, and to fulfil Saint Paul's vision of the Church as the Body of Christ in the world.

Believing that service to the community is a prime opportunity to put into practice the values of the Kingdom of Heaven which Jesus preached, Churches Together in Wirral is a partnership of different branches of the Christian Church which aims to encourage and facilitate co-operation between the churches themselves and between church and community at every level.

In pursuing these aims, Churches Together in Wirral seeks to represent its member-churches in relations with the Local Authority and other statutory bodies, with voluntary and community organisations and with other faith communities.

The purpose of this website is to enable faith communities on Wirral to work together, and with other statutory bodies and with the voluntary sector.

Via this website you can find [PLACES OF WORSHIP](#), [FAITH ORGANISATIONS](#) and [FAITH ACTIVITIES](#) in Wirral.

(Survey of Faith Community Activity in Wirral: - This survey was undertaken on behalf of Churches Together in Wirral by the Theology and Religious Services Department of the University of Chester. Funded by WVCSN and the Neighbourhood Community Chest the survey covers all faiths and provides a snapshot of religious activity in Wirral.)

Further information and comments can be directed to Norman Polden at office@churcheswirral.co.uk or by telephone on 0151 6780435

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Life Education Centres (Wirral)

The Wirral Life Education Centre provides children between the ages of 3 to 11 years with a valuable learning experience that has been designed to provide them with the necessary information and skills to make healthy choices. It provides a mobile classroom which is available to all children in Wirral. It contains a number of valuable teaching aids that have been designed to make a positive impact on the way children make decisions about their own health.

Children attending the unit learn how special their body is and how it should be looked after. They are taught the impact of unhealthy choices on their body so that they will be enabled to make informed choices. They need to know about their own bodies and how they work before they can understand the effects of unhealthy eating and the use of drugs on their bodies.

Children attending the unit find out about medicines, alcohol, and nicotine. The older children discuss which drugs are legal and illegal and what effect they can have on their bodies and life style. An important part of the experience allows them to think about relationships and how to build successful friendships.

Whilst in the unit they take part in role-play centred upon their relationships with others and ways in which bullying can be dealt with. They gain the confidence to approach adults for help and advice. In addition they are equipped with the skill to say "no" to their friends and therefore avoid peer pressure that could lead to unhealthy choices.

The whole learning experience is enhanced by the design of the unit. A life-size doll enables them to learn about the working of their bodies and the way in which alcohol, nicotine and food can affect it.

Harold, a giraffe puppet, is used to help the younger children think about how adults can help them to use medicines safely. Harold also has an amazing effect upon the children that enables them to think about their friends and how they should be treated.

Interactive video presentations allow the children to discuss the impact of drugs on their bodies and develop their understanding of relationships and how to say no!

During the school year which started in September 2003 the mobile classroom has visited over 40 schools and provided a valuable learning experience to nearly 10,000 Wirral children. In addition many parents have attended the unit and can offer enhanced assistance to their children. The value of the service we provide can be measured by the fact that schools have requested return visits for this current year. We are hoping to reach even more children this year.

Of course our service is not without cost. Each visit is highly subsidised by the Life Education Centre. In order to continue with this valuable work Life Education needs to raise £42000 annually.

Swim Wirral launched by Olympic star

Hundreds of youngsters are expected to head to Leasowe Recreation Centre later this month for the launch of the new Swim Wirral scheme.

Commonwealth Games gold Medal winner James Goddard will be officially launching the scheme – which is a new swimming lesson plan launched by the Council offering all children the chance to learn to swim and develop their skills.

As well as the chance to meet James – who has swum at the Olympics and recently won gold at the British Championships in Sheffield – there will be lots of free activities on offer.

They include:

- Fun swim sessions on the inflatable ‘sea monster’ for under 15s
- Adult and baby sessions
- Bouncy Castle and disco
- Face painting
- Colouring competitions and prizes
- Kellogg’s Tony the Tiger

Ian Sparks, Leisure Manager for Swim Wirral, said: “This new scheme is part of the Amateur Swimming Association’s National Teaching Plan which offers all youngsters the opportunity to learn and develop their skills.

“When you live on a peninsula, learning to swim is important and we want to make sure that our children have the skills they need to keep safe in the water. Swimming lessons are the best way to achieve that through building up confidence in the water and building up skills.

“We hope that the structure of the new scheme will encourage more children to have swimming lessons and continue with them to improve their skills throughout their life.”

Play Like Brazil

The Wirral Wardens have continued to work hard with *Play like Brazil* to encourage and motivate young people in the area to continue with their education, using the medium of football as the vehicle.



Activities have continued with Riverside Primary taking part in the Warden funded Soccer Enterprise Challenge.

The sessions took part in curriculum time and were again a great success, with fantastic feedback from teachers, students and parents.

This is just one of the projects the Wirral Wardens have been involved in, which shows their commitment to making the area safer for young people to play and enjoy themselves.

They were recently involved with the Play Safe in the Park Scheme. This was a joint project with Children’s fund and On Track aimed at giving young people a safe place in Central Park to enjoy themselves. Wardens attended each night to lend support and reassurance.

Wirral youngsters rewarded

WIRRAL youngsters at risk of becoming drug and alcohol abusers and teen parents have been rewarded for taking part in an awareness-raising initiative.

Staff from Wirral Youth Service's Outreach Team, Wirral Response, and Wirral Brook Advisory Centre targeted more than 100 at-risk young people in Seacombe and Tranmere using the borough's Kontactabus.

Team members approached youngsters in public places over a six month period and offered them advice on the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse and underage intercourse.

They involved young people, including looked-after children, in project work in residential homes, workshops, and activities including ice skating, ten pin bowling and theatre trips as an alternative to risk-taking behaviour.

Those who took part in the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund - backed Streetwork Project received certificates of achievement at a gala ceremony at the Grosvenor Ballroom, Wallasey.

Pauline Miller, Head of Wirral Council Outreach Team, said: "The response from young people to the scheme has been outstanding. It is so encouraging to see these young people embracing the opportunity to learn about alternatives to risk-taking behaviour and we are delighted to reward all their hard work."

Skaters set to benefit

The Council's Parks and Countryside Service are proposing to build three skate parks this year.

Funded through the Big Lottery Transforming Your Space Programme, they will be located at Tower Grounds – New Brighton, Gayton Park - Heswall, and Lingham Park - Moreton.

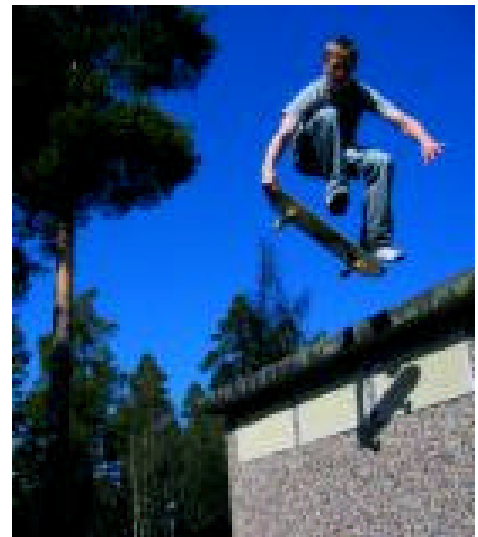
Planning permission has been granted for Heswall and it is hoped to start construction end of May

The Parks and Countryside Service have been working with local skaters and residents around these areas to design a park that is both challenging and safe for a wide age range and will provide an opportunity for young people to engage in a healthy activity.

Planning applications for Tower Grounds and Lingham Park have been submitted to the planning department and are awaiting approval.

Once the planning application is approved we would aim to get on site to start construction as soon as possible. It is aimed to complete all three parks by the end of September 2006

For more information contact the Parks and Countryside Service on 666 4726



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE

Tourism partners announce plans for The Open Championship 2006

The Open Championship returns to the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake, in July this year for the first time since 1967. The Championship is expected to deliver a major boost to the local and regional economy. A report recently issued by the R & A revealed that The Open Championship held at St Andrews was worth £72 million to Scotland last year.

Wirral Council today, Thursday 9th February, announced a range of activities designed to maximise the benefits of The Open Championship for tourism businesses in Wirral, Merseyside and across the Northwest region. These activities are the result of a partnership between the Council, The Mersey Partnership and the Northwest Regional Development Agency and include work with the national and international media, new signage both on and off the course, a guide for visitors and inward investment activity.

The Guide to The Open Championship will provide tourism information for the 200,000 expected visitors to visit Wirral in July. Available from April, it will provide restaurant, attraction and hotel listings, and travel information.

Martin King, Director of Tourism for The Mersey Partnership explains: "We are pleased to be working in partnership with Wirral Council and the NWDA on the projects announced today. In excess of 200,000 visitors will arrive in July and this guide will ensure that they have a fantastic experience during their stay. Even more importantly we want to encourage as many of those visitors as possible to return after the Championship."

Global television coverage of The Open Championship is a key opportunity for the region. 174 hours of images of St Andrews, Fife and Scotland were shown on television screens in over 194 territories, equivalent to £40 million of media value.

Emma Degg, Head of Tourism and Marketing for Wirral Council, said: "Over 300 journalists will be here in Wirral to cover The Open, some of whom will be visiting in advance of the Championship. They will all receive all the information they need including facts on the local area, our great golfing history and importantly, where they can go to get a drink and a great meal. We are also already working with the R & A and the broadcasters of The Open Championship to ensure television viewers across the world see the best possible images of Wirral, Merseyside and the wider Northwest."

The Open Championship also represents an opportunity to showcase the area to potential inward investors. 11.5% of visitors come from overseas, 44% of overseas visitors from the United States. Activity will also be focussed upon bringing new investors to The Open Championship to experience at first hand what Wirral and the wider Northwest has to offer.

Peter Mearns, Director of Marketing for the Northwest Regional Development Agency explained the significance of the Championship to the whole of the Northwest:

"This fantastic event provides us with a great opportunity to place the whole region in the spotlight. The NWDA is proud to support this unique campaign that will ensure England's Northwest benefits from the lasting legacy of The Open Championship, further showcasing the region as a leading destination for major sporting events. "Along with our partners, the NWDA is now delivering a Major Events Strategy to capitalise on the substantial economic benefits of hosting great events such as this. Developing sport is an excellent way of improving the image, economy and tourism potential of the region. "

CROSS CUTTING

Wirral projects recognised in environmental 'Oscars'

Community clean-ups, school eco councils, scarecrows and giraffes – just some of the Wirral projects recognised Merseyside's annual environmental 'Oscars.'

Wirral-based schools, community groups and businesses were winners or runners up in eight of the 16 categories of the Merseyside 21 Awards. Organised annually by Groundwork on Merseyside, the awards recognise organisations that are working to improve local health and environment in sustainable ways.

In the community category Bidston & North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group (BNBEAG) won both the Changing Lives award and the overall award of Community Project of the Year for changing a severely deprived area through involving youngsters in litter picks, clean ups, fun days, and environmental awareness days.

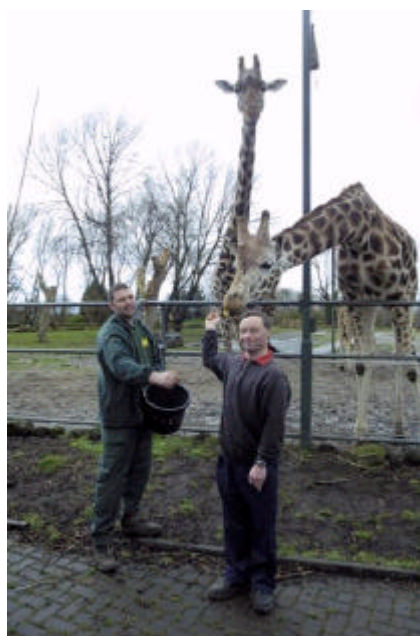
Chief Executive of Wirral Council, Steve Maddox said: "It is tremendously encouraging to see schools, communities and businesses in Wirral taking positive action in their local areas. Grove Street is a glowing example of a school that engages and inspires everyone to take responsibility for their environment, and BNBEAG have shown what is possible when a community gets together to bring about change.

I would like to congratulate the winners, and to thank those who are also working to protect and improve Wirral's environment."

Grove Street school won the Sustainable Schools Award while runners up included the Local Agenda 21 Forum for their Fairtrade in Wirral campaign, and Thornton Hough Village Trust for environmental improvements linked to the Scarecrow Festival.

In the Business Awards, Wirral Independent Recycling Enterprise (WIRE) won in the community stewardship category for recycling furniture. Several Wirral Council projects were recognised with runners up awards going to the Warm Homes and Cosy Homes projects, the Council's road safety section for its work with children. Runner up in the prestigious Environmental Innovation & Technology Award was Hoylake based company called OmniQ who make an innovative refillable 'Airpac' gas capsules.

One of the most unusual projects to be honoured was the Royden Park Project – a partnership between Wirral Council's Social Services, Friends of Royden Park and Chester Zoo which provides gourmet meals for giraffes as part of a woodland management plan!



Local Agenda 21 Awards - Wirral Winners February 2006

Wirral had some success yesterday at the LA21 Awards, notably in the community category where the Bidston & North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group (BNBEAG) won the Changing Lives award and the overall award of Community Project of the Year.

Grove Street School won the sustainable schools award while runners up in the daytime ceremonies included the Local Agenda 21 Forum for their FairTrade in Wirral campaign, and Thornton Hough Village Trust for the Scarecrow Festival.

Wirral Independent Recycling Enterprise (WIRE) were winners in the community stewardship for business category, while runners up in the business categories were Wirral Warm Homes and Cosy Homes projects (both Regeneration), Technical Services road safety section, the Royden Park project and a Hoylake based company called OmniQ who make an innovative replacement for gas capsules.

Shortlisted projects over all categories were:

Surestart Birkenhead North - Brassey Gardens
Dee Estuary Voluntary Wardens - Wild Birds on West Kirby Beach
Wirral LA21 Forum - Wirral Opposes Waste event
Woodlands Primary School - school grounds development
Wallasey School/Acacia Horticultural - Compass Point Gardening Club
Greasby Infant School - the Greasby Growers
West Kirby Grammar School - Outreach Sustainability
Upton Hall School - FairTrade Action Group
Friends of Hilbre Island - Hilbre Island Website
MBW/Maritime Housing - Environmental Wardens
Regeneration - Wirral Landlord Accreditation Scheme
Parks & Open Spaces - Hilbre Island Wind Turbine
Recoplas- new business granulating post consumer plastics
Technical Services - Hoylake Park & Ride scheme
Parks & Open Spaces - Wirral Way Restoration
Peel Hey Country Guest House- green tourism
The Learning Lighthouse - The Wirral Green Machine

Unfortunately we didn't manage to retain the overall Merseyside 21 Award - that was won this year by St Helens.

If anyone would like any information about any of the projects, please contact Sue on:

Sue Weldon

Local Agenda 21 Co-ordinator/Metropolitan Borough of Wirral
Sueweldon@wirral.gov.uk/tel: 0151 606 2364

Royal approval for new park pavilion

HRH The Duke of Gloucester will officially open Birkenhead Park's new £1m pavilion on Monday(April 10).

The new pavilion is expected to attract visitors from across the UK and beyond when it opens to the public later this month.

It is intended as a modern day showpiece for the park - which been refurbished and renovated over the past two years, with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), European Regional Development Fund, Single Regeneration Budget and English Heritage.

The building will house a café, classroom and an exhibition gallery and will also provide educational opportunities for both school children and adults on historic and environmental issues.

Its glass design took inspiration from the park's original architect Sir Joseph Paxton who also designed the famous glass house at Crystal Palace.

The Duke, a former architect, has requested to see the building and talk to those who built and designed it.

Welcoming the visit, Steve Maddox, Chief Executive, Metropolitan Borough of Wirral, said: "We are delighted that HRH the Duke of Gloucester is to officially open the new pavilion at Birkenhead Park.

"The pavilion is an impressive centrepiece to this exciting regeneration scheme which will see the park restored to its former glory. As well as welcoming visitors and acting as a focal point for information about the park and its surroundings, it will be an important community facility, with meeting rooms and exhibition space for local people.

"We hope that the Duke, with his interest in architecture, will be as happy with the progress of this ambitious scheme as we are," he added.

The Duke will be given a guided tour of the park, including the lakes, Swiss Bridge, Boathouse and Grand Entrance.

He will also meet local children who will display artwork at the pavilion, before unveiling a plaque to commemorate the official opening.

HLF's regional manager, Tony Jones, said: "We've committed £7.4 million towards the restoration of the park and we are pleased to see work progressing to ensure the park reaches its full potential as a haven for local people."



Community Project Grants

Details will shortly be announced about new grants and support available for community and voluntary groups, schools, youth groups, sports and social clubs as part of a new borough-wide campaign running from May to September.

'Wirral – open to all' aims to encourage all sectors of the community to take a pride in Wirral and get involved in improving the environment. Small grants of up to £250 will be available to projects which address the project's aims.

Aims:

- encourage agencies, businesses and – most importantly – local people to take a pride in Wirral
- get people involved in improving the environment
- present the best possible image of Wirral to visitors to the Open Championship
- have a lasting impact on the borough

There'll be a wide range of activities as part of the campaign from council departments, agencies, businesses and community groups - from operational improvements, clean-ups, and awareness-raising campaigns, to arts and environmental projects and celebrations.

Partners include Merseyside Police, Merseytravel, Wirral Local Agenda 21 Network, Wirral Partnership Homes, Wirral Investment Network and local churches

There will also be a special **Wirral Environment Week** from 24th June - 1st July.

How to get involved:

- Organise an event or activity during the campaign, or especially during Wirral Environment Week, in keeping with the aims
- Use the **Wirral – open to all** branding for relevant activities
- Help to raise awareness about the campaign and its aims

For more information about the 'Wirral – open to all' campaign, including grant applications and resource packs (available from the end of April) contact Clare Naylor on 691 8255 or clarenaylor@wirral.gov.uk

Wirral beach of England's best

A WIRRAL beach has been named one of the country's cleanest and safest - for a third successive year.

Wallasey Beach, Harrison Drive, has been named one of two Merseyside recipients of the ENCAMS Rural Seaside Award.

The annual award recognises beaches which are well-managed, clean, and safe. Josef Hanik, Wirral Senior Ranger, said: "We have once again demonstrated our commitment to managing areas of Wirral foreshore as amenity beaches where several departments within the local authority are working together to provide clean, safe areas for people to enjoy our wonderful coastline".

The criteria for maintaining the award includes regular cleaning of the beach throughout the summer, cleaning adjacent access points including the embankment and slipways and providing basic facilities including toilets and site information boards.

The Wirral Lifeguard Service continues to provide increased staffing during the summer months along the coast.

Josef added: "Next year sees a new award scheme introduced by ENCAMS 'the Quality Coast Awards', and we will be entering more beaches into this scheme recognising the importance of our coast as a valuable local and tourist asset "

Wallasey Beach will retain its Rural Seaside Award for 12 months.

£9.4m boost for Wirral homes

Wirral will see nearly £10m spent on affordable housing across the borough following a major cash-boost.

Around £9.4m will be invested in 173 new and refurbished low-cost units across Tranmere, Rock Ferry, central Birkenhead, and Moreton.

10 schemes to be undertaken by Registered Social Landlords (Housing Associations) will provide low-cost homes: properties for rent, and shared ownership - with a proportion for supported housing for more vulnerable client groups.

Wirral Council will work closely with service providers, including Registered Social Landlords, to deliver the schemes over the next two years.

Alan Stennard, Wirral Council Director of Regeneration, said: "This welcome new investment will provide us with further resources to tackle the shortage of social housing and assist in housing market renewal. It will also allow us to increase the number of low-cost homes and assist more people to access owner-occupancy opportunities."

The cash-injection has come from the Housing Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme, and will be used to meet both Wirral and regional housing priorities.

Section Three

Community Initiative Funding

Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
£1,000.00	Seacombe Community Association	To cover staff costs to run an afternoon and summer holiday playscheme.	Report received from Seacombe Community Association - February 2006: Thanks for the funding to enable us to run the afternoon and summer holiday playscheme.
£2,440.00	CBED	To purchase 8 new highseat / back chairs for the Place in the Park.	Report received from CBED - March 2006: The chairs are a great success and make the place a nice place to sit.
£3,800.00	Love Lane Allotment Society	To provide the materials needed for the construction of community plots by young people.	Report received from Love Lane Allotment Society - March 2006: The grant has enabled us to make a significant start on our community plot, with the help of a group of 16-25 year olds working on a 12 week scheme with the Scottish Power / Princes Trust. The progress made has been a great boost to the site and has started people talking about all the other things we could achieve.
£1,000.00	Wallasey YMCA	To upgrade Wallasey YMCA sports facility.	Report received from Wallasey YMCA - February 2006: Thanks to the funding that contributed towards replacing the lighting tubes in the sports hall.

Section Four

Local Area Plan

The Area Plan for the New Brighton and Wallasey Area Forum is near completion after consultation with Area Forum Members on the issues that should be prioritised for attention by Wirral Borough Council and its key partners.

The Area Plan adopts the themes as set out in the Council's Local Area Agreement and focuses on issues that the Area Forum can have a positive effect on.

The four main themes in the Area Plan are:

- Safer and Stronger Communities.
- Children and Young People.
- Economic Development and Enterprise.
- Healthier Communities and Older People.
- Cross cutting themes to benefit the whole of Wirral.

By working with Area Forum Members and key partners including Community Representatives, Police and Local Councillors, the most important issues in the New Brighton and Wallasey area are being identified and addressed.

Some of the key issues raised in the plan are:

- A safe environment for all members of the community.
- Improved opportunities for young people.
- To improve Streetscene.
- Assist with the provision of effective services for children and young people.
- Support the sustainable growth and reduce the unnecessary failure of locally owned business.
- To ensure older people are able to exercise independence.
- To ensure older people do not feel isolated.

When the plans are completed they will be distributed at the Area Forum. It is also important to know that the Area Plans are working documents, which will constantly be monitored and updated to ensure that the issues included are still relevant for the area and that they are as up to date as possible.

The Area Plans will be distributed to all interested parties at the end of June 2006.

Section Five

Youth Update

Liscard and Seacombe

Allandale Youth Club operates on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and offers a range of opportunities for young people in the Seacombe area. These opportunities include animation workshops, DJ, dance, graffiti workshops, boxercise workshops, and sexual health workshops.

Wallasey Young People's Project delivers outreach work in the area including Sports Development work carried out on Friday evenings. Projects have included young people from Seacombe working with ASDA and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service raising money at a charity car wash.

Some partnership working with the Risk Taking Behaviour Team has taken place in Seacombe, Egremont and Central Park when work has been delivered on issues of alcohol, drug use and unprotected sex.

A group of young people from Egremont have been involved in delivering training to elected members.

Co working has taken place with partners, which include Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, ASDA, Wirral Community Safety Team, North Wirral Crime Prevention Panel, Risk Taking Behaviour Team (youth engagement shelter) and Sports Development.

Outreach work is also being delivered in Seacombe one evening a week.

Young people from this area also access advice and support from Response Agency.

Wirral Youth Theatre

Offers various participatory arts workshops and projects to young people Monday to Thursday evenings 6-9 pm. Young people gain access to a range of activities and opportunities including drama, dance, performance opportunities, music, new media,

Technical theatre set building, sound and lighting skills etc. Also on offer are peer education opportunities and training where young people can gain a BTEC qualification in Peer Education. Wirral Youth Theatre also works in schools in the area.

Young people from this area access opportunities at Wirral Youth Theatre.

As well as the above small grants are available to youth groups and are awarded by the local youth forum

Section Six

Streetscene Update

Review of disc zone parking

WIRRAL Council has carried out a major consultation exercise with residents and businesses in Birkenhead – over plans to scrap disc zone parking regulations.

Increased traffic, evolving Government policies and changes to the commercial, retail and residential elements within Birkenhead have prompted the review.

Phil Black from Parking Services said: “The present scheme confuses motorists from outside the area who are unfamiliar with the regulations and it is extremely difficult to enforce. We want to encourage motorists to make more use of alternative modes of transport, and think twice before taking a journey by car. This review is aimed at freeing up parking spaces for those who have no option but to travel by car. It should also help local businesses, by encouraging a faster turnover of parking spaces which makes it easier for customers and visitors to find a space.”

The Council has written to more than 900 residents and 600 businesses, appealing for as many as possible to respond to a survey. This will enable officers to gain a full understanding of parking requirements and help them to identify a solution that best meets the needs of the local area.

The following options are being considered as part of this review:

- Increased on-street parking provision.
- Introducing resident parking schemes.
- Charging for on street parking within the current disc zone.
- Reviewing the current controlled parking boundaries.
- Reviewing days and times of operation of the controlled zone.

The results from this questionnaire will help prepare a report outlining proposals for the Environment and Transport Select Committee. Once this has been considered, the proposals will be formally advertised for comments, with notices displayed on street and in the local press.

Traffic ban for rural routes

A TRAFFIC ban restricting articulated vehicles from passing through Barnston and Thornton Hough in Wirral has now come into effect. Council highway engineers have been putting up regulatory traffic signs along Barnston Road, Thornton Common Road and Neston Road as the local authority has completed the necessary legal procedures to introduce an eagerly awaited Traffic Order. The move was prompted in response to public concern over the opening of a large distribution centre outside Neston on the A540. The centre had been expected to generate an increase in the number of HGVs using these routes.

The Order affects:

- Barnston Road (A551) from its junction with Brimstage Road to its junction with Thingwall Road East.
- Neston Road and Thornton Common Road (B5136) from its junction with Parkgate Lane to its junction with Clatterbridge Road.

Red circled signs reading 'No articulated vehicles' now feature at these junctions. Blue information signs are also being installed along side roads. The Council proposed the Order in the interests of road safety, traffic management and to preserve the existing character of Barnston village and Thornton Hough, both of which are Conservation Areas. Merseyside Police will be responsible for enforcing the ban. In the meantime Council officers have fitted specialist traffic counting equipment along both routes to check articulated vehicles are adhering to the new restrictions.

Road improvements along Saughall Massie Road

WIRRAL Council has started work on a £300,000 road improvement scheme along Saughall Massie Road in West Kirby. Work began at the end of February and the road is currently closed from its junction with Black Horse Hill to its junction with Gilroy Road.

The project is expected to take twelve weeks to complete allowing for the road to be rebuilt, widened and have parking bays installed. The scheme will reduce congestion and improve road safety along one of the main thoroughfares to and from West Kirby. In the past parked cars have disrupted the flow of traffic in the area, particularly outside Black Horse Hill primary at the start and finish of the school day. The scheme will create new parking bays when the road is widened.

Overhaul of road signage

HIGHWAY experts in Wirral have started work on the largest overhaul of road signage the borough has ever seen. More than 300 road signs are being upgraded or replaced as part of a £70,000 initiative. Signs with directions, warnings and speed limit information are all being reviewed as part of the exercise. The overhaul is aimed at improving road safety, reducing pavement clutter and ensuring that motorists will be able to find their way around Wirral easily – in readiness for The Open Championship in Hoylake this summer.

Director David Green said: "Schemes that improve road safety are a high priority for this Council. The Open will see thousands more motorists on Wirral's roads making their way to The Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club this July.

Many will be unfamiliar with the local area – and we've carried out this review of signage to make sure drivers can find their way about as safely as possible. We want motorists to be clear about the speed limit and alerted to any potential hazards, such as bends in the road. We've also used this exercise as an opportunity to tidy up our pavements, and remove redundant signs."

The scheme covers all priority routes in Wirral. Key 'A' roads that have already been reviewed and improved include Birkenhead Road, Market Street, Meols Drive, Grange Road, Column Road, Telegraph Road, Barnston Road and Brimstage Road. Over the coming weeks traffic officers will be concentrating their efforts on main roads in Birkenhead and Wallasey. Faded and damaged signs are being replaced with those using the latest reflective materials. This reduces the need for illuminated signs and improves the Council's energy efficiency. Wherever possible, separate signs are being merged on to a single column. This minimises clutter along Wirral's pavements, and reduces the risk of signs creating an obstruction for people with disabilities.

New Food and Garden Waste recycling initiative

THE first large scale combined food and garden waste collection in Merseyside began this April for 20,000 homes in Wirral.

Residents received a brand new brown wheelie bin for both food and garden waste, to replace the white garden bag. A handy kitchen caddy, small enough to sit on a work-top or under the sink,

also provides a useful container to transport kitchen scraps to the wheelie bin. The scheme, which will eventually be rolled out to other residents, currently involves homes in Heswall, Gayton, Pensby, Spital, Bebington, Higher Bebington, Prenton, Oxton, Caldy, West Kirby, Thingwall and Irby, and is aimed at boosting recycling rates across Wirral.

People taking part in the scheme have received a brown wheelie bin to take food scraps and all the garden waste that was previously placed in the white garden waste bag. The new bin is more durable, easy to move and holds much more.

Over 22% of the average contents of a bin are made up of kitchen scraps and the new service will reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill and help the environment.

Not only is the Council introducing the food and garden waste recycling but officers are also working on a dry recyclable collection too. This includes plastics, glass, cardboard, paper and cans. Changes to waste services will be introduced over time from August 2006. The Council will make sure residents receive all the help and information they need to get recycling.

New roundabout for Leasowe Road / Gardenside

WORK has begun on a major road improvement scheme in Wallasey. Technical Services is building a roundabout at the junction of Leasowe Road and Gardenside. The scheme is aimed at improving road safety and reducing congestion at one of the busiest junctions in the area.

Director David Green, said: "The Council has carried out a number of major schemes this year – along Thornton Common Road, at Arrowe Park and in Saughall Massie. We hope this latest project at one of Wallasey's busiest junctions further demonstrates our commitment to improving road safety, reducing congestion and lowering accident figures for the borough. Residents and motorists have shown great patience in waiting for this roundabout – we've had to follow lengthy legal procedures to buy additional land, needed as part of the scheme. Our highway officers are delighted that work is now starting on site and will do their utmost to minimise disruption for the local community while it is carried out."

Work started at the end of April and is expected to take up to four months to complete. The project involves building a 9-metre roundabout and new pavement, improving street lighting, upgrading bus shelters and introducing pedestrian crossing facilities. This will make crossing the road much safer for children attending the nearby Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School.

BT and Manweb have been working in the area for a number of months, carrying out essential diversion work – ahead of Council contractors starting on site. The scheme is being funded by central government as part of the Merseyside Local Transport Plan settlement for the area.

A41 footbridges are removed

WIRRAL Council has started work on a £1m package of environmental improvements for the A41 corridor, including the removal of footbridges in Eastham and Bromborough.

Mill Road footbridge in Bromborough was removed by crane, during an overnight road closure from 9pm on Saturday, March 4. A second bridge at Carlett Park was removed during a closure the following weekend.

Built in the 1960s, the Council faced costs of up to £70,000 to repair the two structures. Highway officers consulted with residents and monitored use of the two bridges. Both had low pedestrian usage and nearby pedestrian crossing facilities were being used in preference to the footbridges. The structures were also perceived by some people to be unsightly with the potential for attracting

anti-social behaviour. Contractors were appointed to remove them on behalf of the Council and officers requested that materials recovered were sent for recycling. The bridges, their ramped walkways and stair cases, where possible, were removed the same night. Any necessary repair works to the pavements were also carried out.

Upgrade to some of Wirral's best loved promenades

A MAJOR refurbishment of some of Wirral's best-loved stretches of promenade gets underway this month (May).

Three kilometres of coastline, stretching from West Kirby to Hoylake, is in line for an £85,000 facelift. Promenade railings and shelters along South Parade, North Parade and Meols Parade have been earmarked for upgrading, with work expected to start within the month.

The scheme is being funded as part of the Council's annual coastal maintenance programme. Work is scheduled for completion as part of the 'Wirral – Open to All' campaign, aimed at improving the appearance of the local environment in time for The Open Championship at Royal Liverpool this summer.

The railings along South Parade in West Kirby endure some of the most extreme forces of nature being both abraded by sand and corroded by saltwater. They are now due to be coated in a new specialist hard wearing marine paint.

A total of six shelters in the area will be given a complete overhaul – with repainting, re-roofing, and new panels fitted to shelters where needed.

Work is also being done to reduce the amount of windblown sand along the promenade, with replacements to mesh panels being put in place, preventing sand from getting on to the road.

Section Seven

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Update

This will be updated at the meeting by the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Representative.

Section Eight

Community Safety Update

Making Wirral Safer.

Our work as the Joint Community Safety Team (JCST) is showing good performance against our targets to make Wirral safer. As a partnership, we are required to achieve a 20% reduction against a number of indicators by March 2008. Wirral performance for the first half year of the target period (April - October 2005) has shown an 11.3% reduction compared to the same period in our baseline year 2003/04. We therefore have a further two and one half years in which to make a further 9% reduction in order to achieve the target. Based upon our projected performance the chances of us achieving our annual milestone target are very good.

Our performance compared to our most similar family of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) places us in fourth position out of 15 other areas and below the most similar family average.

C.C.T.V. developments;

The council have supported the development, through various funding streams, of the CCTV system into digital which enables police officers to obtain CCTV images more efficiently and enables staff to be more proactive in its use. We have also kept abreast of developments within the industry and have utilised the latest mobile CCTV systems to place in 'hot spot' areas.

What are we doing to reduce burglary (dwelling)?

Our performance to reduce the numbers of domestic burglaries continues to be at a high level. During the period April - October 2005 (which includes this quarter's performance) there has been a 14.4% reduction in burglaries compared to the same period last year. This means 148 fewer victims of this offence.

- Alleygates continue to be installed in the more vulnerable areas for burglary across the Borough
- 167 properties target-hardened through Victim Support Service.
- Burglary campaign on road hoarding signs, buses, radio (Buzz FM & Community Radio – Leasowe).
- Burglary reduction marketing campaigns featuring Crimestoppers
- Property mark using Smartwater technology in homes and schools
- Smartwater leaflet distribution through Youth Offending Service and the Alleygating programme
- Financially supporting Victim Support (through Government funding streams) to improve security in vulnerable homes which has lowered repeat victimisation.
- The Joint Community Safety Team organised and hosted a conference entitled 'Friend or Foe' to highlight the issues surrounding doorstep crime, particularly targeting the elderly
- Operating closely with Merseyside Police 'Pier Project' which targets Persistent and Prolific Offenders.

Domestic Burglary is an area subject to an LPSA target with a target not to exceed 4,700 offences of burglary over the two year life of the agreement which ends in March 2006. Our projected March 2006 performance predicts a level of 3,523 burglaries which equates to a total of 1,177 burglaries below our target of 4,700.

What are we doing to reduce business crime?

The team works closely with Trading Standards, Business Crime Direct, the Wirral Chamber of Commerce and independent traders. Some initiatives include;

- The number of Pub / Shop-Watch schemes mushrooming with the latest areas of Hoylake, West Kirby and New Brighton coming on line.
- Radio Watch schemes also being established Wirral-wide
- Development of CCTV Broadband monitoring within Shop-Watch Schemes
- New Web-based Ringmaster which alerts businesses to crime trends
- CCTV Broadband monitoring system placed in two Birkenhead nightclubs which will also address violent crime linked to Council Control Room

What are we doing to reduce vehicle crime?

Vehicle Crime represents a further good news story in terms of performance against targets. During the period April - October 2005 the number of vehicles;

- Vehicles stolen have fallen by 40.8% compared to the same period last year and are 53.3% below our performance during the baseline year 2003/04. Against a quarterly target of 453 vehicles being stolen we have recorded only 278 incidents
- The numbers of vehicles broken into has fallen by 8.3% this year compared to the same period 2004/05 and has fallen by 22.3% compared to the same period within our baseline year. During the last quarter against a target of 510 vehicles being broken into we have recorded only 440 incidents.

Initiatives, following on from extensive research on car crime on the Wirral, include: -

- 'Roadshows' throughout the Wirral in which Neighbourhood Police Inspectors have assisted to raise public awareness of Car Crime through their staff.
- Marketing communications campaign, this was launched in November in line with the seasonal trend of increased offences for car crime. The campaign will continue until February 2006 when the Home Office Car Crime Campaign will commence.
- Tri-band signs erected on lamp columns in areas of greatest risk in order to remind people to lock and secure their vehicles and are careful with their property.
- CCTV placed on various buildings to link through Council Broadband systems, which monitor vulnerable car parks.
- Mobile CCTV cameras deployed to various locations to deter car crime.
- 'Talk Boxes' (which give an audible car crime reduction message) placed in four sites where they would have the maximum benefit.
- Signage in local 'beauty spots' where there have been sporadic thefts from vehicles.
- Crime reduction leaflets and posters distributed via Wirral Chamber of Commerce to businesses addressing car crime. This also includes leaflets given by retailers to customers at the point of sale when making purchases of items such as Satellite Navigation Systems.
- Leaflets with specially designed crime reduction message placed under car windscreen wipers distributed by Police, Community Support Officers and volunteers.

What are we doing to tackle anti-social behaviour?

Reported incidents of anti social behaviour have shown a 9% reduction during the last quarter. This quarter comprised Mischief and Bonfire nights both generators of high levels of anti social behaviour but this year,

- Due to the joint work between the JCST partners. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service saw a 35% reduction in calls on Bonfire Night compared to 2004/05.
- In the year to date we have also seen 12 Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) obtained against an annual target of 4 ASBO's.
- The CDRP is actively working through the Youth Service and voluntary agencies to engage young people resulting in the provision of diversion activity across the Borough
- New projects will address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) with the help of additional support from Government to target alcohol-related violence.
- More co-ordinated response to 'hotspot' areas. An important outcome of this work has been a steady fall in the number of incidents of disorder being reported. There were over 4,500 less incidents reported in 2004-05 compared to 2003-04.
- The above, together with joint support of new anti social behaviour legislation, has been evaluated as successful in reducing disorder in areas critically affected by such problems.
- Wirral's Youth Offending Service has been ranked 15th out of 155 authorities. This places the team in the top 10% of best performing youth services in the country.

What are we doing to reduce the impact of drug and alcohol abuse?

Operation Hawk is a nationally acclaimed enforcement operation jointly funded by the Local Authority, DAAT and Merseyside Police which involves education and community support aiming to tackle the availability of drugs. Since the start of this operation:

- Over 150 warrants have been executed
- 180 persons arrested and charged for drug offences
- £120,000 cash assets seized
- Drugs to an estimated street value of £1 million seized.
-

Violent crime

Violent crime remains an area in which we do not anticipate reaching our overall target. Half way through the first year of our three year target for the more serious incidents of violence we remain 0.9% above our baseline year. In the second category of violence offences, assaults in which less serious injuries occur and in which a Police Officer is assaulted there has been an increase on the baseline year of 68.7%. Whilst this increase is significant it is exaggerated by the small numbers of this type of offence.

What are we doing to help victims / survivors of domestic violence?

A Family Safety Unit was opened at the end of November at the Old Court Building, Manor Road, Wallasey. It will improve services, focusing on risk assessment, earlier intervention and practical support to victims / survivors to assist them through the criminal justice process and reduce the threat to their safety. The Unit will also co-ordinate responses based on the experience gained in dealing with Race Hate Crime. For more information about the Family Safety Unit email familysafetyunit@wirral.gov.uk or call 0151 606 5440.

Section Nine

Structural Maintenance Programme 06/07

Name of Road	Limits	Ward	UKPMS Ranking	Other Priorities	Estimate	Category	Description of Works
Percy Road	All	Seacombe	83		£1,000	Surface Treatment to footway	
Percy Road	All	Seacombe	83		£23,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Caldy Road West Road Daventree Road	All	Liscard	83 -- 66		£71,000	Structural footway & Carriageway	P/L kerbs Remove flags & construct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Rullerton Road Phase 2	Part	Liscard	50		£50,000	Structural footway	P/L kerbs as required Remove flags & construct flexible verge L/R flags
Moseley Avenue	All	Liscard	43	*	£24,000	Structural footway & carriageway	P/L kerbs as required Reconstruct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
St Elmo Road	All	Liscard	34	*	£11,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway

Dock Road	Part	Seacombe			£50,000	Structural carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Berwyn Road Eddisbury Road	All	Liscard	--		£50,000	Structural Footway	P/L kerbs as required Remove flags & construct flexible footway
Rolling programme of works							
Ivor Road	All	Liscard	--		£30,000	Structural Footway	P/L kerbs. Remove flags & construct flexible footway
Trafalgar Road Greenwood Lane Stringhey Road Ivor Road	All	Liscard	--	For traffic calming	£110,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Trinity Road Kingswood Road Eddisbury Road Berwyn Road	All	Liscard	--	To complete scheme	£37,800	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Wright Street	All	Liscard	--	To complete scheme	£19,500	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway

Section Ten

Results of Citizens Panel Consultation

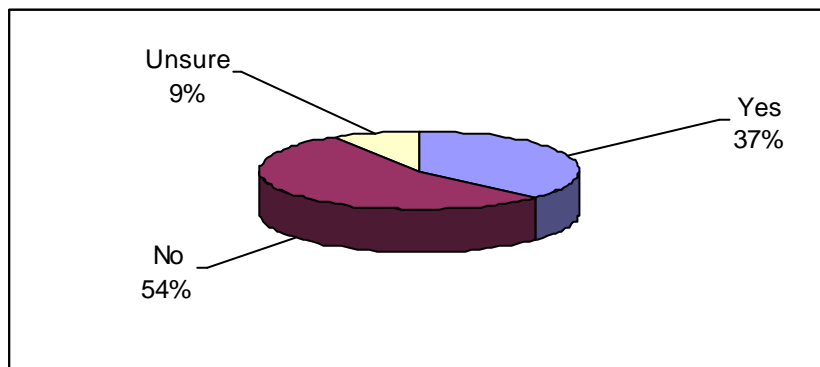
Results of Citizens Panel Consultation Questionnaire on the Area Forums and Community Initiatives Fund

Wirral Citizens Panel is a consultation vehicle that enables the Council and its partners to seek the views of a cross section of Wirral people. The Panel was established in October 1999, and currently has around 2400 members from across Wirral. It is funded by the Council, Health (Primary Care Trusts) and Police, is steered by Wirral's multidisciplinary Research Group and administered by Mott MacDonald Merseyside Information Service.

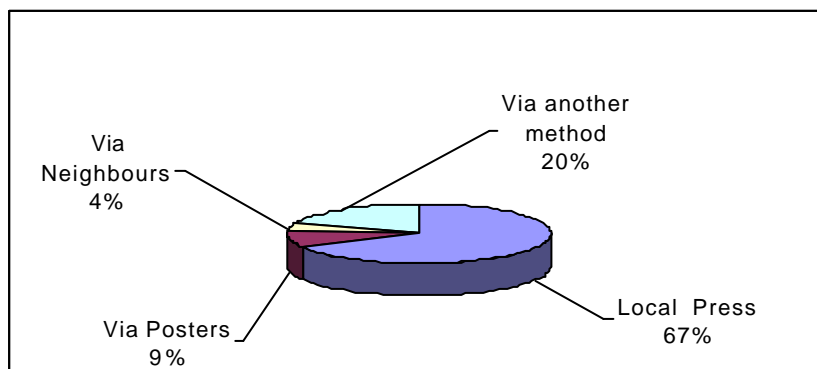
A questionnaire was sent to the panel members in October 2005 that included a number of questions relating to the Area Forums and the Community Initiatives Fund. Overall, 1155 questionnaires were returned from the Wirral Panel members, of the 2074 questionnaires sent out, giving a response rate of 55.7%. Some of the results from this are shown below:

Area Forums – General

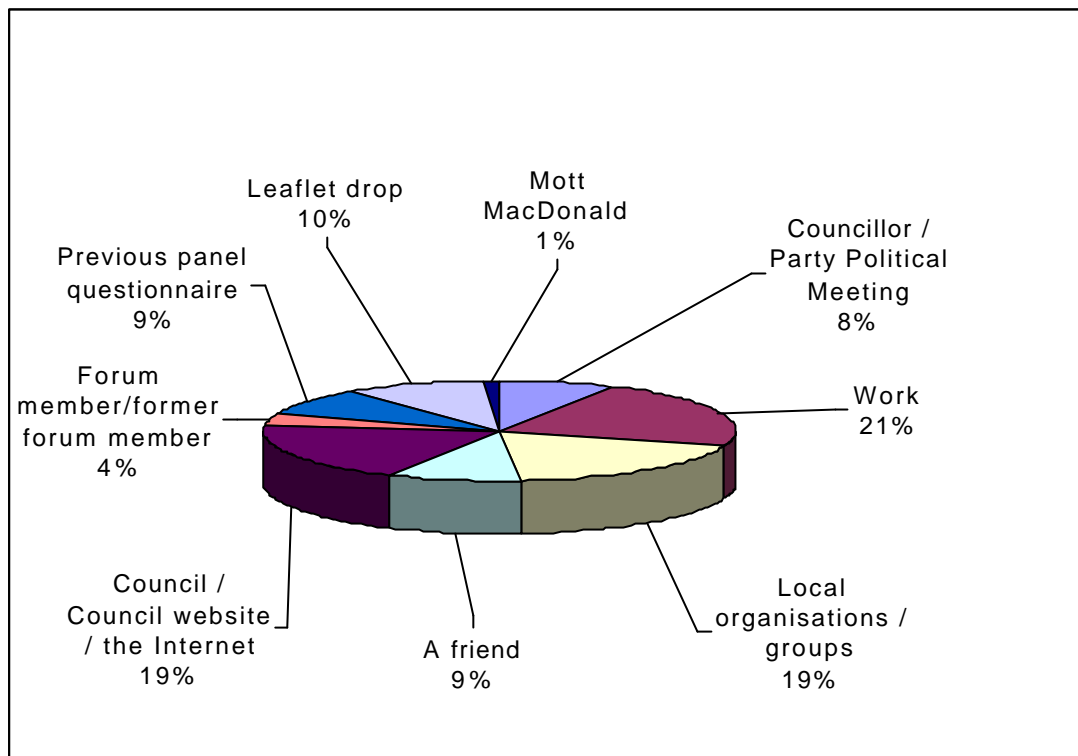
Had you heard about the Council's Area Forums before receiving this questionnaire?



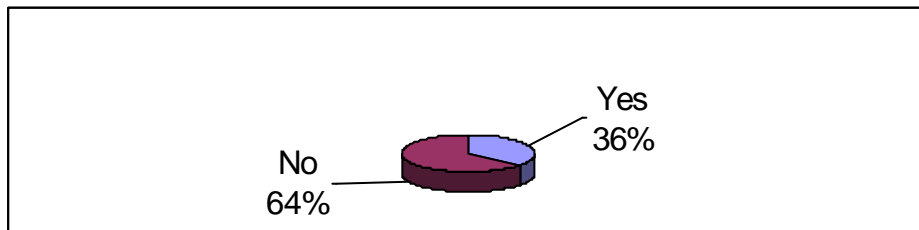
How did you hear about the Area forums?



How else did you hear about the Area Forums?

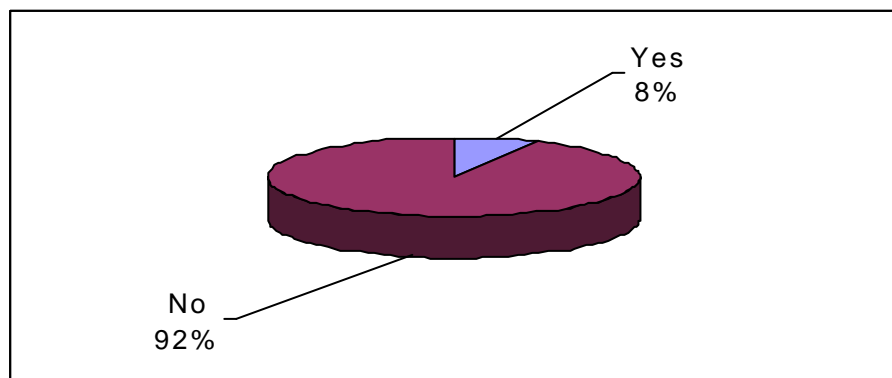


Are you interested in getting involved in decision making in your local area through Area Forums?



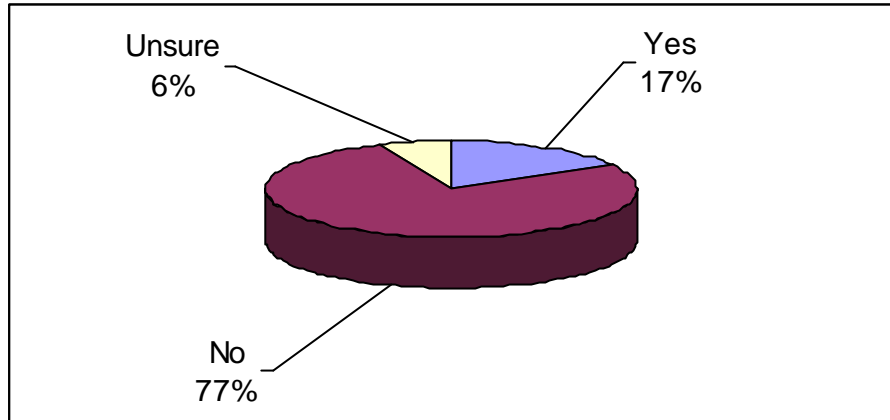
Area Forum – Specific

Are you interested in the East Wallasey (Liscard and Seacombe) Area Forum?

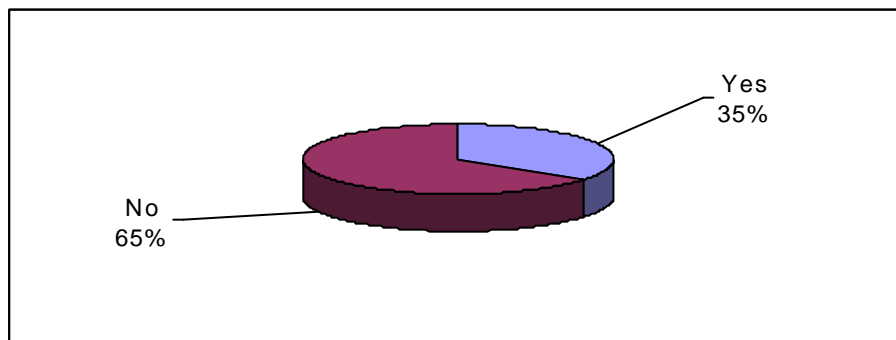


Community Initiatives Fund - General

Had you heard of the Community Initiatives Fund before receiving this questionnaire?



Are you interested in getting information on the Community initiatives Fund?



Community Initiatives Fund – Specific

Would you like to receive information about the Community Initiatives Fund for East Wallasey (Liscard and Seacombe)?

