

East Wallasey
Liscard and Seacombe
Area Forum
Area Co-ordinator's Report
18th October 2006

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Section One

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

East Wallasey Area Forum (Liscard/Seacombe) - 19 June 2006

Present	
Ward Councillor	D Hawkins, AER Jones, C M Jones, DT Knowles, G Leech
Community Representatives	Margaret Allen (Seacombe Community Representative), John Drew (Seacombe LCP), Diane 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
Primary Care Trust	Marie Armitage (Director of Public Health, Beb. & W. Wirral PCT)
Merseyside Police	Sgt Damian McElvogue
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Tony Buratti
Council Officers	Geoff Bell (Assistant Director, Traffic Management), Chris Jones (Area Streetscene Manager), David Morrell (Wirral Wardens Manager)
Apologies	Inspector John Hogan, Dr S Mukherjee, Cllr John Salter

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Minute 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed ten members of the public and Councillor Leah Fraser, who was attending her first meeting following her election in May as Councillor for the Liscard Ward.

He also reported that Ann Mather was unwell, and it was agreed that a card be sent to her on behalf of the Forum.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that the Area Co-ordinator to arrange for a get well card to be sent, on behalf of the Forum, to Ann Mather.

Minute 2 - MINUTES

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The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 8 February 2006, were accepted as a correct record, subject to a number of spelling corrections.

Minute 3 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Andy Brannan, Area Co-ordinator, presented a comprehensive report, which consisted of the following:

Section 1: Minutes of the previous meeting (see minute 2 above).

Section 2: Local updates, grouped under the various themes within the Local Area Agreement, as follows -

(a) Safer and Stronger Communities:

(i) the opening of the new community police station;

(ii) the launch of a report on accessibility of services for disabled people within the Borough;

(iii) the joint initiative to make the promenade in Wallasey a safer place;

(iv) measures to tackle cold-calling by salesmen;

(v) the Wirral Trader Scheme aimed at giving the public more confidence in buying goods and services.

(b) Healthier Communities and Older People -

(i) a £280,000 cash boost for swimming for older people;

(ii) the Churches Together in Wirral website.

(c) Children and Young People -

(i) Life Education centres which provide learning experiences for children aged 3-11;

(ii) launch of the new Swim Wirral scheme;

(iii) the "Play like Brazil" football project;

(iv) the awarding of certificates of achievement under the Streetwork Project;

(v) proposals for new skate parks.

(d) Economic Development and Enterprise - plans for promoting Wirral during the period of the Open Championship 2006

(e) Cross-cutting issues -

(i) successful Wirral schemes that were recognised at the Annual Merseyside Environmental Awards;

(ii) successful schemes under the Local Agenda 21 Awards 2006;

(iii) the opening of the new pavilion at Birkenhead Park;

(iv) the availability of community project grants under the "Wirral - Open to All" campaign;

(v) the recognition of the beach at Harrison Drive as one of the cleanest and safest in the country;

(vi) the availability of £9.4m to provide affordable housing across the Borough.

Section 3: Community Initiative Funding - a list of the latest grants recommended for approval.

Section 4: Local Area Plan - it was expected to be ready by the end of June, for distribution to all interested parties.

Section 5: Youth update - activities in the Liscard and Seacombe area and participatory schemes at the Wirral Youth Theatre.

Section 6: Streetscene update - various issues.

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Section 7: Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service - see minute 4 below.

Section 8: Community Safety update - various issues (see also minute 10 below).

Section 9: Highway and Structural Maintenance Programme 2006/07, showing the priority accorded to various schemes within the Forum's area (see also minute 8 below).

Section 10: Results of Citizens' Panel consultation on people's awareness of the Area Forum and its activities.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - That the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for his report.

Minute 4 - COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE (1) - FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Tony Buratti, Station Manager for Wallasey and West Kirby, gave a brief update on the activities of the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service. He explained that, in addition to the obvious function of fighting fires, the Service performed a number of other vital activities aimed at reducing injuries and deaths. It was important that the Service was pro-active in that respect, and it undertook activities such as the Home Fire Safety Initiative, the provision of smoke alarms and the distribution of leaflets and advice, and it targeted specifically any vulnerable people drawn to their attention. Statistics showed that those activities did have an impact in reducing deaths and fires. There had also been a reduction in fires involving abandoned cars and rubbish, also as a result of a pro-active approach to ensure that such items were removed quickly.

He also pointed out that Wallasey Fire Station had become a community fire station and was promoting health through the Wirral Heartbeat initiative. Obesity in adults and children was a particular target. Use of the gymnasium facilities was free, and other organisations such as the Red Cross and WIRED were on hand to assist. He was particularly anxious to ensure that all those who did become involved joined the information network that helped to identify people at risk. The Chair and Margie Allan both testified to the excellent facilities and the benefits that they were providing.

The Forum thanked Mr Buratti for his report.

Minute 5 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Dave Hale, a member of the public, asked whether a review could be undertaken to find an appropriate venue for young skate-boarders (in the 8-14 year range), a large number of whom were currently playing in the vicinity of his house. The Forum noted the fact that planning applications had been submitted for skateboarding facilities at the Tower Grounds and Lingham Park, which had still to be approved. Councillor Fraser pointed out that part of the car park at Grove Road Station was well used by skateboarders, which was tolerated by Merseytravel.

Mark Camborne undertook to report back on the potential for various sites within Wallasey.

Father Ostaszewski asked about action in relation to cycling on pavements, particularly in the Torrington/Wallasey Roads area. The culprits appeared to be children from Mosslands School, usually between 3.20 and 4.00pm, and he asked whether the police could enforce existing restrictions. Sergeant McElvogue undertook to look into the matter.

Diane Ledder asked if action was to be taken to remove the tarmac from around

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the base of a number of trees in Liscard Boulevard. Chris Jones replied that instructions had been issued to create larger pits for the trees; the work could only be carried out on a Sunday, but it would be done as soon as possible.

Carole Thomas asked what action the police would take in relation to cyclists who were ignoring the designated lanes on the Promenade and also in respect the cars that were regularly seen there. The Chair stated that he was aware that the question of activities on the promenade was high on the police agenda, as there had been a number of unfortunate occurrences. He suggested that observers should take the numbers of any cars seen on the promenade and report them to the police. However, he had some sympathy with cyclists, in that the cycle lanes were often occupied by pedestrians. Sergeant McElvogue stated that it was the practice to issue fixed penalty notices for cars seen on the Promenade. The police were taking a zero tolerance approach and would continue to do so. However, there were a number of local drivers who simply used the prom as an easy way of performing a 180-degree turn, as opposed to doing so in the roads leading to the prom. Mark Camborne confirmed that the issue had also been raised at the New Brighton/Wallasey Forum and that the Director of Technical Services was looking into the matter.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

(1) Mark Camborne to report back on the potential sites for skateparks within Wallasey.

(2) Sergeant McElvogue to look into the matter of people cycling on pavements around Torrington and Wallasey Road areas.

Minute 6 - YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT AREA FORUMS: PRESENTATION

Steve Chan, Acting Deputy Head, Youth and Community Service, gave a detailed presentation on youth participation in area forums. He began by explaining what arrangements were already in existence to encourage the views of young people. It was an integral part of various schemes and initiatives: Connect-uz Connexions, play schemes (where children were invited to comment on safety and the types of activities involved), schools councils, the Children and Youth Voice Conference, which involved elections to the UK Youth Parliament, hot-seating (which involved shadowing councillors, Council officers or voluntary workers) and pupil panels, dealing with health, lifestyle and citizenship skills.

Recent achievements had been the completion of the Hear by Right analysis, the Participation Strategy and the launch of the Charter for Participation; and the obtaining of Beacon Status for positive youth engagement.

It was now well established that children and young people wanted to have their say over matters in which the Council was involved, such as the Leasowe Adventure Playground. Children and young people could make a difference if their views were given proper weight, for example, at a recent conference on personal safety, views had been expressed about the safety of young people in parks, especially at night. Also, participation was now expected as a result of government policies; the establishment of the Every Child Matters agenda and its five key outcomes; the need to adhere to the Charter for Participation and the impending Youth Parliament in October.

The next steps would involve Youth Forums becoming a focus for participation and consultation. The four Forums would be coterminous with the four new District Boards that formed part of the governance arrangements for Children's Services.

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In addition, Youth Forums would be developing links with schools, and it was also being proposed that a Wirral Executive Youth Board be established. Activities could be supported by funding arrangements via the Youth Capital Fund and the Youth Opportunities Fund. Consideration was being given to establishing links between the Youth Forums and Area Forums: for example, would it be possible to hold them on the same evening?

At the end of the presentation, Steve Chan responded to a number of questions.

Margie Allan commended the various activities and initiatives but was concerned about reaching disaffected young people. Steve Chan confirmed that that was part of the work programme - there were a number of outreach teams, including Play Outreach, and there was a co-ordinated approach with other agencies.

Margie Allan commented that mutual respect was an important feature of dealing with young people. She had been involved in a recent initiative to establish a dialogue between young people, who had been accused of anti-social behaviour, and older people, who she felt could be guilty of an intolerant approach to young people. The results of that dialogue had been very satisfying. In that context Steve Chan referred to an initiative in Sefton to promote restorative justice.

A member of the public referred to the fact that many young people congregated around green spaces and parks and queried whether any thought had been given to involving them with the various friends groups that provided support for park environments. Steve Chan replied that he would welcome any collaboration in that respect - Central Park, Coronation Park and Harrison Park were suggested areas for such an approach. Diane Ledder pointed out that the Wallasey Central Park Forum would meet the following Wednesday and asked if someone from the Youth Service could attend a subsequent meeting. She was particularly concerned about a recent incident where a large number of sheds at the Love Lane allotments had been damaged over the previous weekend. An additional concern was the fact that children as young as eight were able to find access to that area.

John Drew asked whether the Youth Forums had any input into what services they wanted from providers of youth facilities, such as the Allandale Centre and the YMCA. Steve Chan confirmed that that approach was already being adopted.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - That Steve Chan be thanked for his presentation.

Minute 7 - LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS: PRESENTATION

David Morrell, Wirral Wardens Manager, gave a presentation on the role of the Wirral Wardens. He explained that there were currently 21 wardens, who were either Neighbourhood Wardens or Environmental wardens. They were funded through a combination of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, Housing Market Renewal Initiative and Community Foundation monies, and they operated in the main regeneration areas. He described their activities under a number of key themes:

(i) Caring for the street environment, which included reporting environmental problems to the relevant authorities; removing graffiti, litter, etc.; monitoring empty properties; and organising community environmental projects;

(ii) Reducing crime and the fear of crime, including monitoring community safety issues such as street lighting and abandoned vehicles; visiting vulnerable members of the community and victims of crime; and working with partner agencies and other Council officers;

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(iii) Deterring anti-social behaviour, including funding and providing diversionary activities during school holidays; providing advice and assistance to victims of anti-social behaviour; and encouraging the take-up of local facilities and activities;

(iv) Fostering social inclusion and working with community groups, which included holding surgeries for the community; offering guidance and support to community centres and youth clubs; and attending residents' meetings and community events;

(v) Involvement in a wide range of community projects.

It was important that the service continued to develop, and consulting the community on how to improve the service was an important feature. Overall, the aim of the Warden Service was to provide a "friend on the street" to local residents.

The Chair paid tribute to the work of the two local wardens. Sergeant McElvogue asked whether there were any plans to expand current working hours. Mr Morrell replied that there were not at the present time, because of limited funding, but wardens' activities were not limited to ordinary working hours.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - That Mr Morrell be thanked for his presentation.

Minute 8 - STREETSCENE UPDATE - TRANSPORT CAPITAL MONITORING, INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK 2007/08

(A) Integrated Transport Block 2007/08

Geoff Bell sought the Forum's views on how the Council might allocate the £180,000 available for various schemes, across the whole of the Borough, within the 2007/08 Local Transport Programme. The suggested options were to divide that sum equally between the 11 forums areas; to set aside £70,000 for two speed reduction schemes (in accordance with borough-wide priorities) and divide the remaining £110,000 equally; or to leave the whole sum to be allocated according to the priorities determined by applying the UKPMS criteria. He pointed out that, in addition to the budget under discussion, there would be other funding available for other safety schemes. The Forum's views would be reported back to the Council's Cabinet.

Following a discussion involving both members of the Forum and members of the public, it was agreed that the decision on the allocation of funds for particular schemes within the integrated transport block be left to the Cabinet.

Dave Hale queried whether funding might be supplemented from parking income. That could be obtained from a review of the parking policy for Liscard, particularly for evenings and weekends now that the area was being promoted as a town centre. Mr Bell explained that such income would be part of an entirely separate budget.

(B) Streetscene Update

Chris Jones provided an update on Streetscene issues and answered questions from the Forum and the public. In response to a question raised earlier by John Drew, he explained that the streetlighting in the Poulton area had been fitted in the 1960s and '70's. They no longer met the higher standards now in operation, and there was a programme of gradual replacement. That was likely to take some time as a recent bid for capital funding had not been successful. Gorse Lane and Poulton Road had been completed; the main issue now was to deal with the side roads. In relation to

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the structural maintenance programme, he would be doing his best to ensure that as many as possible of the schemes identified (set out in the Area Co-ordinator's report) were implemented.

Margie Allan thanked him for the assistance given in dealing with problems around rear entries. She believed that the main responsibility for fly-tipping in those locations was with local residents. The perpetrators were usually well known and there was a need to prosecute them. Mr Jones replied that an enforcement policy and procedure was being prepared, and his inspectors would be involved in that. One of the Environmental Wardens who was present pointed out that although many cases had been resolved, many people appeared to be repeat offenders. It was therefore necessary to improve education and information services for the public. Mark Camborne added that he hoped that wherever and whenever there was a problem the public would still phone in to let the Council know about it (606 2004).

Dave Hale felt that the Streetscene service was doing an excellent job but problems were increasing in central Liscard, with litter from hot food establishments scattered around the area and attracting vermin. There was a need for a hotline so that immediate action could be requested. Mark Camborne stated that Streetscene did take urgent action, though Mr Hale indicated that there had been delays of several days in some cases.

Father Ostaszewski asked whether urgent action could be taken to alleviate the problems associated with the extended trench in Belvedere Road. Chris Jones undertook to look into the matter.

Minute Decision :

Resolved -

(1) That Chris Jones to look into resolving problems re: extended trench in Belvedere Road.

(2) That the two reports be noted.

(3) That the Cabinet be advised of the Forum's view in relation to the Integrated Transport Block allocation.

Minute 9 - PRIMARY CARE TRUST - UPDATE

Marie Armitage explained her role as Director of Public Health for the Bebington and West Wirral Primary Care Trust (though she was familiar with the issues affecting Wallasey also). Her role was to improve and maintain the health of the population of Wirral, so that they could live as long and as healthy a life as possible. She believed that the issue of health was an integral part of many of the matters raised already at the meeting, such as community safety or the condition of the streetscene. She was particularly concerned to promote physical activities, in which case it was important that people should be able to cycle and walk in safety. Despite the efforts of the Health Authority and the Local Authority, it was still the case that 90% of health improvement was in the hands of people themselves.

In collaboration with the Local Authority, many physical activities were being encouraged, and particular encouragement was being given to older people and those with long-term heart conditions. There was also collaboration with Jobcentre Plus in relation to people with long-term incapacity. Poor mental health was often seen as a barrier to living an active life, and that was being tackled through the Brighter Futures Programme (more details of which could be obtained by ringing 647 1703).

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Much was being done in relation to anti-smoking legislation, particularly to protect workers. Such legislation appeared to be working very successfully in Ireland, but there was a need for support services so that people knew where to obtain advice, including specialist advice (647 0211). Ms Armitage answered a number of questions.

Carole Thomas referred to her own experience with delays in obtaining an appointment with a physiotherapist. Ms Armitage said that she would look into that matter. Health Services were broadening the number of staff that could give advice and particular efforts were being made to encourage chair-based exercise and training in posture; losing weight and healthy eating were also key features of physical well-being.

Councillor Hawkins referred to his experience of pro-active checks for older people within community groups - those involved were noticing that they needed to see a doctor on fewer occasions. Efforts were being made to expand that scheme but currently funding was limited. Ms Armitage stated that she would be happy to discuss that matter.

In response to Father Ostaszewski's comment, Ms Armitage stated that it had now been decided that there would be one primary care trust for Wirral, with three areas for advisory services, probably Birkenhead, Wallasey and the remainder of Wirral. The establishment of patient involvement forums was being looked into at the current time.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - That Marie Armitage be thanked for her report.

Minute 10 - COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE (2) - MERSEYSIDE POLICE and COMMUNITY SAFETY SECTION

A briefing note was circulated which showed crime statistics in the Liscard and Seacombe wards over the period April 2005 to March 2006. Over the year, Wirral's crime rate had dropped by 12%, reflected by an improvement in the public's perception of their safety. In the last quarter, Wirral had shown a downward trend in incidents of youths causing annoyance, and both reported crimes and anti-social behaviour had shown a slight reduction.

Although attending as a member of the public, Alf Mullin stated that he had recently joined the Community Safety Team as a Senior Youth Worker and had been impressed at how well partnership working was operating.

Sergeant McElvogue reported on a number of issues:

- action being taken in the area of the flats in Wheatland Lane, particularly in relation to drugs. A Section 30 Order was in operation, which the police were looking to extend as far as the Park. The Chief Constable had been particularly complimentary regarding the partnership approach to that operation.
- the mobile Police Station had been set up in the Kwiksave car park, though he felt it was not the ideal location. It was being staffed from 10.00 am to midnight.
- Operation Cougar, which involved only the police, was aimed at tackling criminal damage in the Birkenhead, Rock Ferry and Seacombe areas, because of the rise in incidents. The various elements of the Operation would be carried out every few months.
- the police had assisted Wirral Partnership Homes to evict certain tenants, action which was being well publicised because of its effectiveness.

Councillor Hawkins referred to the extension of alcohol-free zones, which local councillors had discussed with Sergeant McKewan, and which they fully supported.

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Minute Decision :

Resolved - That Sergeant McElvogue and Alf Mullin be thanked for their reports.

Minute 11 - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS and PRESENTATIONS

It was noted that the next meeting had been scheduled for 18 October, at the same time and venue.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.00pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Matters Arising

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Mark Camborne to report back on the potential sites for skateparks within Wallasey.

At present there plans to build a skateboard park within the Liscard and Seacombe wards, due to funding and commitments given to 3 other parks within Wirral. However the need for provision for younger people is fully recognised by the Council.

The Council's Youth Service have recently secured additional funding to look into provision for younger people. Following this consultation process, which will include younger people at its heart using a multi-agency approach, an application to the Big Lottery Fund will be made to ensure funding is secured to act on the ideas identified during the consultation by the Youth Service.

Sergeant McElvogue to look into the matter of people cycling on pavements around Torrington and Wallasey Road areas.

In the period following the meeting Torrington and Wallasey Road was attached to a Traffic Community Safety Officer to address this problem, focusing on "going to school times and home times".

In the first week she advised two children about riding on the pavement and there were no further incidents reported. Since then we have been able to look at sporadically, due to other commitments and there haven't been any further incidents.

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That Chris Jones to look into resolving problems re: extended trench in Belvedere Road

It is the Council's intention to repair all old trenches in rigid roads, which have failed, however funds are very limited, and the priorities being carriageways which are due

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to be surfaced, as Belvedere Road has not been highlighted for our current programme, it is therefore a lower priority

Future meetings

The date of the next area forum is
14th February 2006

Wallasey Town Hall

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

Countdown in Merseyside to new car seat laws

With just under a week to go until the new child car seat laws come into force parents in Merseyside are being urged to make sure that they are familiar with the changes. The changes are expected to save up to 2000 child casualties per year.

The new law comes into force on Monday 18 September and will require drivers to ensure that all children under 135cms (4' 5") or age 12 – whichever they reach first –use an appropriate car restraint when travelling in their vehicle.

Road Safety Minister Stephen Ladyman said:

"I would urge all parents to check that they are using appropriate child seats or booster seats. Using the right seat for the size of the child will give parents peace of mind and help to ensure that children are as safe as possible in the vehicle at all times.

Most people do use some kind of child restraint but it is very important to use the right one for the size of the child and to take the time to fit it properly; and not to use an adult belt before the child is big enough."

Parents can get expert child car seat safety advice from in store experts at a number of retailers. Halfords, Mothercare and Toys R Us, and other stores have been supporting the Department for Transport's Think! road safety campaign and the change in the law by providing special offers on car seats and booster seats from July to September 2006.

Road safety officers in Merseyside have been hard at work promoting the new legislation to parents and carers. The chairman of the North West branch of the local authority road safety officers association (LARSOA), Steven Whitehouse from Sefton's road safety unit, said:

"Time is running out for motorists to make sure that if they are driving young children around that they comply with these new laws.

"This isn't safety for safety's sake – it is all about taking sensible precautions to keep our children out of harm's way. Younger children are more fragile than teenagers or adults and are prone to more serious injuries in accidents. Even minor bumps can break their bones or seriously damage their internal organs.

"You wouldn't put your most treasured tea service in the car without proper restraints, so why take the risk with your children? There is plenty of safety advice available and we would urge all drivers who have kids in the car to make sure their safety restraints measure up to the new laws."

Parents unsure whether their children must use a child restraint should consider the

following:

- Check the height of your child. Children up to 135cm in height (and under 12 years old) need to use a child seat, booster seat or booster cushion suitable for their weight.
- Before you buy or use any child restraint, check the label to make sure it is suitable for the child's weight.
- Check that any restraint is securely fitted. If your child travels in more than one vehicle, check the car seat or restraint fits each car so it can be moved between them each time they travel.
- Get expert advice. Many retailers have trained in-store experts who can advise on the best kind of car seat for a child and can demonstrate how to fit it.

For more information, parents can visit www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk or call our helpline for a leaflet 0800 32 72 52

Pride in your Promenade:



Consultation was recently undertaken by Mersey Waterfront on the development of the promenade between Seacombe and New Brighton as part of the Pride in our Promenades programme.

The consultation was organised specifically to allow local people in the community to have a say about what changes would be made to their area.

The improvements will focus on three main locations along the promenade.

Seacombe Gateway, Seacombe Embankments and Vale Park Interface are all due to be improved and the consultation allowed people in the area to feedback their suggestions for what these improvements should be. Some of the suggestions made included:

- Giving the Seacombe Gateway 'pedestrian priority' including a 'archway feature'
- Using lights or a distinctive piece of artwork to improve the tunnel ventilation shaft making it a prominent feature of the promenade.
- General improvements to the Seacombe Embankments, tidying up the area and improving street furniture along the promenade.
- Removal of the waterfall feature was discussed to provide seating and somewhere where people can sit and enjoy the views.
- For Vale Park it was suggested that Dr Proggi's Shelter should be refurbished, possibly making it a gateway to the park.
- Replacing some of the railings and fences in the area to reflect a more traditional view, with the possibility of banners and flags along the promenade as long as they were designed to fit into the surroundings.

With all the recommendations made, it is hoped that the developments made in the area will be of benefit to everyone who uses the area and make the promenade more appealing for families to enjoy and use. For more information about the Pride in our Promenades scheme contact Mersey Waterfront on 0151 237 3940 or www.merseywaterfront.com.

Be on extra guard against these bogus bailiffs



Wirral Council today issued an urgent warning for the public to be on their guard against a gang of 'extremely plausible' bogus Council Tax bailiffs.

Recently there has been an incident in Barnston in which they have successfully conned an elderly person out of £400.

Malcolm Flanagan, Assistant Director of Finance said;

"If anyone posing as a bailiff comes to the front door, even if they have ID, DO NOT let them in or hand over money until you have checked that they are genuine. We have opened up a special line to help householders check - in all cases, call 666 3473 to verify. Our genuine bailiffs will wait while these checks are made."

Wirral Council never sends bailiffs out of the blue. Householders who receive a visit from genuine bailiffs will already have had several notifications by post over many weeks and would be expecting them.

Malcolm continued: "These bogus bailiffs are using very plausible excuses for why they have appeared unexpectedly. They are targeting our most vulnerable citizens and playing on their desire to 'do the right thing'. They are despicable. Please help us catch them."

Open for all funding:

Wirral - Open to all' was a borough-wide campaign aiming to encourage agencies, businesses and - most importantly - local people to take a pride in Wirral and get involved in improving the local environment.

Running from May to September 2006, it aimed to:

- encourage everyone to take a pride in Wirral
- get people involved in improving the environment
- have a lasting impact on the borough

There were many projects supported in Liscard and Seacombe which benefited the local community.



Somerville Primary School received funding to help their pupils discover their gardening skills by the development of a new school garden next to the car park. Not only did this project provide the children with an activity to teach them new skills, it also improved the appearance of the school.

Liscard Primary School also received funding to improve the school grounds. However, this time it was to replace trees that had been damaged by vandals, teaching the children to value the things around them and take pride in their community.

It is hoped that following the hard work put in by everyone across Wirral, all the projects will have a long lasting benefit to the Borough.

The UGLI scheme has been launched to make our environment beautiful again.

The primary objective of the Urban Green Land Initiative (UGLI) is to tackle unsightly and derelict land through a programme of targeted site improvements in Neighbourhood Renewal areas. The Initiative will help to improve the visual amenity of sites that are currently neglected and having a negative impact on those people living around them.

This approach is consistent with the aims of the Liveability theme of NRF particularly around enhancing the image and attractiveness of local neighbourhoods, making them more desirable places for existing and prospective residents.

The project aims to explore new ways of working with owners of derelict land and to find a sustainable solution to promoting the active, responsible management of these sites where enforcement action is not possible.

If anyone can identify a piece of derelict land that they feel could be improved please contact the Council's Empty Property Team on 0151 691 8005 or email emptyproperties@wirral.gov.uk for more information.

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE

£300 heating rebate

£300 is now available towards the cost of central heating for anyone aged 60 or over, anywhere in Wirral. As long as they own or privately rent their home they'll be covered under this new addition to the Warm Front Scheme.

For further advice telephone 0800 512012.

This extract is from the Wirral Fuel Poverty Newsletter (Issue 2) which is available in full from chrispearson@wirral.gov.uk on request.

Section one

Update on the establishment of a Wirral Primary Care Trust

A Consultation on proposals for changes took place in each Strategic Health Authority in the country and concluded on 22nd March 2006. This ran at the same time as consultations on the reconfiguration of Strategic Health Authorities and Ambulance Services.

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State approving the formation of a single Primary Care Trust in Wirral, a Consultation Paper and Summary Document was produced to share with staff, stakeholders and partners to gain their views and allow them to shape

the future Wirral Primary Care Trust (PCT). The Consultation ended on 7th July 2006 with all responses taken into consideration. There were no responses received from members of the public and the majority of responses were received from staff.

Work has been going on to bring together Birkenhead and Wallasey and Bebington and West Wirral Primary Care Trust as a newly established Wirral primary Care Trust on 1st October 2006...

Vision for new Wirral Primary Care Trust

As a response to the general policy direction and listening to our population, our vision is to:

“Put services around patients to identify health needs, address health needs and improve the health of our population while addressing health inequalities “

We understand the importance of creating a distinct “arm’s length” organisational structure within the new Primary Care Trust to ensure contestability and value for money of Primary Care Trust provider services.

The basic principle of the accommodation plans is to base Provider and Commissioning at arms length, with Commissioning Head Quarters being based at St Catherine’s Hospital, Birkenhead and Primary Care & Provider Services at Port Causeway in Bromborough.

Purpose

The Primary Care Trusts’ purpose will be to:

- Help people keep well
- Work with patients to make them better
- Provide continuing care for those who need it

The Primary care Trusts’ values will mirror the values of the NHS, which will be to: “Care for all, based on need, not the ability to pay ensuring respect, dignity and compassion at all times”

Structure

The new Primary Care Trust will be structures based on its vision, the strategy and delivering its functions.

The provision of provider services will continue to be directly managed by the Primary Care Trust. Primary care services will be managed within three localities, which are Bebington and West Wirral and Birkenhead and Wallasey.

Wirral Primary Care Trust has responsibility for commissioning services for:

- a registered population of 335,000
- Budget for 2006/07 of £459m.
- responsibility for the support and development of GP practices Pharmacies, Dental Practitioners and Ophthalmic Practitioners

To find out more please visit our website www.wirralpct.nhs.uk

Section Two

Public and Patient Involvement in Health and social Care Services

A stronger local voice: A framework for creating a stronger local voice in the development of health and social care services (DoH 2006). Sets out the Government's commitment to ensuring that Public and Patient Involvement are at the heart of any future health service developments:

- Developing a health and social care system planned around the needs of individual people and those of the wider community;
- Creating health and social care services that are, regardless of who provides them, user-centered, responsive, flexible, open to challenge, accountable to communities and constantly open to improvement; and
- Devolving decision making to the local level. Some 80% of the NHS budget is now devolved to Primary Care Trusts, meaning that priorities are decided locally.

The Wirral Primary Care Trust will work with partners across Wirral building on the excellent work of patient forums and the vast array of involvement of individuals, groups and networks. It will strengthen and widen the way in which peoples views are gathered, listened to and taken account of when health and social care services are planned, developed and commissioned. Changes will include:

- The national Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) will be abolished and Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) will be established for every local authority area with social service responsibilities. These networks will support a more flexible approach to the way in which communities engage with Health and Social care organisations, in ways that best meet the needs of the communities and the people within them. Patient Forums will be strengthened ensuring a more user involvement approach is encompassed and public accountability will be promoted throughout health and social care through open and transparent communication with commissioners and providers.
- LINKs will establish a specific relationship with Council Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committees and have the power to refer matters to the Council Committees.
- Overview and Scrutiny committees will be encouraged to focus their attention on the work of commissioners of health and social care services and are ideally placed to ask about the decisions they have made.
- The duties to involve and consult will be simplified and strengthened. There will be a new duty placed on commissioners to respond to what patients and the public have said.

- Work is being undertaken to explore ways of creating a stronger voice for patients, service users and members of the public at a national level.
- There will be a stronger user voice in regulation and in regulation and involvement.

Section Three

PALs and Comments Hotline Service

In April 2006, the Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS) officially opened and launched the service from its new purpose built base at the Laurie's Centre in Birkenhead Shopping Centre. The service will take advantage of its new location to receive personal calls from members of the local community on matters relating to their health and their experience of services they have received.

In addition to the Birkenhead, based office is our outreach services based at Wirral Councils One Stop Shops in Eastham and West Kirby and will be extended to the Wallasey area in the near future.

The principle aim of the PALS service is to give advice to individual patients, their families and carers about how to get information about services and help with their concerns; however, another key element of the service is to help resolve patient's problems at an early stage, thus avoiding a concern escalating to become a formal complaint.

Information from concerns raised through the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALs) are used to assist the Primary Care Trust in improving its services and standards, to this end we encourage and welcome feedback from individual patients, user groups and local community & voluntary organisations. There is also a free phone comments service, where at no cost to the public and in complete confidence callers can tell us of their concerns, complaints, general comments and compliments about any of the health services that are provided in Wirral and we will do our best to resolve any problems and pass on comments.

Choose and Book

From the 1st January 2006, patients have been able to make a choice over which hospital they wish to be treated, along with the time and date they wish to attend. Patients have the option of choosing amongst four hospitals and clinics.

If you want to find out more information on this or any of our other services please call or contact the PALS service either direct or through the free phone service can do so by the following

Call in or write to:

Wirral Primary Care Trust

PALS Office

Laurie's Centre, 136 Claughton Road

Birkenhead

Wirral

CH41 6EY

0151 647 4251

Or call our Comments Hotline free phone service on **0800 085 1547**

Section Four – Health Promotion Activities

Do you know what's happening in your area to improve yours and your family's health?

Wirral Healthy Communities is based on Argyle Street, Birkenhead, The project sets out to create a specialist team to support community-led health improvement initiatives and help increase the knowledge, skills and confidence of groups to address health problems locally.

The team also wants to promote access to and generate a programme of neighborhood-based health promoting activities in the following areas:

- Food and Nutrition
- Positive Mental Health / Personal Outlook
- Stopping smoking
- Drug and Alcohol awareness
- Supporting parents
- Welfare advice
- Weight management
- Physical activity
- Confidence building
- Social isolation

Current initiatives delivered within your Area Forum locality are as follows:

Activity	Venue	Dates	Times	Health Worker	Other info
Feel Better with a book	Wallasey Central Library, Earlston Rd, Wallasey	Fridays	1.30 – 3.30	Kate McDonnell 07973247707	Weekly reading group for people with mild to moderate mental health conditions.
Chair Based Exercise	Liscard House	To be arranged		Marilyn	Contact Marilyn on 647 1703 for further information with regard to this exercise.
Chair Based Exercise	Mariner's Park, Wallasey	Wednesdays ongoing	11.30 to 12.15	Chris	Free open to Mariners Park Residents only.

Other Sessions – For over 50's with Active Age Centre

Age Concern offer a wide range of physically, mentally and socially stimulating activities for older people who can come and participate in their chosen activity and meet new friends as part of promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. The activities include line, ballroom and tap dancing along with Tai Chi, yoga and keep fit. Bridge, arts and crafts, computer language classes and a range of therapies, which include aromatherapy, reflexology, massage and a fortnightly chiropody service.

For details and information on any of the above please contact:

0151 647 3537

Or visit

Active Age Centre

Grange Baptist Church Hall

Whetstone Lane, Birkenhead

Wirral CH41 2QS

Or visit our website www.ageconcernwirral.org

The essential services that pharmacies must offer are:-

- Dispensing of prescriptions
- Repeat Dispensing Service (a service where patients with stable conditions do not need to go to the surgery every month, but can collect medicines directly from the pharmacy)
- Advice on medicines
- Advice on self care (for example when to seek medical attention for an asthmatic)
- Compliance support (helping patients to take medicines as directed – for example offering reminder charts)
- Disposal of waste medicines
- Provision of Public Health information
- Signposting (advising patients which service might be of benefit to them – for example advising a customer with a head injury to attend A and E)

- Incontinence supplies
- Stoma supplies
- Advice on minor ailments (for example allergies or stomach upsets)

Services that pharmacies might offer include:-

- Smoking cessation advice
- Emergency Hormonal Contraception (The “Morning After” pill)
- Needle exchange schemes (for drug misuses)
- Anticoagulant monitoring
- Support for Nursing and Residential Homes
- Delivery of medicines
- Prescription ordering and collection
- Measuring and fitting service for trusses and surgical support stockings
- Blood glucose testing
- Blood pressure measurement
- Cholesterol testing
- Flu vaccination
- Pregnancy testing

Pharmacy Smoking Cessation Intermediate Services

Name	Pharmacy	Address	Contact Name	Tel.Number
Liscard	Boots	36 Liscard Way	Mike Irwin Susan Schless Julie Hession	638 2477
Liscard	Carringtons	128 Rake Lane	John Carrington, Sue Edwards, Cheryl Curry, Nikki Curry	639 3531
Egremont	Egremont	9 a King Street	Sue Coogan, Eliz Fogg	639 5016
Liscard	Alliance	29 Liscard Way,	Mike Jones	638 5617
Wallasey	Wynn Ellis	32 Poulton Road	Phil O’Neil, Karen Challinor	638 6609

Pharmacy contact details, localities, opening times (and more) can be obtained from <http://www.nhs.uk/England/Pharmacies/Default.aspx>

A PARLIAMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN WIRRAL

1. Introduction

1.1 Wirral Borough Council has passed the following motion :

1.2 **Council – 10th April 2006**

Minute 124 - NOTICE OF MOTION: AN OLDER PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT FOR WIRRAL

Minute Text :

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin

Seconded by Councillor R Moon

"(1) This Council believes that engaging with older people is fundamental to improving all services provided by the Council and its partners and that older people make a tremendous contribution to the whole community in Wirral.

(2) It further believes that engagement with the Council, through a parliament, will provide them with a voice to influence all aspects of life within Wirral and the opportunity to share their wisdom and experience.

(3) The Council notes that the population of older people in Wirral is increasing. At the last census there were 65,134 people of retirement age, equal to 20.9% of the population and over 2% more than the average for England. By 2012 the population of people over 65 will continue to increase, with the greatest rise (20.8%) expected in people over 85.

(4) The Council is committed to the provision of social inclusion and notes that the profile of deprivation on Wirral shows that in some areas older people face economic deprivation and social exclusion. Some of the people are excluded, including those in more affluent areas. In a survey undertaken by Bebington Council for Voluntary Service, 79 people out of a survey sample of 108 said they felt some degree of social isolation.

(5) The Council therefore calls upon the Chief Executive to develop proposals to establish an Older People's Parliament for Wirral. The Council believes that, in making proposals for the Parliament, representatives should be drawn from older people across Wirral through the area forum structure.

(6) The Council also recognises the importance of connecting developments in Wirral to those at national level. Therefore it recommends that Wirral joins "Better Government for Older People", a government initiative aimed at bringing all interested parties together to ensure the needs of older people are met more effectively."

Following a debate it was -

Minute Decision :

Resolved - (65:0) That the motion be approved.

1.2 The Council in passing the motion recognise the place of Older People in the future of Wirral in all aspects of life. In turn, the Council recognise that to improve the quality of life for older people in Wirral, requires examination of all aspects of Council responsibilities.

1.3 The suggestion is that Area Forums offer the base for the Parliament to be created. This paper takes that suggestion forward, recognising that by establishing the Parliament, Local Forums and civic renewal may be enhanced.

2. Governance and Representation

2.1 The Council is committed to involvement and recognises that such involvement must demonstrate real impact. Therefore, in establishing the Parliament, the Council both re-affirms key principles, sets outcomes and gives a place within the authority business process for the Older Peoples' Parliament.

2.2 Key Principles

- Older people in Wirral should all enjoy a good quality of life in all aspects of their daily life

experiences.

- Older people make a positive contribution to life in their local community and across Wirral. The Parliament will enable this source of knowledge and wisdom to be utilized for the advantage of service improvement.
- Involvement, listening, responding, will underpin the working arrangements for the Parliament and its relationship with Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council.
- Arrangements for the Parliament will seek to enhance existing links rather than duplicate processes. It will provide direct links between older people and elected representatives.

2.3 Outcomes

- Involvement as a member of the Older Peoples' Parliament will be judged positive and worthwhile by all older people directly involved.
- Developments across Wirral will all be subject to comment from the Parliament. This is to ensure the perspective of older people is reflected in decision making.

2.4 Governance

2.4.1 Each Local Area Forum will nominate four representatives for the Older Peoples' Parliament. Eligibility will be people who live in the area covered by the Local Forum and people will be aged 50 or above. Attendance at the forums will be on a rota basis with each forum having two places available for older people. This should provide adequate capacity for absences.

2.4.2 The forty four people will be the Older Peoples' Parliament for Wirral.

2.4.3 The Parliament will meet four times each year. One meeting will be an Annual Meeting whereby formal reports will be presented. The Parliament will be able to convene extra meetings to discuss matters of special concern it identifies, or when the Council require an opinion of it on an urgent matter of Council business. However, it will not have executive powers; rather, its power will be derived through its ability to influence and shape decisions and developments.

2.4.4 The Parliament will be quorate when 11 or more people are in attendance, with at least one representative from each Local Area.

2.4.5 The Parliament will, at its first meeting, appoint the following roles:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Spokespersons for: each Cabinet Members Portfolio.

It will develop detail of its own operating process and standing orders.

2.4.6 Each department will appoint a lead officer – at third tier or above – as a key link to departmental business.

2.4.7 Each Cabinet Member, Chair of appropriate Select Committee(s), Older Peoples' Parliament lead and Departmental contact will meet on a two monthly basis. This is to review issues in the forward plan and on Select Committee agendas. This informal discussion will influence the formal agenda and facilitate direct comments from older people.

2.4.8 The agenda of each Select Committee and one Cabinet meeting each two months will include a report from the Older Peoples' Parliament. Reports to Select Committee will relate to the specific business agenda of Select Committees. However, they will address the principles of Local Area Agreements (LAA) that is a whole system approach. Reports to Cabinet will provide

a summary of current and future issues and make recommendations as appropriate.

- 2.4.9 The Parliament will be the key link to Better Government for Older People, nominating links to whichever groups it decides are appropriate.

3. Supporting the Parliament

- 3.1 The primary links for the Older Peoples' Parliament will be via the LAA block lead for Healthier Communities and Older People and Democratic Services (A senior nominated officer).
- 3.2 The process for the Older Peoples' Parliament will conform to the usual process for Council business, be recorded and conducted in public.
- 3.3 Wirral Borough Council, through Democratic Services will provide administration for the Older Peoples' Parliament. This will include note taking, postage, photocopying and similar tasks. A budget, amount to be arranged, is to be identified for this purpose.
- 3.4 Wirral Borough Council will make a sum, to be agreed, per year available for additional administrative duties. The Parliament will be responsible for the deployment of and accounting for this fund. It hopes to use it to create one or more posts to be filled by older people.
- 3.5 Wirral Borough Council will fund membership of Better Government for Older People (BGOP) in full each year. This membership of BGOP will be reviewed and reported upon annually at the AGM.

4. Process and Time Scales

- 4.1 This initial draft proposal has been discussed with the Director of Adult Services, representatives of Senior Citizens Group and Area Forum Co-ordinator. This amended version takes on feedback from all.
- 4.2 Arrangements have been made to invite the 370 current members of the Senior Citizens Forum to attend their own Local Area Forum. This is to increase general awareness of the forums and their processes. Others who have expressed interest in the Parliament are also to be written to.
- 4.3 This paper is to be presented to Chief Officers Management Team, appropriate council committees. Discussion will also be held between lead representative of Senior Citizens (Jack Cuffe), LAA Block Lead (John Webb), Local Forum Co-ordinators (Tracey Smith) and Chief Executive Officer (Stephen Maddox) to confirm details.
- 4.4 During July, the Senior Citizens' Forum will agree arrangements for nominations/election of representatives. Wirral Borough Council will identify the key links at member and senior officer level.
- 4.5 During July, Better Government for Older People is holding a national event in Brighton. The intention is to send representatives for this event and use it to "piggy back" and highlight the development of an Older Peoples Parliament for Wirral.
- 4.6 A high profile launch for the Parliament is to be planned for late September/early October.
- 4.7 In October, the representative older people will join their respective Local Area Forums.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Community Foundation for Merseyside.



Community Foundation for Merseyside are currently encouraging local voluntary and community groups who are working with young people and who have projects that specifically benefit young people to apply to their Local Network Fund Programme.

Local Network for Children and Young People – Greater Merseyside

The main beneficiaries for projects should be 0-19 years (up to 25 with Learning Disabilities) and projects should meet at least one of Every Child Matters outcomes:

Being Healthy
Staying safe
Enjoying and Achieving
Making a Contribution
Achieving Economic Well-being

Priority will go to groups with an annual turnover of less than £100,000, and groups working in the most disadvantaged/deprived communities. LNF have to be the main funder, covering at least 70% of the total project costs.

Deadline for returning applications for the next round in **Wirral** is **30/11/06** – For application forms you will need to ring a call centre, their number is 0845-113 0161.

For further information about the fund please contact Community Foundation for Merseyside on 0151-966-4604.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE

Wirralbiz celebrates a first year of great success

Business start up team wirralbiz are celebrating after achieving a first year of huge success supporting business starts on the Wirral.

The end of July marks the anniversary of wirralbiz, a dedicated training programme and support centre for people looking to start their own business.

The company has exceeded its first year client target by an amazing 65 per cent, helping to launch and support 230 new, local businesses to date, in professions as diverse as food processing, body sculpture, and creative floristry.

The wirralbiz programme consists of four inter-related elements. The process starts with an awareness session, followed by training, specific one-to-one advice and the offer of a grant, providing certain criteria are met.

During the past year over 700 budding entrepreneurs have attended a wirralbiz awareness event at the company's centre in Egerton House, Birkenhead.

The event is a three hour informal seminar that highlights the essential information required in becoming self-employed and starting a new business. All relevant criteria are examined and discussed to ensure that each individual attending understands what they need to do to attain the most benefit from the programme.

The candidates may then choose to attend six workshops that cover vital subjects, including sales and marketing and financial planning and control.

Assistance is also provided in other areas, such as putting together a realistic business plan. This document will act as a blueprint for the first year's activities of the new business, and provide evidence to potential fund providers of trading potential and sustainability.

The facilities at wirralbiz centre include two training and seminar suites, meeting rooms and six internet linked computers. Discounted design and printing services, and free accountancy advice are all available.

The wirralbiz programme is free to Wirral residents and to those living outside the area but wishing to start a new business on the Wirral. Most types of business are eligible for the programme, although there are a few exceptions and prospective applicants are advised to check eligibility when making their initial enquiry.

The programme is managed by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council, The Wirral Waterfront Regeneration Initiative, and is part-funded by the European Objective One Programme, and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

The programme consists of:

Training Sessions

The six informal training sessions are held at two per week over a three week period and are available either day or evening.

Counselling & Mentoring

One-to-one counselling is available before and after business start-up. Mentoring and other support services, such as our design service, are available during the first 18 months of trading.

Grant Opportunities

Our grant opportunity is one of the very few available in Merseyside for new business starts. The amount of the grant is discretionary depending on each new business's requirements and each individual's circumstances, and ranges from £500 to £2000.

Recent wirralbiz success stories include:

Daniel McAssey, DGM Foods

A major wirralbiz success story is DGM Foods based in Bromborough. After major personal investment and a little more help from wirralbiz, the company now operates 24 hours a day and is expanding rapidly.

Steve Barnaby, SPB Body Repairs

Steve Barnaby's workshop on the Argyle Industrial Estate offers a versatile range of services from panel beating and spraying to vehicle servicing. After a year in business Stephen can empathise with the problems small businesses face and offers excellent rates to other small firms.

Amanda Williams, Water Lily Florists

From her Grange Precinct shop Amanda Williams creates distinctive floral decorations for both private and corporate customers.

Eddie Gowns, Three Dimensional Portraits

Brand new business start Three Dimensional Portraits offers a unique opportunity to transform a family's emotional bonds into a work of art. By taking a cast of, for example, a child's hand or foot an everlasting sculpture is created.

Gail Curry, Argyle Sportswear

Gail Curry's Argyle Sportswear is growing rapidly by offering customers quality sports, leisure and workwear at competitive prices, and with the option of personalisation.

For any further information or to book yourself onto the next Business Start Awareness Session telephone 0845 456 1796, drop into wirralbiz centre, Egerton House, 2 Tower Road, Birkenhead, open 10am-6pm Mon-Thu & 10am-4.30pm Fri or email info@wirralbiz.biz

Wirralbiz launches new free business service

Wirralbiz is introducing a brand new scheme to help Wirral businesses increase their profit margins.

Wirralbiz's expertise has, until now, been focused on assisting business start-ups to launch and become profitable in the fastest time, at the lowest cost.

The principles concerned with creating a business are the same as those required to ensure sustainability and create growth. At the most basic these can be described as the 3three M's: Marketing, Money, and Management.

As a result of a new local initiative, existing small businesses in specific electoral wards can now, at no cost, gain assistance to help increase competitiveness and profitability.

These wards are Birkenhead, Bidston, Seacombe, Leasowe, Tranmere and Woodchurch.

To be eligible for business support the business must be based, or the owner(s) must reside, in the wards listed above.

For any further information on any of our services please call 0151 650 6950 or email info@wirralbiz.biz.

CROSS CUTTING

Merseyside chosen to launch national bike scheme

Transport Minister Derek Twigg MP will launch a major new national cycling proficiency scheme in Merseyside, home of one of the UK's biggest cycling training programmes.

The government's new "Bikeability" standard will see its UK launch at Aintree Racecourse in Merseyside on Thursday, 7th September (from 10am).

The Bikeability standard will see the delivery of cycle training for the 21st Century and will be trialled with 3,000 children in England before being rolled out nationally in Spring 2007.

By 2009, the government aims to have trained half of all Year Six pupils in England through various schemes, offering them Bikeability certificates.

Merseyside was selected because the Department for Transport see the region as an excellent example of local authorities and the private sector working together to deliver high quality cycle training to national standards.

And it is the young people of Merseyside who are reaping the rewards.

Neil Scales, Chief Executive and Director General of Merseytravel, and Chair of the Local Transport Plan partnership group, said: "The cycle training we have launched in Merseyside is rightly attracting major national attention and its success is testament to the hard work of TravelWise and all of the district authorities. It is a fantastic example of public

and private sector partners working successfully to encourage young people to get on their bikes and equipping them with the skills to do so safely.”

Cllr Mark Dowd, Chair of Merseytravel, added: “We are proud to support the government’s drive for improved cycle training. The national ‘Bikeability’ standard will help us continue to build a training programme that puts cycling at the heart of young people’s lives.”

TravelWise, the campaign run by the Local Transport Plan partnership – the five Merseyside authorities and Merseytravel – launched the scheme to train 4,500 Year Six children in Merseyside earlier this year.

The giant safety project was developed in partnership with Liverpool-based not-for-profit social enterprise Cycling Solutions and includes vital on-road experience.

Cycling is a key element of the Local Transport Plan, a long-term strategy and a £200m investment programme of new infrastructure and improved services providing Merseyside with a safer, greener, more efficient and accessible transport network.

Councillor John Fairclough, Chairman of the Merseyside Strategic Transportation and Planning Committee, said: “Encouraging people to cycle has health benefits for the individual, as well as helping the environment and reducing congestion. Ensuring young people are fully trained to cycle safely is an important part of the Merseyside Local Transport Plan and we are delighted that the work of our partners in this area has been recognised in this way.”

Through the Merseyside programme, TravelWise hopes to increase the number of children cycling to school and then continuing to cycle into adult life.

For more information about the work of TravelWise and their cycle training, log on to www.LetsTravelWise.org

Nominations invited for the Wirral Award 2006

Wirral Council is seeking nominations for this year’s Wirral Award. The Award confers civic recognition on people who live in Wirral or organisations based in the borough.

The Wirral Award is given either for an outstanding achievement within the previous 12 months or distinguished service to the community over a period of 20 years or more.

Previous recipients of the Award have included people who freely give up their time to work with disadvantaged groups, and those who offer their services to different sections of the community who require support.

Last year’s winners included:

- Mrs Frances Watson - for her services in caring for visually impaired people through her work with the Wallasey Friendship Club for the Visually Handicapped.
- Mrs Maria Wright - for her services as coach and organiser for Wirral Athletic Club.

- Mr Jack Cuffe - for his services in promoting the interests of older people as Chair of the Wirral Senior Citizens Forum, as a lay member of the Older People's Modernisation Team and as a member of the Older People's Champions Network.
- Mrs Ruth Dann - for her fund-raising work for Wirral Wildlife.
- Mrs Barbara Mason - for her services to the Birkenhead History Society.
- Mr Geoffrey Parry - for his services to the local community of Rock Ferry including serving as Church Warden and Choir Master at St Peters Church.

Anyone wishing to nominate an individual or organisation for the Award, should phone Brian Ellis from Wirral Council on 0151 691 8491 for a nomination form.

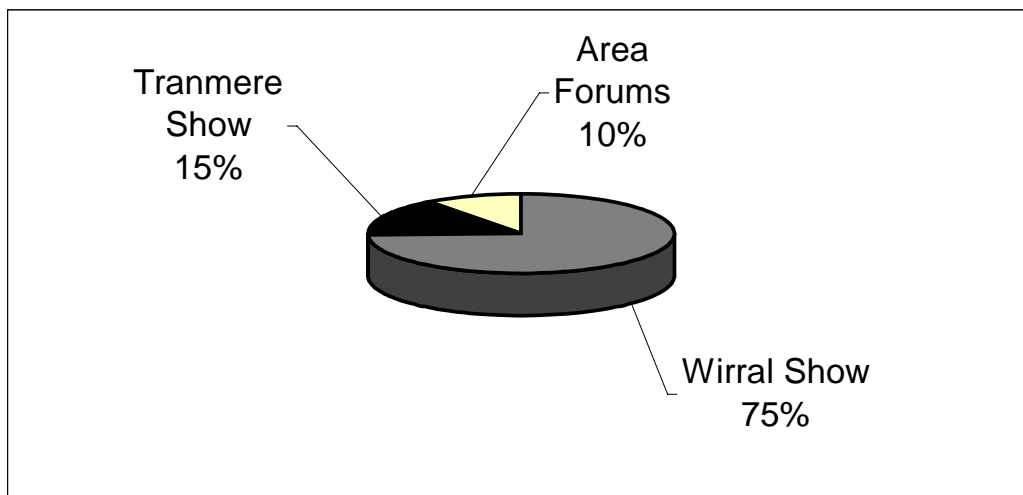
Completed forms should be returned to the Committee Services Section, Corporate Services Department, Town Hall, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED by September 30, 2006.

Area Forum Consultation

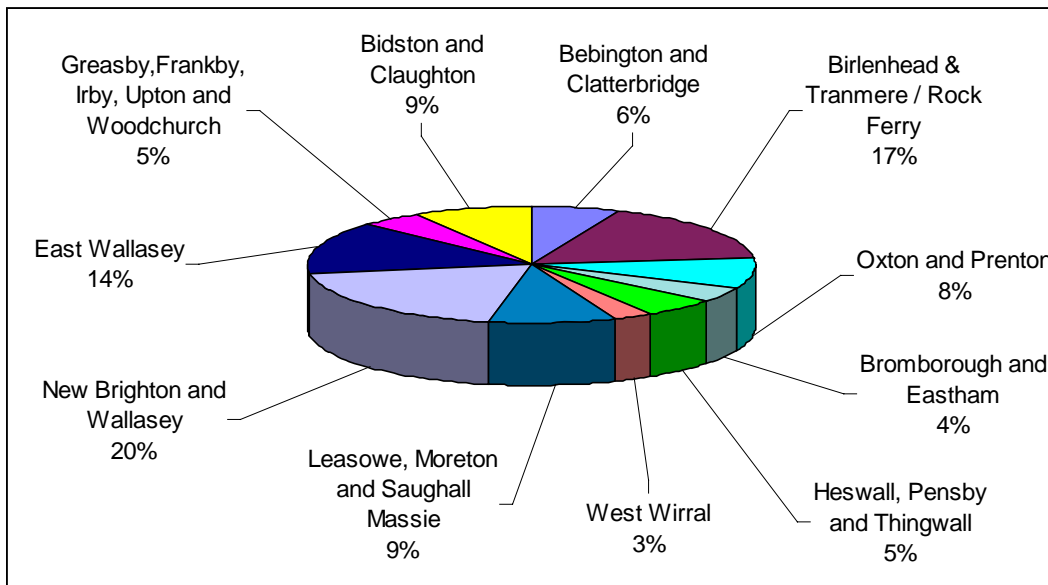
The Community Planning Team developed a questionnaire to ensure that Wirral Borough Council's Area Forums continue to be representative of our residents. Local people attending the Area Forums, the Wirral Show and the Tranmere Show have completed 290 questionnaires.

Some of the results from the questionnaires are detailed below:

Questionnaires completed by event



Questionnaires completed by forum area

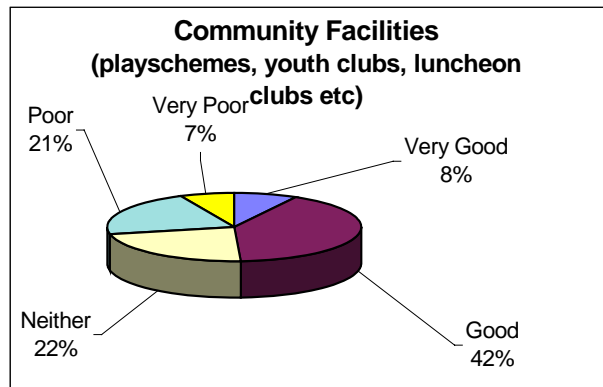
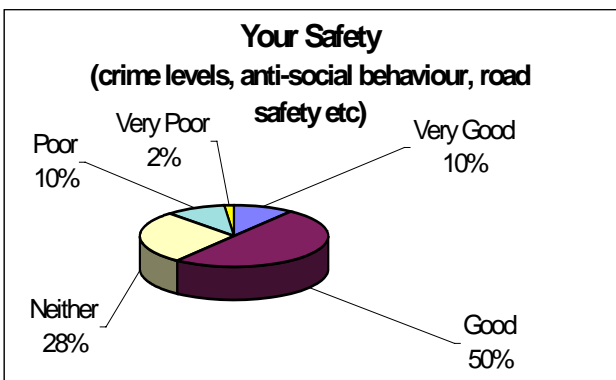
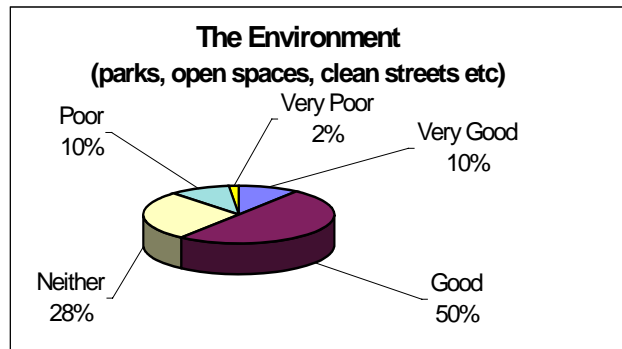
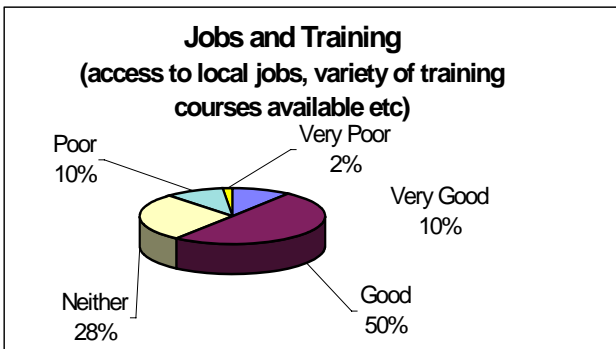
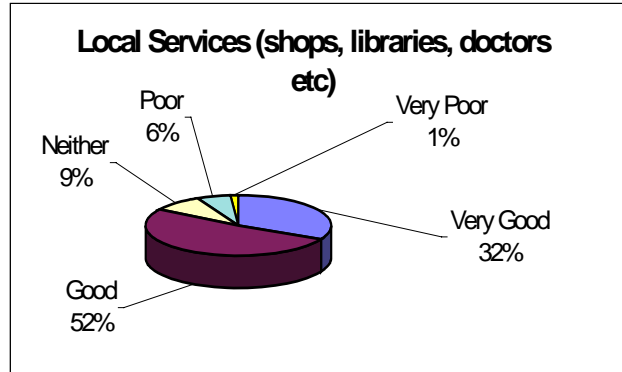
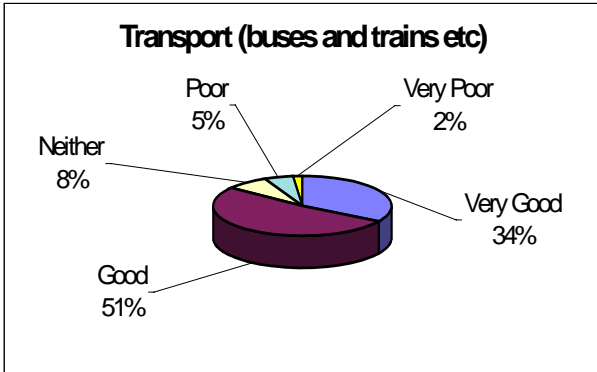


Information on the people completing the questionnaires

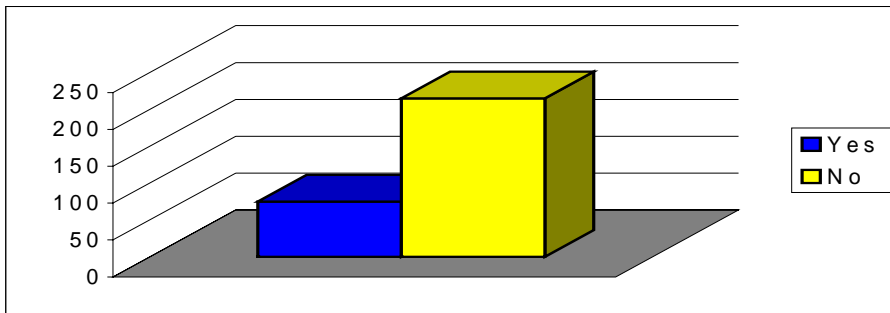
Male	121
Female	169
Under 19	40
20 - 64	183
65+	24
People that consider themselves to have a disability	27
People that consider themselves not to have a disability	263
White British	268
White Irish	3
White Other	4
Mixed – White & Asian	1
Mixed – White & Black-Caribbean	3
Mixed – Other mixed background	2
Asian or Asian British – Indian	3
Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	3
Chinese	2
Other Ethnic Group	1

The following has been taken from all the questionnaires completed at the Area Forums, Wirral Show and Tranmere Show in 2006.

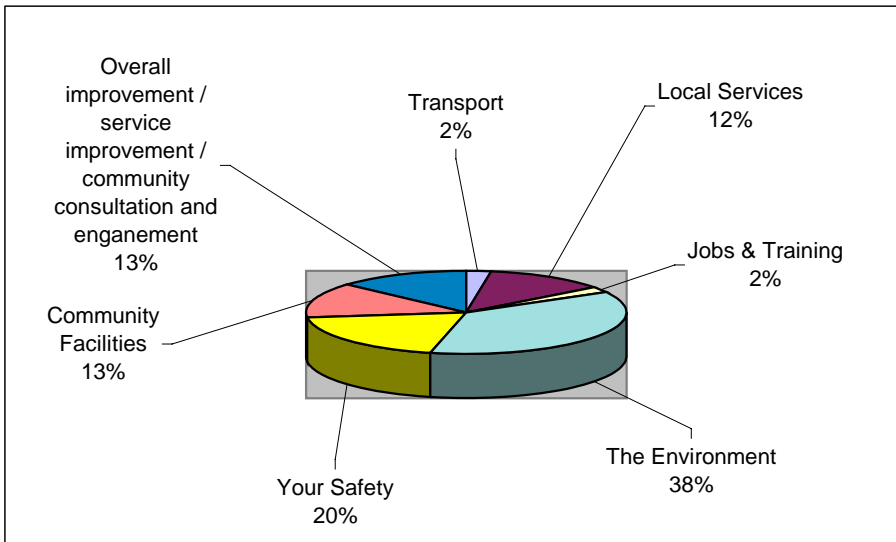
How well do you think the area is where you live (within 10 minutes walk of your home) for....



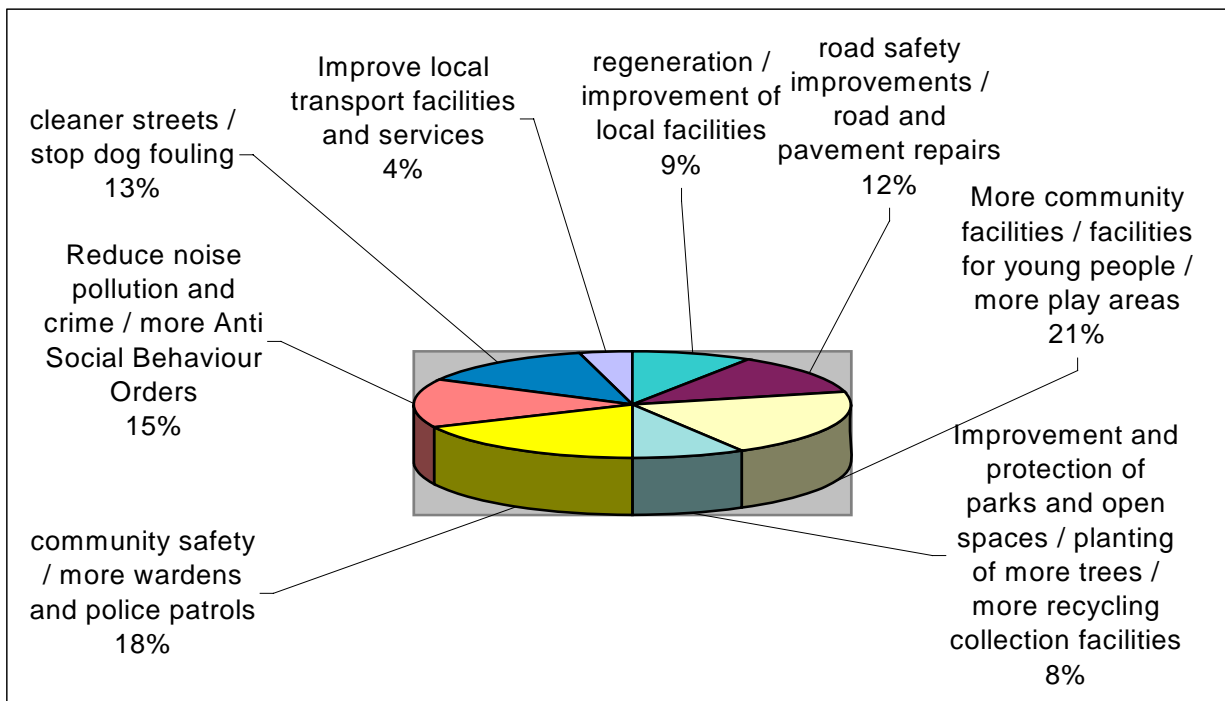
Would you say that the area where you live has improved over the past 2 years?



If yes, how has it improved?

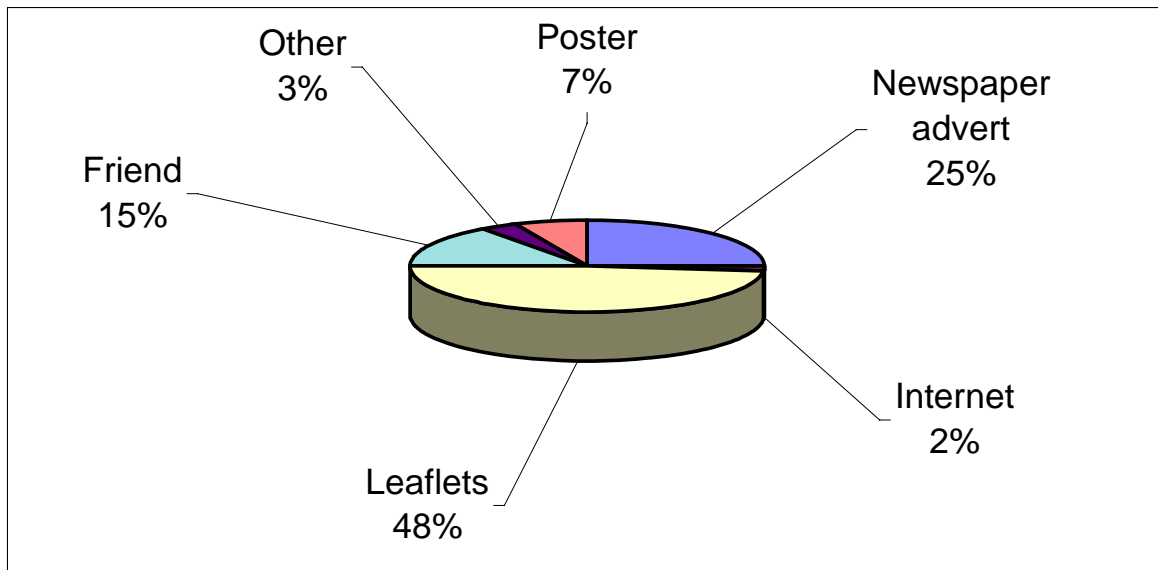


If no, what do you think would be the best improvement to make the area where you live better?

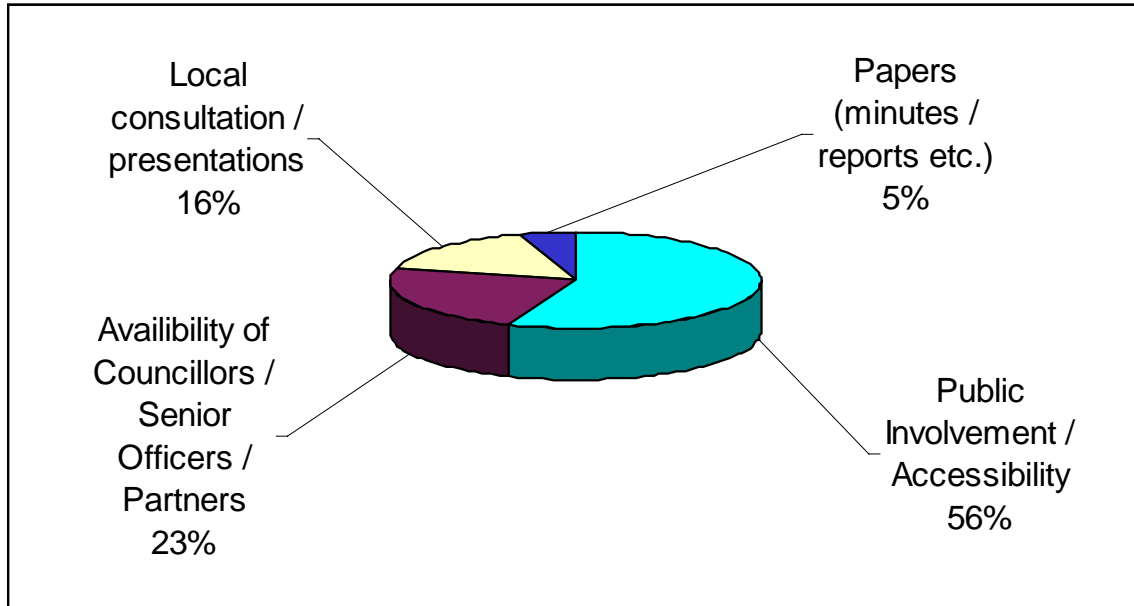


The following additional questions (specifically on the area forums) were asked of those who had attended the forums. 30 questionnaires were completed with the following results:

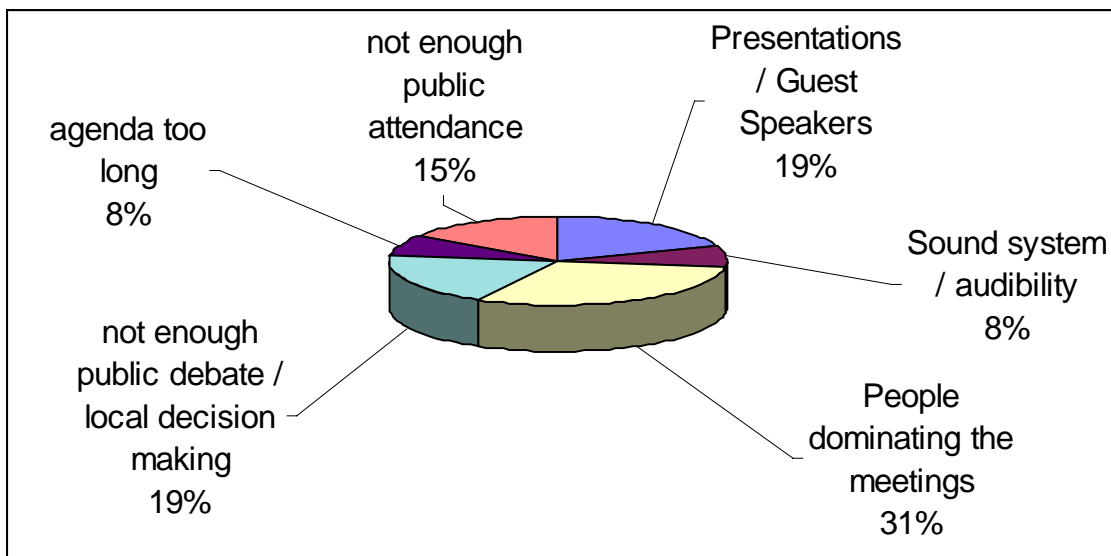
How did you hear about Area Forums?



What do you think works at Area Forums?



What doesn't work well at Area Forums?



Have you any ideas on how to improve Area Forums?

- Hold in fully accessible venues on bus routes or near a train station; better heating of venues in Winter
- More publicity/local radio/papers etc.; let the public know a bit more about the forums; encourage better public attendance
- Provide more information about specific services to be made available
- Give more notice of members who will be attending, so relevant questions can be aimed at the right person
- Provide suggestion boxes in areas and join up with residents associations
- Better behaviour on the part of some residents
- Restrict time from being wasted ; adhere to time limits and start the meetings on time and close doors 5 minutes after start of meeting
- Papers for next meeting be given out at the previous meeting
- Have more discussion groups
- More professional powerpoint presentations by council officials/other contributors.
- More time to be given to issues to allow time to absorb information
- Copies of slides should be made available for everyone, not just top table
- Keep Agenda and Presentations fresh; have only two presentations per meeting unless requested
- Make certain you elect a good chairperson
- Have guest speakers e.g. MP or Minister; more Police presentations etc.
- Generally happy with the Forums, no improvement required; well chaired and organised

Section Three

Community Initiative Funding

ID	Bid No	Received From	Requested	Bid Details	CIF	CS	LA21	Total	Reason
Funding Available					£12,249.06	£4,420.00	£1,500.00	£18,169.06	
1096	1	8th Wallasey Pioneer Scout Group	£1,151.50	To provide new heating and paint the hall and to install an alarm to the building.	£0.00	£1,151.50	£0.00	£1,151.50	Panel considered this to be a good project that will provide activities for residents in the area, and agreed to award £1,151.50 from the Community Safety Fund.
1101	2	Serpentine Road Family Church	£5,500.00	To contribute towards the redevelopment of an area adjacent to the church / community buildings for use by the wider community for outdoor activities.	£0.00	£0.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	Panel considered this to be a good project that will benefit local people and agreed to contribute £1,500.00 towards this from the Local Agenda 21 Fund, subject to receiving confirmation that the funding will be spent on environmental projects and supplying a breakdown of how the funding will be spent.

1102	3	Wirral Women & Childrens Aid	£1,000.00	To help run the youth club for the next 12 months.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it is not area specific and not enough information was included on how this will benefit residents in the area.
1103	4	Royal Naval Association	£2,500.00	To contribute towards the refurbishment of the Riverview Club for the benefit of the Association members and visitors.	£2,500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,500.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £2,500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.
1104	5	Argyle Music Hall	£1,000.00	To provide entertainment for older people and those who have an interest in music hall (hire of venue, payment of artistes and musicians, advertising costs).	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it is not area specific enough.
1105	6	Jellybean Kids' Appeal	£2,500.00	To contribute towards creating a children's assessment and treatment area (CATS) at Arrowe Park Hospital.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.
1176	7	Wirral Life Education Centres	£750.00	To contribute towards the costs of providing a mobile classroom at local primary schools.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.

1188	8	Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability (WIRED)	£900.00	To contribute towards provision of a new heavyweight scooter for Liscard Shopmobility to meet the needs of an expanding membership.	£900.00	£0.00	£0.00	£900.00	Panel considered this to be a good project that will benefit local people and agreed to award £900.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund, subject to plaque being placed on the scooter recognising the contribution from the Area Forum.
1190	9	Wallasey Chess Club	£450.00	To organise, publicise and put on a simultaneous chess exhibition by a British Grandmaster against 24 chess players.	£450.00	£0.00	£0.00	£450.00	Panel considered this to be a good project that meets the criteria and will benefit local residents, and agreed to award £450.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.
1204	10	Inclusive Access (UK) Ltd	£6,400.00	To provide access auditing and Disability Awareness Training to enhance community and voluntary buildings within the places within the forum area.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it is not area specific enough.
1213	11	Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	£218.00	To train / recruit 15 volunteers to work with children and their families who are affected by crime in their local area, and to cover volunteer's travel expenses.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it is not area specific enough.
1225	12	Age Concern Wirral	£855.00	To contribute towards annual older persons' conference.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it is not area specific enough.

1236	13	Allendale Youth Works'	£2,629.17	To cover staffing costs to run a four week school holiday programme, to purchase sports / arts equipment, to fund a day trip.	£2,629.17	£0.00	£0.00	£2,629.17	Panel considered this to be a good project that meets the criteria and will benefit people within the area, and agreed to award £2,629.17 from the Community Initiatives Fund.
Jo McCourt declared an interest in the above application and took no part in the decision making process									
1237	14	Seacombe Partnership	£2,758.00	To purchase a lap top and digital camera, and to cover stationery and printing costs. This will enable the partnership to set up a website, produce a regular newsletter, record events etc.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as there was insufficient information on who will be responsible for the laptop, insurance, and where the partnership operates from.
1238	15	Stage One 2000 Musical Youth Theatre	£393.00	To contribute towards setting up a concert party that can be taken around to nursing homes etc.	£393.00	£0.00	£0.00	£393.00	Panel considered this to be a good project that meets the funding criteria, and agreed to award £393.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.
1239	16	Stars Playgroup / Pre-School	£482.00	To purchase equipment for the Playgroup.	£482.00	£0.00	£0.00	£482.00	Panel considered this to be a good project that meets the funding criteria, and agreed to award £482.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.

1240	17	Liscard House Tenants Association	£495.00	To purchase and install a heater in the foyer of Liscard House.	£495.00	£0.00	£0.00	£495.00	Panel considered this to be a good project that meets the criteria and will benefit local people, and agreed to award £495.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.
1241	18	Liscard Community Renaissance	£1,000.00	To contribute towards the purchase of Christmas lights for Liscard.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Panel considered this to be a good project that meets the funding criteria, and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.
Carole Thomas declared an interest in the above application and took no part in the decision making process									
1242	19	Wallasey YMCA	£2,865.85	To provide a four week summer holiday programme for young people.	£2,865.85	£0.00	£0.00	£2,865.85	Panel considered this to be a good project that meets the criteria and will benefit local people, and agreed to award £2,865.85 from the Community Initiatives Fund.
Jo McCourt declared an interest in the above application and took no part in the decision making process									
1243	20	Poulton Victoria Football Club	£2,500.00	To contribute towards security measures at the club.	£0.00	£2,500.00	£0.00	£2,500.00	Panel considered this to be a good project that meets the criteria and will benefit local people, and agreed to award £2,500.00 from the Community Safety Fund.

1244	21	Perspective Theatre Company	£1,800.00	To present ten workshops covering alcohol and drugs issues across the forum area.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support it, as consider this duplicates other projects within the area.
1282	22	All Fired - Up	£1,000.00	To contribute towards cost of fitness equipment, marketing of health promotion, transportation and attending away days.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.
Late Applications									
1315	23	Egremont Primary School	£2,500.00	To replant shrub area at the front of the school, creating habitats for wildlife. Compost will be generated by recycling projects run by the children. To erect a sign and a flagpole.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	The panel did not consider this application a it was received after the closing date. However the Local Agenda 21 Officer agreed to contact the School and advise them that they could apply to Open for All funding.
Funding Allocated					£11,715.02	£3,651.50	£1,500.00	£16,866.52	
Balance of Funding					£534.04	£768.50	£0.00	£1,302.54	

Liscard / Seacombe Area Forum Funding Progress Report

Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
£880.00	Central Liscard Area Residents Association	To fund the servicing of the association, and to help set up an ERIC collection point.	Report received from Central Liscard Area Residents Association - July 2006: The association has set up pick up points for the area and passed this information onto the relevant Council Officers. This has helped to make the area cleaner, greener and safer.
£400.00	Manor Club JFC	To purchase equipment and kit for the club.	Report received from Manor Club JFC - July 2006: Thanks for the funding. All of the teams have access to the kit and the training sessions have improved immensely with positive comments from parents, coaches, and more importantly, the children of the club. The training equipment has helped us to develop the children's physical skills and added extra fun to the training sessions.
£1,580.00	CBED	To refurbish the Place in the Park	Report received from CBED - July 2006: We would like to thank the Area Forum for the grant for the new grilles. These will add to the security of the Place in the Park and reduce the costs of replacing broken windows.
£850.00	Seacombe Community Association Luncheon Club	To purchase equipment for use by the luncheon club.	Report received from Seacombe Community Association Luncheon Club - July 2006: New equipment (including freezer, trays, teapots, chopping boards) have been purchased for the

kitchen to replace broken equipment and
maintain a good health and safety standard
within the community centre.

Section Four

Local Area Plan

Update

The purpose of the area plan is to give you an understanding of the local area in which you live. It also gives information about Wirral, what is in your area, statistical information and it also identifies local issues that have been raised and includes those nationally agreed Local Area Agreement priorities.

A lot of hard work has gone into the plan by the area co-ordinator, area plan sub-group and members of the community.

Thank you very much to everybody for all their hard work and support in development the area plan.

The area plan is a useful tool for everyone who has an interest in improving the local area, as it will not only provide area forum members with a work programme of actions to be addressed, but it will also ensure that local people have a means of monitoring the impact and progress of the area forum and the difference it is making to the quality of life of local people in the area.

Area plans will be refreshed on annual basis to take account of changing priorities and the changing policy environment within which our local services operate. It will be the responsibility of the area forums to refresh their area plan and to report on progress to their local community.

Area plans are being developed across all 11 of the area forums currently operating in Wirral and will feed into the annual refreshment of the local area agreement and the overarching community strategy for Wirral.

Section Five

Youth Update

Wirral Youth Service

Introduction

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

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

- Youth clubs
- Street work projects
- "Kontaktabuses"
- "Wirral Youth Theatre" and Youth Arts
- "Response" – Advice, support, advocacy and information service and Substance Misuse Service
- International exchanges
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Outdoor activities
- Projects in schools

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

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

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

Response

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

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse.

Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

International Work

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

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups.

Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 450 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

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

Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts

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

Allandale

Within the east Wallasey area is the Allandale youth club.

The Allandale is open Monday Wednesday 8pm -10pm and Friday 7pm-10pm.

Staff do outreach work in the area Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-8pm. The club is open to all age 13+ and has a friendly atmosphere. Members can take part in a wide range of activities and become involved as senior members.

Seacombe Outreach team

The Seacombe team are currently running as an outreach team based from the Allendale and working in the Seacombe area Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-10pm.

At present they are developing relationships with the young people in the area with a view to organising positive activities.

Wallasey Young Peoples Project

The Wallasey Young People's Project undertakes street-work and where appropriate, makes use of the Kontacta Bus, in parts of the Seacombe and Liscard wards, Monday to Friday.

Section Six

Streetscene update

Review of Disc zone Parking

Wirral Council has completed the major consultation exercise with residents and businesses in Birkenhead over plans to scrap the disc zone parking regulations.

This review has been prompted by the difficulty to enforce the current regulations from motorists who are not familiar with the area. Wirral Council also wishes to encourage motorists to make more use of alternative modes of transport.

The scheme has now been advertised and staff are currently dealing with objections, with the aim to present a report to Select Committee on 4 October 2006.

Hoylake Improvements

With phase 1 completed in time for The Open Golf Championship, phase 1b has now commenced. This work is expected to be complete early next year with a break during the Christmas shopping weeks.

Environmental and Streetscene Services Contract

An extensive procurement exercise has taken place over the last 12 months, for the provision of Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing Services for the Borough. Four tenders were received and after a comprehensive evaluation the tender was awarded to Biffa.

The contract commenced on August 22 with considerable efforts by Biffa representatives and officers of the Council to ensure that the mobilisation of the contract is successful, with as little disruption to the service as possible.

Key benefits include Bank Holiday collection (excluding Christmas and New Year), Sunday street cleansing and electronic communication systems between crews and the call centre to provide immediate feedback from collections and residents.

Waste and Recycling

Garden Recycling

All residents currently participating in the white sack garden recycling scheme have received a brown wheelie bin in replacement of their white garden sacks to increase the capacity of garden recycling. The roll out was completed at the end of August with Biffa now collecting these bins. This was deemed necessary to avoid the long term health and safety implications associated with the white sacks for the collection crews.

Food and Garden recycling

A newsletter has been distributed to all residents who receive a food and garden waste collection to update them on the scheme, provide encouragement to increase food recycling particularly and provide information on the current use of the product after process through the IVC.

Paper and Packaging Recycling

The new dry recyclables scheme consisting of paper and packaging is to begin the week starting November 6. This collection will see plastics, glass, paper, cardboard, foil and cans all being collected, combined, from the kerb-side. The Oxton, Prenton, Woodchurch, Upton and Moreton wards are to be in the first phase roll out. The marketing literature is near completion and information roadshows will begin on the week starting September 25.

With the introduction of these Paper and Packaging recycling bins comes the alternate weekly collection of recycling and residual waste. The level of recyclable materials will mean the weekly residual bin collections will be unnecessary and expensive. The chosen areas will provide valuable experience when collecting from a range of properties including terraces, multiple-occupancy, semi-detached among others.

The next phase of roll out will begin in March 2007.

Road Improvements along Saughall Massie Road

The major road improvement scheme along Saughall Massie Road in West Kirby between Blackhorse Hill to the junction of Gilroy Road has now been completed. This work was carried out within budget and on time.

Major Surfacing Schemes

Recently completed surfacing works in the Borough are:

Frankby Road, Frankby Close to Hillbark Road
Holm Lane
Townfield Lane
Pasture Road, Moreton over the bridge
Forest Road, Heswall
Thurstaston Road, Irby (part only)
Raby Mere Road
Graham Road, West Kirby

A trial programme of surface dressing was undertaken during the summer in:

Column Road, Caldy, Caldy Road to Grange Cross Lane
Willaston Road, Clatterbridge
Denning Drive, Irby
Heathbank Road, Irby

The aim of this work is to provide a proactive maintenance of the carriageway surface which will enable Wirral Council to achieve a sustainable programme of maintenance.

Recently completed footway improvements:

Wharfedale Road, Wallasey
Grant Road, Leasowe
Pasture Road (bridge area)
Grange Road, West Kirby (part)
Meols Drive, Hoylake (part)
Riviera Drive, Tranmere

Road Signage

As reported at the last meeting, a programme of traffic sign improvements has taken place during the summer and was complete in time for The Open Golf Championship.

This work covered all the main routes in the Borough and contributed to the success of the Championship.

Depending on funding, Wirral Council hope to continue with further signage improvements next year.

Leasowe Road/Gardenside roundabout

Work is now in progress on the construction of the new roundabout. This scheme is part of Wirral Council's aim to improve road safety and reduce congestion.

Traffic Calming

Traffic calming schemes are currently in progress in the Trafalgar Road area of Wallasey and the Willan Street area of Birkenhead. A further scheme is planned for Twickenham Drive in Leasowe.

Traffic safety schemes

As part of Wirral Council's drive to improve road safety a number of schemes have been completed in the Borough.

Brighton Street/King Street, Wallasey
Ferry Road, Eastham
Smithy Hill, Thornton Hough
Moreton Road, Upton new Puffin crossing
Greasby Road/Frankby Road new traffic signal junction improvement
Laird Street/Park Road North a major new junction improvement will be complete in the next few weeks.

Road Safety

A new law has come into effect on Monday 18 September requiring drivers to ensure that all children under 135cms (4' 5") or age 12 – whichever they reach first –use an appropriate car restraint when travelling in their vehicle. The Road Safety team have spent time publicising this and meeting with parents to provide advice for the correct car restraints.

The Kerb Craft team have with marketing created several new streams of literature to encourage road safety in children and reduce accidents of this nature in Wirral. Calendars and activity books are all examples of this.

Routine Inspections

As part of Wirral Council's legal duties regular inspections are made of all the roads in the Borough. This very successful inspection regime has reduced significantly the number of claims being made.

Future Programmes

Assessment surveys are currently being undertaken across the Borough for statistics to collate a structural maintenance programme for 07/08. Forums should now be considering which streets in their area should be put forward for inclusion in their future programme.

As part of Wirral Council's commitment to improve road safety and improve the public transport infrastructure two new major junction improvements are currently being designed for A41/Bromborough Village Road and A41/Eastham Rake junctions.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL **CABINET – 15 th NOVEMBER 2006**

DRAFT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK AREA FORUM CONSULTATION

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report brings to Cabinet's attention the results of Area Forum Consultation on the drawing up of the 2007/08 list of highway schemes under the LTP Integrated Transport Block.

1.2 It summarises the decision of each Area Forum on the possible reallocation of this transport block from the centre to each Area Forum.

1.3 The report concludes and seeks Cabinet approval to the Block Allocation remaining at the centre. It caveats however that the Area Forums be more closely engaged in drawing up subsequent programmes of work under this heading.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Cabinet on 25 April 2006 considered a report from the Director of Technical Services on the Integrated Transport Block element of the Transport Capital Programme. The relevant minute is reproduced below:-

Minute 569 – Transport and Infrastructure: Transport Capital Programme 2006/7
Integrated Transport Block

The Director of Technical Services had identified specific schemes for inclusion in the 2006/07 Transport Capital Programme within the specific headings of Speed Reduction, Road Widening/Parking, Aids to Movement (Dropped Crossings, Central Refuges and signposting for Pedestrians), and his report also suggested a way in which Area Forums could be included in drawing up programmes within the Integrated Transport Block. The

Environment and Transportation Select Committee on 6 April, 2006 supported the recommendation.

A decision was required to approve the proposed programme which was part of the Local Transport Plan process (LTP), identified in the Forward Plan as a key decision.

The Leader requested that a further report be brought to the Cabinet on the issue of delegated funding to Area Forums and that measures be put in place to ensure that Area Forums had all the relevant information, advice and guidance on the issues involved.

Minute Decision:

Resolved –

(1) That the programmes for 2006/07, as set out in paragraph 3 of the report, be approved.

(2) That the Director of Technical Services engage with all Area Forums prior to drawing up the Integrated Transport Block Programme for 2007/08.

(3) That the following proposed programmes for the Integrated Transport Block for 2006/07 be approved:-

(a) Speed reduction programme – individual schemes be undertaken as listed in Appendix 2 - £70,000.

(b) Road widening / Resident Parking – Stanney Close, Eastham - £20,000.

(c) Pedestrian Dropped Crossings – Programme devised in conjunction with WIRED including consideration of sites listed in Appendix 7 - £40,000.

(d) Central Refuges (Aids to Movement) – Individual schemes as listed in Appendix 6 - £40,000.

(e) Pedestrian Sign Posting – to complement public transport initiatives - £10,000.

(4) That in the event it proves impractical to proceed with an approved scheme or unallocated finance becomes available, the Director of Technical Services be authorised to select a suitable alternative from the reserve list in consultation with the party spokespersons.

2.2 Subsequent to the above minute senior officers engaged each of the Eleven Area Forums in the June cycle of meetings as follows.

Area Forums 2006/7

DATE	FORUMS	VENUE
Monday – 7pm 5 June 2006	Bromborough/Eastham	South Wirral High, Plymyard Avenue, Eastham CH62 8EH

Monday – 7 pm 5 June 2006	Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch	Woodchurch Methodist /Church, Pemberton Road, Woodchurch CH49 8JL
Tuesday – 6pm 6 June 2006	Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry	Birkenhead Town Hall, Hamilton Street, Birkenhead CH41 6AX
Tuesday – 7pm 6 June 2006	New Brighton / Wallasey	Greenleas Primary School, Greenleas Road, Wallasey
Monday – 7pm 12 June 2006	Bidston & Claughton	Birkenhead 6 th Form College, Park Road West, Claughton CH43 8SQ
Monday – 7pm 12 June 2006	Oxton / Prenton	Woodchurch Road Primary School, Woodchurch Road, Prenton CH42 9LJ
Tuesday – 7pm 13 June 2006	Leasowe, Moreton & Saughall Massie	Sandbrook Primary School, Stavordale Road, Moreton CH46 9PS
Monday – 7pm 19 June 2006	East Wallasey (Liscard / Seacombe)	Committee Rooms 1/2 Town Hall, Wallasey
Monday – 7pm 19 June 2006	Heswall / Pensby & Thingwall	Pensby Recreation Centre, Pensby Road, Pensby CH61 9PE
Tuesday – 7pm 20 June 2006	West Wirral	Holy Trinity School, Market Street, Hoylake CH47 3BH
Tuesday – 7 pm 20 June 2006	Bebington / Clatterbridge	Bebington Civic Centre, Civic Way, Bebington CH63 7PT

2.3 In presenting the item to each of the Area Forums, Technical Services officers outlined the situation along the following lines:-

The views of the Area Forum are sought on the composition of the Integrated Transport Block programme for 2007/08 and the extent to which funding decisions could be delegated to Area Forums.

Members of the Area Forum will see from the minute from Cabinet that the 2006/07 programme comprises:-

Speed reduction programme	£70,000
Road widening/residents parking	£20,000
Pedestrian dropped crossings	£40,000
Central refuges	£40,000
Pedestrian sign posting	£10,000
Total	£180,000

It could be anticipated that the allocation for 2007/08 would be of a similar order.

At the Cabinet meeting a number of views were expressed as to how Area Forums could best be engaged in the process. The Cabinet also considered whether each Area Forum should be given an equal share of the Integrated Transport Block (£180,000 for 2006/07)

which they would allocate as they choose or alternatively the money should continue to be spent on a borough wide basis but the views of the Forums be fed into the decision making process.

The sum of money involved, if allocated to each Forum on an individual basis (for example £16,300 for 2006/07), would be unlikely to allow for the introduction of a speed reduction scheme. Similarly only a very modest road widening scheme could be undertaken, although possibly a parking area of approximately 4/5 spaces could be provided within an existing grass verge.

Dropped crossings to assist pedestrians are currently programmed in conjunction with Wirral Information Resource for Equality and Disability and £16,300 would allow about 26 crossings to be provided. A typical central refuge scheme would cost about £10,000 and therefore probably one could be provided subject of course to the intended carriageway having sufficient width which would need to be a minimum of 10 metres.

Individual pedestrian sign posting would be likely to cost in the order of £200 per sign.

If the Integrated Transport Block funding is allocated to individual Area Forums it would be possible to undertake a modest programme comprising some elements of parking schemes, dropped crossings, refuges and sign posting. Alternatively, Forums may prefer for the sums to be used on a borough wide basis as at present but to nominate areas where funding could be allocated.

An additional option is to separate out the speed reduction programme of £70,000 and hold it centrally whilst sharing the remaining funding across the eleven Area Forums. This would allow £11,000 per Area Forum for consideration of other works under the Integrated Transport Block headings.

3.0 RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION

3.1 Whilst nine of the eleven Area Forums were able to come up with a decision on the night, two Area Forums (Birkenhead, Tranmere and Rock Ferry and Oxton and Prenton) engaged their wider membership by way of letter and questionnaire.

3.2 For completeness, tabulated below is the outcome of the whole consultation process.

Area Forum Outcomes

Integrated Transport Block

Allocate on Individual basis to Area Forum	Leave at Centre
Bromborough / Eastham	New Brighton / Wallasey
Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall	Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton and Woodchurch
	Bidston / Claughton
	Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie

	East Wallasey, Liscard and Seacombe
	Bebington / Clatterbridge
	West Wirral
	Oxton / Prenton
	Birkenhead / Tranmere / Rock Ferry

3.3 In addition to the decisions on how the funding could be best allocated, those Area Forums opting for the funding to remain central did request to have some input in the drawing up of subsequent works programmes.

4.0 SUMMARY

4.1 The result of the consultation exercise is that nine out of the eleven Area Forums have decided that the whole of the Integrated Transport Block allocation remains at the centre for use on a borough wide basis.

Future programmes e.g. work under this heading will be put before the Streetscene and Transport Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to seeking approval from Cabinet.

4.2 That the Area Forums wish to be involved in drawing up subsequent programmes of work.

5. DIRECTORS COMMENTS

5.1 In view of the results of the consultation it would appear sensible to keep the whole of this Integrated Transport block allocation central. In doing this and in liaising more closely with the Area Forums through their February 2007 cycle of meetings officers can engage in meaningful discussion on the types of schemes and locations that might be considered suitable and capable of prioritisation in areas covered by the respective Area Forums.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING

6.1 None arising out of this report. The Integrated Transport Block Allocation currently at £180,000 is derived directly from the LTP settlement. Existing staff are engaged in administering the schemes arising from this allocation.

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no implications under this heading.

8.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no planning implications.

9.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Schemes which can arise out of the determination on the spending profile of the block allocation can help improve safety.

10.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific human rights implications arising directly from this report.

11.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no implications under this heading.

12.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

12.1 A Minute of Cabinet of 25 April 2006 has been used as a basis to this item.

13.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

13.1 All Wards have been part of the consultation process.

14.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 That the report be noted and that officers be thanked for their engagement with the Area Forums over this matter.

14.2 That the Integrated Transport Block Allocation remain intact and central and for future schemes under this heading to be determined through the Streetscene and Transport Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to approval by Cabinet.

14.3 That the Director of Technical Services provide assistance into Area Forums to aide decision making in drawing up future works programmes under the Integrated Transport Block Allocation.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES

Section Seven

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service update

A verbal update will be provided during the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service update at the Forum.

Section Eight Community Safety

A verbal update will be provided during the Community Safety update at the Forum.

Section Nine

Community Reps Report

REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY & FAITH SECTOR

DID YOU KNOW

This sector works with a variety of Funders, Service Providers (both Statutory & Private) and Community Representatives (mainly volunteers from a variety of Community Groups) within the framework of two Neighbourhood Partnerships:- Seacombe Neighbourhood Partnership and The Liscard & Egremont Partnership.

These Partnerships meet on a regular basis to discuss local issues and progress the aims and objectives of their own Action Plans. Over the past 18 months or so the following has been achieved through hard work with several funders:

Fair Shares for Liscard – this lottery funding has seen a number of new initiatives for the benefit of the community.

- UK online Centre. Based within the CBED complex in Liscard Road 1 ½ posts have been provided until 2008 to continue the drop-in facility, provide instruction in basic internet skills, access to Jobsearch and a Homework Club for local schoolchildren.
- YMCA: Funding has provided for the appointment of a Facilities Manager & support staff, with a full-time Youth worker post and a trainee Youth worker.
- Grosvenor Assembly Rooms & Liscard Community Complex: A fully equipped training kitchen has been installed and courses in basic skills in family cookery with Healthy Eating on a budget in mind are now provided to local residents.
- CLARA (Central Liscard Residents Association): Through hard work and vigorous campaigning two Liscard Neighbourhood Wardens have now been appointed and are based at 224 Liscard Road in the CBED complex.
- St. Thomas's Church Hall: there are proposals in hand for future improvements to this facility that houses many local groups and activities.
- Community Garden: there are proposals for a possible garden at the Liscard Complex sometime in the future.

All these projects have been selected by a panel of voluntary and community sector representatives.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF – People & Places.): A panel of local and community reps from Seacombe & Egremont have approved and commissioned several major projects under different themes through the funding available during 2006/7.
Improvements to local facilities:

- The Place in the Park (PIP) has been refurbished with a new non-slip floor, new upvc windows and doors, a new water boiler and re-decoration of the kitchen.

- St Paul's Community Hall: Work has commenced to provide a new damp-proofed floor, new disabled access toilet facilities and an improved kitchen area are amongst the list of ongoing projects.
- Seacombe Community Centre: A new boiler has been commissioned for this complex.
- YMCA: Funding to complete the disabled access toilets due to unavoidable changes to the original design.

Green & Open Spaces:

- Serpentine Road Church A Sensory Garden has been commissioned to be integrated with the children's play area at the front of the church.
- 78 Union Street: A garden project to the rear of this complex has also been approved.

Health & Well-being:

- YMCA: The appointment of a fitness instructor has been approved.

Youth Provision:

- The Allandale Centre: Core-funding has been provided to enable this centre to remain open and provide its Youth Clubs & the Play-scheme facilities alongside that of the YMCA both of which are supported through the Community Initiatives Fund.

Many other small to medium local projects have also been provided with resources through People and Places NRF, including the Riverside project with the Café in the Visitors Centre in Central Park, the Avalon Boxing Club with kit for the youngsters, the Salvation Army Church with new equipment for their Youth Club, and the very popular Canal Boat trips with the Wirral Canal Boat Trust for groups of elderly and disabled people who would not otherwise have access to the Cheshire countryside.

Other activities:

The Aspire project: Aspire is working with local residents and volunteers to put on an open air theatre project, a play produced and performed entirely by local people of all ages and it is anticipated that this will take place at the end of October.

Both the YMCA and CBED work with Scottish Power Learning and The Prince's Trust on local projects; CBED also provides access to Jobsearch via the UK online Centre to the Trust's young people and trains them in preparing their CVs and personal portfolios.

The Helping Hands project funded by Social Services operates from CBED with an army of Volunteers and The Wallasey Volunteer Centre also operates from CBED on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week.

SO NOW YOU DO KNOW: The vital THIRD SECTOR is alive well and thriving in the East Wallasey Wards of Liscard & Seacombe.

For information regarding meetings of the two Neighbourhood Partnerships please contact the following:

Liscard & Egremont Partnership – Carole Thomas at Cbed 0151 630 4164
 Seacombe Neighbourhood Partnership – Diane Ledder at Cbed 0151 630 4164