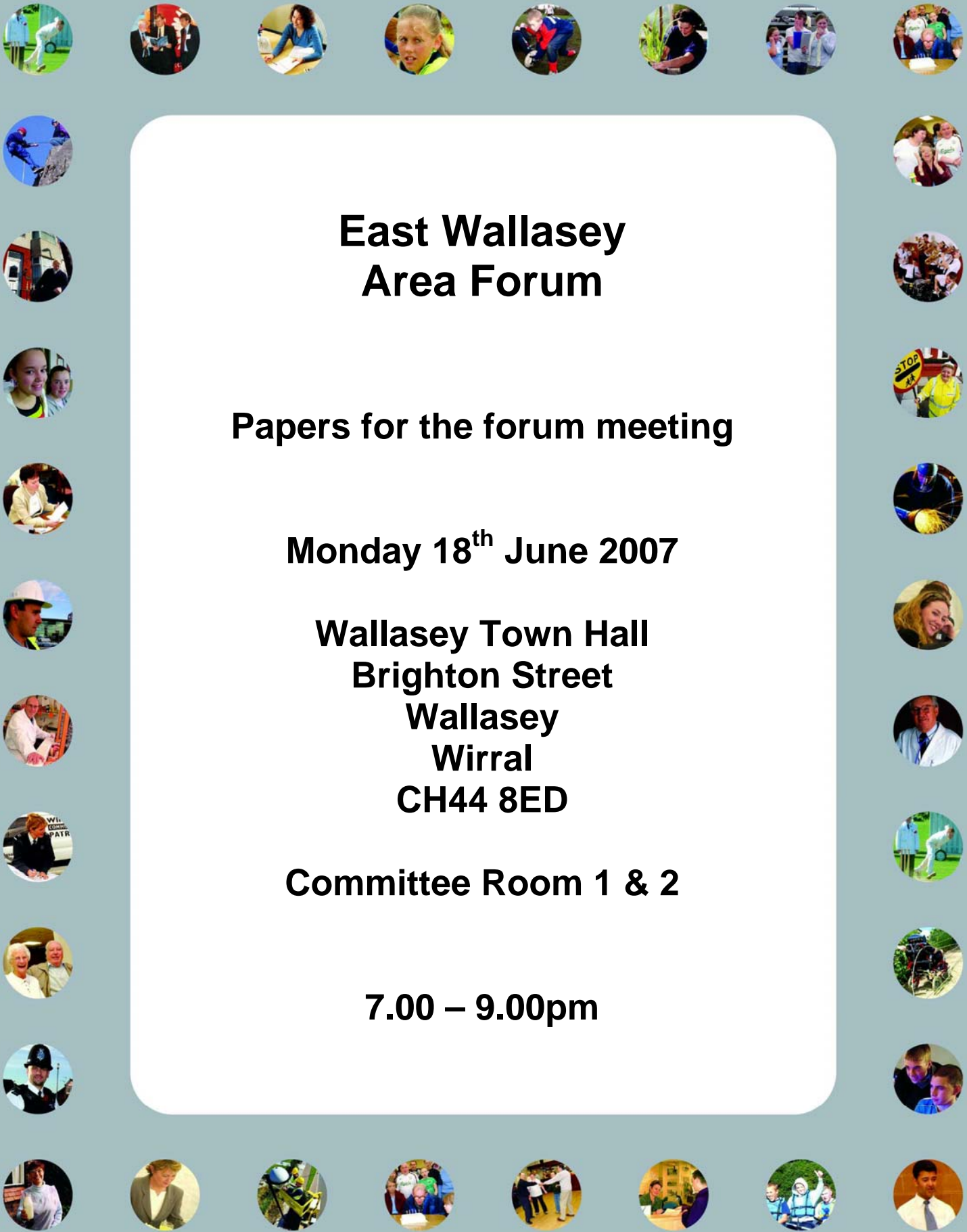


**YOUR SAY** 

 **WIRRAL**



# East Wallasey Area Forum

**Papers for the forum meeting**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

**Wallasey Town Hall  
Brighton Street  
Wallasey  
Wirral  
CH44 8ED**

**Committee Room 1 & 2**

**7.00 – 9.00pm**



2002-2003  
Community Legal Services  
2003-2004  
Transforming Secondary Education  
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services

[www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)

**East Wallasey**  
**(Liscard & Seacombe)**  
**Area Forum**  
**Area Co-ordinator's Report**  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

**Michelle Gray**

**Tel: 0151 691 8213 Fax: 0151 691 8159**

**Community Engagement Co-ordinator**

**email: [michellegray@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:michellegray@wirral.gov.uk)**

**[www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)**

**minicom: 0151 691 8480**

**Community Engagement Team, Corporate Services,  
Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED.**

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# SECTION ONE

## Minutes - East Wallasey Area Forum (Liscard/Seacombe) 14 February 2007

Present	
Chair	D Hawkins
Ward Councillors	L Fraser , AER Jones , JJ Salter
Community Representatives	Fr. Leon Ostaszewski , Carole Thomas (Liscard Community Representative)
Lead Officer	Mark Camborne (Health & Safety & Resilience Operations Manager)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Andrew Brannan , Michelle Gray
Primary Care Trust	Tricia Maroney
Merseyside Police	Sgt Robby Keating , PC Greg Lambert , CSO David Lamont
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Tony Mooney
Council Officers	Christine Jones (Children and Young People) , Phil Miner , Jim Thompson (Crime and Disorder Project Officer)
Apologies	Margaret Allen (Seacombe Community Representative) , John Drew (Seacombe LCP) , DT Knowles , Diane Ledder , G Leech , Jo McCourt (Wallasey YMCA)

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- Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinators report
- Minute 3 - Public question time
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- Minute 5 - Presentation on Mobile Community Police Station
- Minute 6 - Wirral Primary Care Trust: Public Health Annual Report
- Minute 7 - Partner Updates: - Merseyside Police - Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Minute 8 - Dates of future meetings/Presentations
- Minute 9 - Any other business

### Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions

Councillor Dave Hawkins announced his election as Chair of the Area Forum, in place of Councillor Adrian Jones.

The Chair welcomed forum members and 30 members of the public to the meeting of the East Wallasey [Liscard/Seacombe] Area Forum in Wallasey Town Hall. He introduced Michelle Gray, as the new Area Co-ordinator from the next meeting in June, and invited Forum members to introduce themselves.

### Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinators report

The Area Co-ordinator highlighted the key articles and information in his report –

- Safer and Stronger Communities: Merseyside Police are seeking Community Volunteers, Special Constables, Police Community Support and Traffic Officers, from people of all ages, races, genders and educational backgrounds. [Details of the Volunteer Recruitment Co-ordinator are given on page 15 of the area co-ordinator's report]. .
- Older People's Parliament: Although there had been a good response from people in this area, one or two places are still available. People over 50 who are interested in joining the Older People's Parliament should telephone Tracey Smith on 0151 691 8026, or email traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk for an application form.

- Wirral Hospital NHS Trust: The Trust has asked that the attention of the Area Forum is brought to the Trust's Engagement Strategy. Presentations would be given at future forum meetings to 'set the scene' for the Trust's plans for the next five years.
- Youth update – Information on the Youth Voice Conferences and Youth Parliament.
- Area Forum Funding Progress Report - Information on the distribution of funding allocated to projects and initiatives in the Liscard/Seacombe areas.
- Local Area Plan - An update on the area plan for Liscard and Seacombe. Work has started on updating and refreshing the area plan.
- Integrated Transport Block Report - Area Forums are invited to advise of any traffic issues or locations requiring investigation for potential inclusion in the Integrated Transport Block programme for 2007/08.

Suggestions should be sent to in writing or by email to the Area Co-ordinator, who would collate the responses for submission to the Director of Technical Services by Friday, 9 March 2007.

Operation Joker: Michelle drew attention to a new project operating in Neighbourhood Renewal areas from March/April. There would be a focus on terraced properties in areas where bins are left out all week long and there is fly tipping in entries. The 100/150 entries selected will have signage and there will be enhanced awareness raising through leaflets drops and by door-knocking. The entries would be monitored and enforcement action taken where appropriate.

Members of the public are invited to nominate streets or clusters of streets via the area forum tonight or by e-mailing or faxing the area co-ordinator, Michelle Gray, not later than Thursday, 15 March 2007.

Minute decision:

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

### **Minute 3 - Public question time**

Pre-empting questions on the current situation on bin collections, Mark Camborne suggested that members of the public were already aware that Biffa had been awarded the waste collection contract and that the change-over had coincided with the roll out of the three-bin system across the whole of Wirral. Due to the poor weather conditions, collections had been suspended for a couple of days last week on health and safety grounds. Householders had advise on the days to leave their bins out and 17 crews had worked through the following weekend to clear the backlog. Biffa had given assurances that a concerted effort would be made to empty the bins in the streets and individual households that have been missed.

A member of the public commented that households in terraced properties had been advised to deposit their bins at identified collection points to avoid bins being strewn randomly along the streets. A situation could arise where there are up to 30 bins at the collection point, thus creating a health, safety and fire hazard for the houses adjacent to the collection point. In addition, in instances where the bins are not emptied on the designated day, people are expected to push their bins up and down cobbled alleyways every day until the collection eventually takes place. - Mark Camborne stated he understood the highest priority was given to emptying bins at authorised collection points. He would raise the points made with the Waste Management Team and report back. Dave Hanlon stated that he was delighted with the new bin collection service. He asked for his appreciated to be recorded and conveyed to those people responsible for drawing up the new contract.

- Street lighting – Rice Hey Road: Mr Miller drew attention to poor levels of lighting in the road - Mark Camborne stated that the issue had been raised previously with the Street Lighting Manager and two of the lights had been replaced. He would enquire about the possibility of further improvements to street lighting in the road in the new financial year.

- Litter in Trafalgar Road – A suggestion was made that the litter problem in Trafalgar Road could be addressed by employing wardens to patrol the area just before and after school hours, and by the provision of additional litterbins. The installation of a camera would deter people from allowing their dogs to foul the area.

- Speed Bumps – Mark Camborne would arrange for the Traffic Engineer to contact the member of the public to explain why the particular types of speed bumps have been installed in the roads referred to.
- Coat of Arms: Father Leon pointed out that at the last meeting that he had suggested a coat of arms, not a road sign, in Liscard Way, and congratulated Streetscene on dealing with the matter. He suggested that similar plaques with coats of arms could be erected in other locations in Wirral.
- Europa Square: Father Leon suggested that the bandstand removed from Europa Square could be relocated in Wallasey Central Park. – Mark Camborne to take up with David Ball.
- Football pitches A request for information on the Council's policy on the use of playing fields in the winter, which usually results in a high number of local matches and junior league matches being cancelled. – Mark Camborne replied that he would ask Jim Lester to contact the member of the public direct to discuss the matter.

#### **Minute 4 - Presentation on Wallasey District Cycle Network**

Mandy Keenan gave a presentation on the District Cycle Plans. She explained that a cycle plan is essentially a series of routes that form a network to serve the local area. The aim of the plan is to make travelling around the local area by cycle easier and safer. She would appreciate the views of local residents on whether the plan for Wallasey is the right one. Mandy explained that one of the aims of the Cycling Solutions initiative was to involve more secondary aged children in cycle training. The training would involve on-road training based on new national training standards.

Father Leon stated that vast numbers of children cycle on pavements and this was particularly dangerous for them, particularly near bus stops when they have to look behind to see buses approaching. . He suggested that children should be encouraged to use the carriageway - a practice that would calm down other traffic and be safer for the children.  
Minute decision:

Resolved: That Mandy Keenan be thanked for the presentation.

#### **Minute 5 - Presentation on Mobile Community Police Station**

Laura Newman, Community Development Officer, gave a presentation on the Mobile Community Police Station.

The mobile police station had been introduced in January 2006. When it is closed it looks like a large metal shipping container, but when it is open it becomes a facility that, initially, was intended to be a police station. Due to the lack of sufficient manpower, the facility has been used instead as a multi-agency resource by the Police and Fire Services, the voluntary sector, and by young people. Two surveillance cameras operate on the unit for 24 hours a day and the unit is open for as many hours as manning allows.

When the unit had been located in Seacombe, crime in the area had been reduced by 40%, and anti-social behaviour by 17%, but crime in the surrounding areas increased by 39% compared with previous statistics.

When the unit moved to Borough Road, Birkenhead more agencies and partners had been become involved and crime in areas surrounding Borough Road had reduced by 80%, with no sustained displacement. The unit had now been moved to Menai Street, near Charing Cross in Birkenhead.

The unit is deployed to locations that have the highest number of incidents and referrals recorded in computer statistics and stays in the location for 12 weeks. Recorded statistics are not high for some areas because residents do not report low level incidents of anti-social behaviour. Incidents should be reported to the call centre on 606 2020, or to Crimestoppers.

Dave Hanlon commented that in his experience the Police respond very quickly to calls and intercede where necessary. Local residents are delighted with the service they receive, and the work done in Seacombe is especially appreciated.

#### **Minute 6 - Wirral Primary Care Trust: Public Health Annual Report**

Dr Mukherjee drew attention to the Wirral PCT update on pages 19/20 of the Area Co-ordinator's report. He introduced Tricia Moroney, Public Health Manager. Tricia would join Dr Mukherjee in representing the Wirral Primary Trust at future Forum meetings.

A community engagement event was being planned in the Seacombe area in the Spring. Members of the community would be asked for their views on the health and social needs of residents in the area and the comments received would be fed into the Health Action Plan. The involvement of Forum members at the event would be appreciated.

England would become smoke free from 1 July 2007, when smoking will be banned in all enclosed public places and workplaces in England. Local Environmental Health Officers, who have powers to issue fixed penalty fines, will enforce the law. People who want to take the first steps towards giving up smoking can obtain further information from Wirral SUPPORT Intermediate Advisers in medical centres and practices, and from local pharmacies.

This year, Wirral's Public Health Report has been presented in an electronic format. An interactive presentation would be given at the end of the meeting.

Resolved: That Dr Mukherjee and Tricia Moroney be thanked for their updates.

#### **Minute 7 - Partner Updates: - Merseyside Police - Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service**

Merseyside Police: Although manning levels fluctuate from time to time, about 70 police officers operate from Wallasey Police Station, and approximately half of that number are on duty at any one time, according to the rota system. In 2006, the 70 Officers had arrested 2,575 suspects, investigated 4,542 crimes and attended/dealt with 10,762 calls from the public, 80% within the specified time scale. The Chief Constable's Annual Report would probably recognise Wallasey as one of the three top performing neighbourhood teams on Merseyside in responding to calls.

Issues dealt with recently included the closure of the brothel in Poulton Road when four people had been arrested and the owner of the property had served a notice to quit on the tenant operating the brothel.

Within the next month, Liscard would be designated an 'alcohol free' zone, and it was anticipated that this move would have a positive impact on anti-social behaviour.

There had been a spate of car-related crimes in and around the Seacombe area. Three individuals had been apprehended and sentenced to a total of 3½ years imprisonment. Apart from the emotional stress caused to relatives and families, the cost of the damage to 165 gravestones in Rake Lane Cemetery had been estimated at one million pounds. Four individuals had been apprehended, and although first offenders, because of the seriousness of the matter, the case had been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service. The hearing had been arranged for 19 March.

The Crime Reduction Officer had met the Friends of Rake Lane Cemetery to discuss crime reduction measures in the cemetery and to identify the main points where youths congregate. Additional gates and lights around Earlston library would be installed and the level of patrolling around the cemetery will be maintained. No further damage had been caused since the initial major incident.

Councillor Jones commented that the Police force on Wirral has consistently performed better than other forces on Merseyside for several years. He commended the Wallasey force on dealing with the closure of the brothel and on their prompt response to other incidents, including two incidents relating to dangerous dogs on Egremont Promenade. He corrected the erroneous statistical information published on youth crime and congratulated Officers on the way they deal with youth crime.

A member of the public paid tribute to the excellent work carried out in Wallasey by Inspector John Hogan.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service: Areas of Wallasey which are considered to be high risk

have been targeted for home safety checks, resulting in a year-on-year reduction in the number of domestic fires.

Kitchens are a major source of fire in domestic properties and a new initiative has been introduced whereby volunteers clean the oven in the homes of elderly or disabled householders. The service is free of charge and can be accessed on 0800 731 5958.

There have been 85 incidents of anti-social behaviour related fires. To address the issue, a full time Anti Social Behaviour Officer has been appointed to work with partners in trying to engage the young people and others who cause problems, in positive activities. For example, the renovation of an historic fire engine and equipment, which can lead to a qualification for the young people involved. A DVD has been sent to schools to show the dangers and consequences of poor behaviour.

Wirral would be the location for a high volume pumping appliance as part of the response to terrorist threats.

Community Safety: In 2000, there had been 3,500 burglaries in Wirral. In 2006, this figure had reduced to 1,485, confirming that Wirral is a safe place to live. On average, eleven crimes a day are reported in the Wallasey neighbourhood. The bulk of the crime is criminal damage and in the past eleven days there have been no reports of burglaries.

Resolved: That –

i Robby Keating, Greg Lambert, Tony Mooney and Jim Thompson be thanked for their updates;

ii the congratulations and very best wishes of this Area Forum be conveyed to John Hogan on his promotion to Chief Inspector;

iii proposal to invite some young people in the local area to a future area forum meeting when a presentation based on the DVD that was sent to schools will be shown.

#### **Minute 8 - Dates of future meetings/Presentations**

Resolved: That the next meeting of the area forum be held on Monday, 18 June 2007.

#### **Minute 9 - Any other business**

- Knowsley Avenue: Dave Hanlon thanked Chris Jones, Street Scene Manager, and the staff in the Technical Services Department, for progressing the road surfacing works in Knowsley Avenue and for making other improvements in the area.

- Andy Brannan: The Chair thanked Andy Brannan for his work and efforts on behalf of the Area Forum. He extended the very best regards of the Area Forum to Andy and wished him continuing success in his work with the new Area Forum. Andy thanked the Area Forum for the high level of support and co-operation he has received from East Wallasey Forum.

The Chair thanked everyone and closed the meeting.



## SECTION TWO

### Safer & Stronger Communities

#### Unlicensed landlords urged to contact council

**WIRRAL Council is calling for all owners and managing agents of large rented properties to contact them before the end of the month or risk prosecution.**

From last summer, large houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) have been required to be licensed by the council to comply with new housing laws. If a property is three storeys or more in height, occupied by five persons or more or forming more than one household sharing some facilities such as a kitchen or bathroom, then it will require a license. Without one, the owner or managing agent will face prosecution and a fine of up to £20,000.

Alan Stennard, Director of Regeneration at Wirral Council, said: "Houses in multiple occupation present some of the biggest health and safety risks for residents, especially with the risk of fire. To protect residents' well-being we urge landlords and managing agents of HMOs in Wirral to contact the council immediately. "So far we have issued licenses to 35 owners and managing agents but we know there are far more properties that should be licensed. By the end of March, we will have allowed 10 months for landlords and agents to contact the council. From April 2007 we will begin to prosecute those who have failed to apply for this compulsory scheme."

If you own or manage a HMO you should contact the Private Sector Housing team on 0151 691 8118 now. After March 31st it will be an offence to run or manage unlicensed premises and after that date the council will increase the level of license fees to be charged to cover its enforcement costs.

#### Recycling champions walking the streets of Wirral

**WIRRAL Council has four new recycling champions to help residents really get to grips with what they can and can't recycle.**

David Green, Director of Technical Services said: 'Incorrect use, or contamination of recycling can cause a lot of problems. Heavy items like alloy wheels have been recovered from bins which could have caused serious damage to the materials recovery facility (MRF) if not spotted. We also have a problem if people dispose of plastic film and plastic bags with their waste paper - the companies that buy the waste paper for recycling don't want it as it's full of plastic and useless.' Residents who use their recycling bin incorrectly receive a note with their bin from the collection crews, explaining why the bin was not emptied. This is followed up with a visit from one of Wirral's new officers to help the householder with their recycling.

Said David Green: 'We appreciate that this is a new process for people to understand and follow, our Recycling Champions are here to help and provide alternative solutions if residents cannot cope with managing their waste.' The officers are out and about in Wirral all week including Saturdays and all will be carrying official Council identification. Anyone who fails to produce official Council ID is not a bona fide representative. You should refuse to deal with them and report them to the police.

Any Wirral resident is also welcome to request a visit from a recycling champion if they are unsure about the new scheme, by calling Streetscene on 0151 606 2004.

## Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association

The Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association would like to hear from anyone worried about anti-social behaviour in their community.



Representing around 50 tenant and resident associations in Wirral, the Federation of Tenants and Residents Association sees first hand the effect anti social behaviour has. Anti social behaviour affects people's lives in so many ways. To help address this issue, Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association is organising an anti social behaviour conference in September at Tranmere Rovers FC. The conference will provide an ideal opportunity for tenants and residents to meet and speak to the people who's jobs it is to reduce anti social behaviour in Wirral.

If you are interested in attending please contact Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association on 0151 666 1770 or email [wirralfed@hotmail.com](mailto:wirralfed@hotmail.com)

## Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

**Service Plans** Each year each fire station produces a service plan setting key objectives for that station to focus its activities on during that financial year. The objectives are agreed and are set in line with the Integrated Risk Management Plan for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service which can be viewed on our website [merseyfire.gov.uk](http://merseyfire.gov.uk)

### Key objectives for all Wirral stations include:

- Use of local intelligence to access the "hard to reach" in the community to deliver Home Fire safety Checks.
- Affect a strategy to reduce fires in derelict properties.
- Continue to work with community partners to promote healthy lifestyles.
- Work with partner agencies to reduce the number of Road Traffic Collisions.
- Devise a strategy to reduce small fires in grasslands and open spaces with the Arson Reduction Advocate.
- Introduce a specialist Hazardous Materials response vehicle at Bromborough.

**Home Fire Safety Checks** The number of home fire safety checks including the free fitting of smoke detectors carried out by operational crews in peoples homes in Wirral has increased by over 20% with 1700 carried out in April alone. To get your free home fire safety check call 0800 731 5958.

### Station Contact Numbers Ask for the Watch Manager

Birkenhead	0151 650 0422
Bromborough	0151 548 9258
Heswall	0151 342 4510
Upton	0151 678 0819
Wallasey	0151 630 3040
West Kirby	0151 625 1157

**Information and details relating to particular areas will be available from the Wirral Management Team at the Forums. Paul Gibson Wirral District Manager**

## **Wirral joint Community Safety team area forum update June and July 2007**

### **All Wirral**

- 3G cameras now available and in use in Tranmere and soon to be in Woodchurch
- The Home Office Minister Louise Casey has identified Wirral as one of the England's 'Respect Action Areas'. The 'Respect Housing Standard' an agreement with Registered Social Landlords will start in early June. Wirral's largest registered social Landlords are signed up to this initiative and will be meeting on a monthly basis to ensure standards are maintained.
- Police and Wirral Partnership Homes are working with the Wirral Joint Community Safety Team to reduce Criminal Damage to properties. This will act as a pilot project to be taken up by other registered social landlords.

### **East Wirral**

- BT and NTL boxes which have been the target for graffiti across the eastern side of Wirral. Reparation work will be carried – launch next week – public to identify 'grotty' boxes and then Young Offenders will repaint them.

### **Liscard**

- 46 gates Alleygates are being installed going in Devereux Road, work commencing in June 07

### **Birkenhead and Tranmere**

- The much publicised 'talking CCTVs' are now being deployed starting with Charing Cross, Birkenhead.

### **Neighbourhood Renewal Areas**

- An initiative to provide computers to pupils has worked with Wirral Joint Community Safety Team to ensure they are delivered and used in safety. Specialist Brigadoon Stealth software was deployed which disables and locates computers if stolen.

# Healthier Communities & Older People

(Repeat Insert)

Wirral Hospital   
NHS Trust

**Engagement Strategy** - *The aim of this report is to 'set the scene' for presentations by the Trust at future forums, as part of our ongoing engagement strategy, at which more detail will be communicated about the Trust's plans for the next five years.*

**Wirral Hospital: into a new era** - The development of our Engagement Strategy marks the second phase in meeting our commitment to engage more closely with the communities we serve.

The first phase of this ongoing process came in February 2006 when we undertook a massive consultation programme in relation to our application for Foundation Trust Status "A Change for the Better". This consultation laid out our service plans for the next five years, which were then published as a formal part of our application to become a Foundation Trust. We are now half way through our application to become a Foundation Trust and feel that this is the right time to again engage with the communities we serve.

In the coming months, we will be talking – and listening – to people like you about our plans for the future. Hospital services are changing right across the country and it is important that we keep you up to date on developments. At future presentations we will be in a position to tell you more about our plans.

**Agenda** - Our aim for this brief report is to set the scene and remind you about:

- **who we are**, because sometimes there is confusion about who provides which health service
- **why we are changing** – we have to move with the times and respond to changing needs and demands, which I want to talk about
- and finally, **how we are changing**.

**Who we are** - Wirral Hospital NHS Trust manages two hospitals, providing services for approximately 320,000 people. Arrowe Park Hospital in Upton has around 900 beds and provides a complete range of acute health services. Clatterbridge Hospital in Bebington has around 200 beds for elective surgery (planned operations), rehabilitation services and care of older people. The Trust also manages the X-ray facilities, outpatient services and day hospital at Victoria Central Hospital and the Radiography Department at St Catherine's Hospital. The Trust budget is c£220m and we employ around 6,000 staff across all our sites.

**NHS Foundation Trust** - All hospitals have to become FTs by 2008. NHS FTs are a new kind of NHS organisation. They are accountable to their Membership and to Parliament, rather than to the Department of Health. An independent regulator, Monitor, makes sure they meet requirements and reports on this to Parliament. FTs have Members and Governors – unlike current NHS trusts. Members elect Governors to represent them and to set direction for the organisation. The establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors is a key part of our ongoing engagement strategy. We are aiming for at least 13,000 public members – currently we have 6,000.

**An NHS FT:**

- provides free NHS services on the basis of individual need and not ability to pay
- has to meet NHS standards in everything that it does and will be inspected by the Healthcare Commission and other national bodies
- employs NHS staff on their current terms and conditions of employment
- is accountable to local people through a Council of Governors elected by its members
- has Members who provide a strong link between the services it provides and the local communities it serves
- has to provide real opportunities for staff, service users and carers to influence decision making
- is part of the NHS and cannot be privatised - the level of money it can earn by doing private health work is capped by law

- has to maintain good working relationships with other health and social care organisations

**Changes in NHS nationally** - The NHS has seen a massive increase in funding in recent years, which has brought significant improvements to the way in which patients receive their care and treatment. The dramatic reduction in the maximum waiting times for planned operations (18 months to 6 months) is just one example. As well as improving services for patients the increase in funding has also enabled significant increases in salaries for doctors and nurses both in hospitals and in primary care.

The Government has introduced a number of strategies to enable the NHS to maintain its progress and achieve further improvements both in terms of services to patients but also in terms of the efficiency with which these services are provided. These include:

- changing the way in which NHS trusts are funded. No longer do they receive an annual allocation at the start of the year, but instead are paid according to the number and type of patients they treat (Payment by Results)
- giving patients a choice of which hospital to attend, encouraging trusts to raise standards in order to attract patients through their doors
- offering services, which traditionally were provided in hospitals, closer to people's homes in community settings and developing community services to avoid some patients having to go into hospital
- ensuring NHS trusts become more efficient by requiring them to meet a 2.5% efficiency target by matching the best national or international levels of performance

**Five year plan** - Over the last 10 years Wirral Hospital NHS Trust has become one of the most successful NHS trusts in the country. It has a tremendously strong track record of robust financial management that has enabled the expansion of the range, quality and availability of services to patients. As well as reducing waiting times and balancing our books we have also been able to develop services locally that previously had only been provided in Liverpool. We need to make sure we keep improving and developing services while making realistic financial assumptions and meeting national efficiency requirements. To do this we have developed a five year plan which includes:

- Our plans to treat many more patients and so reduce waiting times to 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment by December 2008
- Our plans to spend over £10M a year on better equipment and facilities such as more single rooms and ward upgrades, parents accommodation and a new heart treatment laboratory
- Our plans to develop more specialist services locally to avoid patients having to travel to Liverpool

Achieving our plans will cost a lot of money and will require us to improve the way we provide services. Treating additional patients will bring more money into the Trust (our income is forecast to go up by around £40M over the five years) but this will not cover all of the extra costs we will face. Comparing ourselves to other hospitals suggests we can do things more efficiently. We have developed plans to improve the way we provide services by reducing the need for patients to come into hospital the night before their operation and making sure they can go home the day they have their operation. We are also planning to improve our elderly care and rehabilitation services, alongside developments in services in primary care, so that patients can be discharged earlier than they are now. We are also looking at the possibility of providing some services in partnership with other NHS organisations or other public sector providers.

Our proposals aim to treat many more patients but to reduce the Trust's running costs by just over £20 million over the next five years by providing services more efficiently for example by:

- Reducing our numbers of surgical beds by admitting patients on the day of their operation and converting beds into day-case beds so that more patients to go home the same day
- Reducing the number of beds we need for patients who do need to stay overnight, by working with primary care services to develop community services and by improving our discharge procedures

**Moving forward together** - The Trust has engaged with the local community regarding its application to become a Foundation Trust but clearly this has to be an ongoing process. As we are now half way through our Foundation Trust application it seems appropriate to undertake further engagement, which will then feed into and hopefully our ongoing strategy and the establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors. Over the coming months and at future meetings we will be talking in more detail about our plans.

## **Technology to help vulnerable people in Wirral to live at home**

Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services, in partnership with Wirral Partnership Homes and Wirral Primary Care Trust is setting up a new, technology-based service that will help disabled and older people to live at home more safely.

The Assistive Technology Project will be launched officially by Wirral's Mayor, Cllr Peter Johnson, at the 'Smart House' on the Woodchurch Estate in Birkenhead on Monday, April 30.

The 'Smart House' will showcase equipment to support people who have difficulty due to age or disability in carrying out everyday tasks.

Nationally, the benefits of assistive technology have been well researched. They include enabling people to live more safely at home, assisting with hospital discharges, supporting falls or accident prevention and reassurance for carers.

Wirral has concentrated on two areas of assistive technology; Telecare and Telemedicine

Telecare means supporting and reassuring service-users from a distance with the help of technology. A range of smart sensors and detectors designed to improve safety in the home connect users by telephone to a monitoring centre via a Lifeline base unit, which is provided by Wirral Partnership Homes.

In the case of an incident or a request for help, the sensors will activate and alert the monitoring centre within seconds. Trained operators will promptly respond to the call. In many cases, operators will contact a key-holder nominated by the client, for example a relative or neighbour. In other cases this will be a back-up response service.

Wirral's Director of Adult Social Services, Kevin Miller, said: "This is a genuinely exciting project that will enable vulnerable people to live safely and independently in their own homes. Kevin added: "The extent to which this project can make a difference to the lives of older people and their carers is staggering; The range of sensors that Wirral will be providing in the initial phase of the project include fall, flood and gas detectors, emergency pull-cord, movement and wandering detectors, bed occupancy sensors and a medication reminder."

The equipment can be commissioned by occupational therapists and social workers working in hospitals, community teams and Adult Social Services. In the longer term, the Assistive Technology Team will be exploring the role of Registered Social Landlords another service-providers in the provision of assistive technology.

Telemedicine will come on stream in the coming months. It is designed to compliment traditional health care and will not replace face-to-face contact with older and disabled people. Telemedicine works by monitoring vital signs such as blood pressure, blood sugars, pulse etc. The data is then transmitted to the clinician's computer where it is closely monitored ensuring a constant picture of a person's health and well being and alerting clinicians to problems

## **Children & Young People**

### **Wirral youth service update**

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 and 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. Street work 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 Kontaktabus.

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 500 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 Youth Centre:

We now have a new acting worker in charge at the Allandale Youth Club. At present the new worker is getting to know the area and the unit. One of the workers main roles this quarter will be publicity for new members. The unit has fund raised at the charity shop in Wallasey and was successful in its bid to Youth opportunity fund. New windows, carpets and furniture are being fitted in the unit. The new worker is in the process of developing a menu of opportunities for youth club members, including using Health Promoting Youth settings. The numbers of young people attending the centre have increased ten fold.

### The Wallasey Young People's Project

The Wallasey Young People's Project undertakes outreach work in the area, making use of the Kontaktabus. Those young people involved in the Seacombe Library Project are submitting their work for the Youth Achievement Award Scheme. Work is undertaken to address community safety issues, often with other agencies

## Wirral school children win recycling challenge

**Schoolchildren across Wirral have scored a double jackpot simply by recycling old Yellow Pages directories - winning hundreds of pounds for their schools and raising enough money to plant and care for 70 native trees.**

Twenty schools recently took on the Yellow Woods Challenge – the simple, educational and fun environmental campaign for schools run by Yellow Pages, working with the Woodland Trust – the UK’s leading woodland conservation charity - and Wirral Council.

The schools had fun competing against each other, recycling over 6000 old Yellow Pages directories. Clare Mount Specialist Sports College beat off fierce competition, recycling an impressive 12.53 old Yellow Pages directories per pupil to take the ‘Gold Oak’ title and win £300. Kilgarth School has been named the ‘Silver Birch’ winner and receives £200, while Orretts Meadow School has been rewarded with £100 and the ‘Bronze Beech’ title.

Stanley Special School will also receive a £100 bonus prize from Yellow Pages for the school that builds the best giant sculpture using old Yellow Pages directories.

Richard Duggleby, head of external relations at Yell – the publisher of Yellow Pages directories, said: “For every pound we award to schools for recycling old Yellow Pages directories, we give a matching pound to the Woodland Trust. Thanks to the recycling efforts of residents and schools in Wirral, that’s another £700 raised for the Trust.”\*

The Woodland Trust will use the money to support its ‘Tree For All’ campaign – the most ambitious children’s tree-planting project ever launched in the UK.

Janice Hix, corporate partnerships manager with the Woodland Trust, said: “This is a very valuable contribution towards our goal. We’re hoping to raise enough money through the Yellow Woods Challenge this year to plant and care for more than five hectares of native woodland – an area as big as 13 football pitches. “Woodland is the UK’s richest wildlife habitat and offers benefits for the environment, for people and for communities. Tree planting is really important as we are one of the least wooded countries in Europe.”

The local competition has now closed, but the schools have several more chances to win thousands of pounds in the national competition for their recycling, environmental education, community involvement and sculpture building efforts.

David Green, Wirral Council’s Director of Technical Services added: “This has been a fantastic competition with over 5 tonnes of old directories diverted from landfill and recycled into cardboard. I congratulate our schools for their achievements locally and wish them all the best of luck in the national competition.”

For more information about the local and national Yellow Woods Challenge competition, please visit [www.yellow-woods.co.uk](http://www.yellow-woods.co.uk)

## Thousands of Pounds available for Wirral Teenagers

**Wirral’s teenagers will soon get the chance to bid for a share of hundreds of thousands of pounds to pay for projects and equipment to improve their lives.**

A total of £377, 513 is available from the Youth Capital Fund and the Youth Opportunity Fund this year in the borough. Application forms are available from April 2 – and must be submitted by midday on June 25. Wirral’s new grant panel of young people aged 13-19 will decide which projects are successful.

Youth Capital Fund money is for capital projects – ie buying equipment, new builds or refurbishments.

Youth Opportunity Fund money is for places to go and things to do – ie projects, residential stays, trips which support young people’s personal development.. Applications should be made from groups or young people aged 13-19. Individuals can’t apply. Last year the funds were oversubscribed by almost £1 million.



Successful applications included a new minibus for a youth club, new equipment for parks and clubs, support for homeless young people, a booklet written by young carers to help others in their situation, residentials and trips.

Maureen McDaid, Head of Wirral's Youth and Play Service, said: "Last year's money has paid for some wonderful projects and broadened opportunities for Wirral's young people. This year's grant panel will have to make some tough decisions – they will be paying close attention to the benefits each application represents."

To request an application pack or find out more about serving on this year's grant panel please contact Youth and Play Service on 637 6370.

## **First school in Wirral to pioneer grey bin recycling**

### **WIRRAL Council and St Anselm's College have joined together to introduce Wirral's paper and packaging recycling collection to the school.**

New grey bins have been delivered to match every regular bin to encourage students to recycle everything they can. The school is leading the way with innovative ideas to help the environment and reduce the amount of waste they produce.

David Green, Director of Technical Services said, "St Anselm's was chosen to pilot the paper and packaging collection due to their forward thinking in many areas of environment protection. We were also very impressed that it's the students that are pushing for the recycling, not just the teachers.

"It's essential that we think about schools as well as households in Wirral in order to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and recycle as much as possible."

St Anselms students created an eco-group the self-named 'Plastic Scousers' who have accepted the task of getting all students to use the grey bins recycling plastic bottles, cans and tins, card and glass by holding assemblies for all students. The paper has already been collected out of every classroom and recycled for some time.

Mr A Rumsby, Deputy Headmaster commented; "When I joined the college in September there was some recycling happening but the systems were not in place for it to be expanded. It took very little to spark the boys into action and the whole initiative is now being driven by our Eco Committee. They have been given the brief to investigate and promote recycling options within our community. They have just found a source for stationery manufactured from recycled materials; the possibilities for continual improvement seem to be endless!"

The school also recycles mobile phones, ink cartridges, CDs and another student group called 'Organic Youth' care and attend to the school's new vegetable garden with a school composter recycling kitchen waste.

The school is appealing for any help to continue to set up the new vegetable garden so any cash, seeds, plants or compost would be greatly appreciated.

## **Authors vie for votes from young Wirral readers**



### **Nearly 100 young people from 12 Wirral secondary schools were lucky enough to meet four of their favourite authors recently.**

Bernard Ashley, well-known for his novel 'Smokescreen', Sandra Glover (Spiked!), Paul Magrs (Exchange) and Theresa Breslin (Divided City) spent all day with the pupils at Bebington Civic Centre, talking to them as a group and on a one-to-one basis, as well as signing copies of their books.

The event was organised by Wirral Schools' Library Service as part of the "Paperback of the Year" award, a project aimed at promoting reading which has run annually in Wirral since 1995.

Every year, 20 of the newest and best paperbacks written for teenagers are sent to participating schools. In each school over the next few months the books are read and a shortlist of favourites produced - after much discussion and debate.

Four of the authors nominated have, for the last few years, been invited to talk to the pupils explaining how they write and where they get their ideas from, and this year the libraries were delighted that those four authors were all able to come along to Bebington this year to meet their readers.

In July, representatives from each school will attend a final judging meeting to choose an overall winner.

One of the pupils who took part this year said: "It's excellent because I got to read loads of different books. I can't wait for the next one!"

Sue Powell, Head of Libraries and Halls at Wirral Council, said: "The Paperback of the Year award is a brilliant way to get pupils, as well as librarians and teachers, to discover new authors and different genres from the diverse and stimulating selection. It is an excellent way of promoting reading for pleasure

### **Space-themed reading project ready for lift-off**

**Pupils from four local primary schools and staff from nearby libraries are on final countdown ahead of the launch of this year's "Reach For The Stars" reading project.**

The project, which first took place 10 years ago in Wirral, involves children from the schools being split into teams then reading as many books with a space theme as they can over a six-week period.

They report into their local libraries on a weekly basis to provide an update on their progress and select more books to borrow.

At the end of the project, everyone who takes part will be invited to a celebration event where the Mayor will present them with a certificate and badges in recognition of their achievements.

The Mayor, along with popular Liverpool poet, Levi Tafari and the project's very own spaceman, will be on hand to launch this year's project on Thursday and Friday this week. Levi has written a special "Reach for the Stars" rap, which he will perform at the launch and at the celebration finale.

On Thursday 3rd, it is all systems go at Leasowe Library at 10.30am with children from Leasowe Primary school. Then on Friday 4th, pupils from Portland Primary will be at St. James' Library at 9.15am for their launch, followed by similar events in the children's section at Birkenhead Central library with pupils from Cathcart Street school (10.30am) and at Ridgeway Library with St. Peter's primary at 1.15pm. The Mayor, Levi and the project's astronaut will be present at all four launches.

Sue Powell, Head of Libraries and Halls for Wirral Council, said: "This project has proved massively popular with children for a decade now and goes from strength to strength. It aims to promote reading for pleasure among pupils, at levels above and beyond what they might do anyway and we are delighted to have the backing of the Mayor and Levi once again this year."

## Economic Development and Enterprise

### Fairtrade Guide available

**A new Fairtrade Guide to Wirral is now available with details of local shops and cafes, more about the local campaign and about why it's important to support farmers in the developing world.**

Wirral officially became a Fairtrade Borough in April 2006. In partnership with Wirral Council, the campaign has been led by the Fairworld Group – part of Wirral Local Agenda 21 Network – which includes representatives from many local churches, environmental and social justice groups.

The Guide lists dozens of local shops and cafés that stock products with the distinctive Fairtrade Mark on them. It also highlights the work local schools have done to spread the message.

It will be widely available at local libraries, One Stop Shops, Fairtrade shops and cafes, or by calling 0151 639 2121

## Cross Cutting (across all themes)

### Latest news on changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collections

**Residents urged to read their information packs as changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collections get underway. Wirral's new waste and recycling collections have begun, with residents being asked to use different types of bin for their waste and recyclable materials.**

As the new collections roll out across Wirral, homes will use:

A brown bin, for garden waste only (with the exception of a limited number of homes who are taking part in a trial combined food and garden waste scheme). A grey bin, for 'dry' recyclables such as plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars, paper, cardboard, tins and cans. Their usual green wheelie bin for all other waste that can not be recycled.

The new service is being delivered area by area, and as each phase begins, residents in that area will receive an information pack and collections' calendar so everyone will know which bin is being collected when, and what to put in it.

The information you receive is specific and targeted to the street you live in, and is not applicable to a friend or neighbour, even one living nearby. You should ensure you read the instructions delivered to your home carefully and keep them in a safe place. We know that some residents are apprehensive about the new scheme, but this is one of the most convenient schemes around the country; instead of a number of different bins, bags and boxes for different types of waste, this gives residents the chance to use the minimum of means to recycle the maximum amount of waste - with no need for sorting. We do it for you.

Help is available from a number of sources: If you have access to the internet, use our [collection day search engine](#) for a road-by-road breakdown of latest collection information for your street. Alternatively you can call into any of Wirral's One Stop Shops, or to your local library, who will be able to access the internet for you for free.

The council call centre, Streetscene on- 606 2004 - will also be able to help, but please be aware that it is experiencing a high volume of calls at the moment and you may have to wait for assistance. We're sorry for any inconvenience you may be experiencing due to this.

These collections are being introduced to help the Council meet new recycling targets to cut down on the amount of waste it sends to landfill. In the long run, it will not only save precious resources for future generations, but will save council taxpayers money as it reduces the amount of landfill tax we have to pay.

Please bear with us while these changes settle down; as with any major change, it takes time for people to get used to new processes and new systems. We appreciate your patience and apologise for any inconvenience suffered while the service is established

## New Services at your local One Stop Shops

Since February this year the following services have been made newly available via your local One Stop Shop:

**Licensing** The main change is that the Licensing Reception point at Wallasey Town Hall has closed to the public and therefore you are able to pick up and drop off forms plus get advice and information at any One Stop Shop on the following areas:

- Licenses for airport/chauffeur services
- New and renewal licence applications for Hackney/Private hire drivers
- Permits for house to house collections
- Lottery licences
- Personal licenses for the supply of alcohol at licensed premises
- New licenses or requests for variation of existing licenses for premises or club premises
- Review requests for premises or club premises licenses
- New and renewal license applications for private hire operators
- Applications for Street Collection licenses
- Temporary Event notices
- New and renewal licence applications for Hackney/Private hire vehicles

We will also check any proofs that you supply, take payments where necessary and book any relevant tests/courses you will need to go on

**Council job vacancies** If you see a vacancy you want to apply for, you can now go to any One Stop Shop and get an application pack for that job. You can also contact our Call Centre and a recruitment pack will be sent to you within a few days.

Also when you come to return the form you can take it back to any One Stop Shop and they will record that they have received it from you and give you a receipt. This means that you no longer have to go to Wallasey Town Hall to hand job applications in, and you can be guaranteed that the form is in before the closing date.

**Streetscene** You can also access more Streetscene services at your local One Stop Shop so you can now request:

Removal of any fly tipping, To go on the Help List for bin collection, Help following a missed bin collection, Street cleaning and A replacement bin following damage etc

Also don't forget if you have a query about when your bins are due to be collected you can do this via your local One Stop Shop, Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 or at [www.wirral.gov.uk/recycling/](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/recycling/)

**Tourism** One Stop Shops can now give information and advice on Wirral's tourist attractions and events on Wirral.

**Pest Control** It is planned that from the end of June you will be able to request the Pest Control Service from your local One Stop Shop as well as being able to phone our Call Centre. We will be able to make the appointment for you there and then whilst you wait.

### New Advice Surgeries

#### Bebington One Stop Shop

There is now a Police Surgery being held at Bebington One Stop Shop on the first Tuesday of each month. Dates for 2007 are as follows, all start at 1pm and finish at 3pm.

5th June 2007, 3rd July 2007, 7th August 2007, 4th September 2007, 2nd October 2007, 6th November 2007 and 4th December 2007

Police and Community Support Officers will staff the surgery and will be there to discuss neighbourhood concerns of local residents.

### **Eastham One Stop Shop**

There is a Police Surgery being held at Eastham One Stop Shop (next to the Library). The surgeries are held between 10.00am and 12 noon with the next one on the 18<sup>th</sup> June. They are then every 3 week after that. Officers will be handing out crime prevention materials to encourage local people to improve their personal, home and car security

So pop into your One Stop Shop for further information on any council service – everything you could ask for under one roof.

For details of where your nearest One Stop Shop is please contact 0151 606 2000 or go to [http://www.wirral.gov.uk/fn/one\\_stop\\_shops.htm](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/fn/one_stop_shops.htm)



## SECTION THREE

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Serpentine Road Family Church	To contribute towards the redevelopment of an area adjacent to the church / community buildings for use by the wider community for outdoor activities.	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.	Most of the ground has been prepared for the completion of the garden. The paths and children's soft play area have been laid, three of the four flower beds and two archways have been constructed. We still need to concrete the paths, lay paving stones around the soft play area, carry out planting and landscaping and level the general play area.
Royal Naval Association	To contribute towards the refurbishment of the Riverview Club for the benefit of the Association members and visitors.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £2,500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives	We have purchased two shutters for the club and are in the process of refurbishing the ceiling and purchasing furniture.
Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability	To contribute towards provision of a new heavyweight scooter for Liscard Shopmobility to meet the needs of an expanding membership.	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.	The scooter has been purchased and we are having a plaque mounted on this saying that the funding has come from the East Wallasey Area Forum. Thank you for your support of our important work that serves disabled people in Wallasey.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
The Aspire Trust Limited	To develop, together with local communities, a series of taster workshops and outreach events which will lead towards the production of the Wallasey Community Play in July 2006.	Panel agreed to award £3,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund specifically for marketing costs, publicity, printing and web design only.	The Wallasey Community Play 'The Island of Strangers' proved to be a successful intergeneration community play project involving many community groups and individuals from Wallasey and across the Wirral. Over 150 people were involved in the devising, performing and the production of the project.
Wallasey Chess Club	To organise, publicise and put on a simultaneous chess exhibition by a British Grandmaster against 24	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.	We are hoping to hold the chess exhibition in May 2007.
Stars Playgroup / Pre-School	To purchase equipment for the Playgroup.	Panel considered this to be a good project that meets the funding criteria, and agreed to award £482.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	There was great excitement when the big parcels were opened at Pre-school. The children have really enjoyed using all the equipment, especially the coloured cardboard bricks that we have used for learning colour, size, shape, hand/eye co-ordination.



## SECTION FOUR

**Background** The area plans were developed during 2004 to 2006 and launched in May 2006. In order to align them to Wirral's local area agreement, the area plans will be refreshed and reviewed on an annual basis to reflect Wirral and area forum priorities, and will follow the same delivery timeframe as the agreement.

**Purpose** The purpose of the area plans is to identify local issues, priorities and needs and to support and guide the forums in working towards addressing these throughout the year. The area plans are a development that will evolve over time as issues are addressed and new priorities emerge. The area plans aim to give an understanding of the local area in which residents live through the provision of information about what is in the area and statistical information about the needs of the local population. It also identifies local issues that have been raised through the forums and contributes towards achieving local area agreement priorities and outcomes.

The purpose of refreshing the plans is to standardise the 11 area plans ensuring they are easy to use and useful to residents. The proposed new structure will enable local issues and priorities to be identified and included in the area plans, this will ensure that through regular monitoring, Wirral Council and its partners are providing a dynamic and responsive approach to local issues.

**Proposals for new look area plans** It is proposed that the area plans will feature three main sections;

- Introduction
- Statistical Information
- Local priority action plan

**Introduction** This section will set out the purpose of the plans and introduce the members of the area forum.

Contextual information about the area will still feature in this section, however in order to make these plans as user friendly and accessible as possible, this section will look to signpost to other websites and contact details for further information where appropriate.

**Statistical Information** In order to provide a standard approach to all of the area forum plans, the statistical information for each of the area plans will follow the same format and include the same content, adapted to show highlighted information for each of the forum areas. The section will focus on the individual area forum and also provide comparative information for Wirral to provide context.

**Local priority action plan** As part of the review of the existing area plans, each area coordinator will address the issues which feature in the local issues section of each plan and identify outstanding issues. These issues will transfer into the refreshed area plans to ensure they remain a key focus for the area forum. The owner of each action will be a named partner who will have responsibility to tackle this issue.

Issues that have been resolved will not be taken forward into refreshed area plans. This will ensure that there is a clear focus on the key outstanding priorities and issues that are identified at a local level for each area forum. As new priorities are identified, they will also form part of the local priority action plan to be addressed at each area forums and progressed through the responsible partner.

# SECTION FIVE

## Streetscene and Waste Update

### Streetscene Area Forum Report May 2007

**Birkenhead Parking** New parking regulations came into force in Birkenhead Town Centre in April, which replaced the existing Disc Zone with a new controlled parking zone.

Motorists now have to pay to park in the new parking zone, between the hours of 8:00am and 6:30pm. Wirral Council did allow for people to become accustomed to the new charges, by offering a few weeks 'grace period' where no parking fines were issued.

The charges have been introduced to reduce congestion and accidents, encourage people to use public transport, free up more parking spaces, and improve access for emergency vehicles and disabled drivers.

**Changes to Speed Restrictions** Wirral Council received a number of enquiries and petitions expressing concern about the speed of traffic in sections of Telegraph Road, Column Road and Thurstaston Road. As part of a scheme to improve road safety it is proposed to reduce the speed limit along sections of these roads.

Consultation letters have been sent out to residents in the area, notices have been placed on site and the proposed orders appeared in the local press.

The proposed speed reductions are as follows:

- Telegraph Road and Column Road from Church Lane to Grange Cross Lane will be reduced from 50mph to 40mph.
- Drivers travelling along Column Road from Grange Cross Lane to Croome Drive will be forced to slow from 40mph to 30mph.
- The existing 50mph speed limit in Thurstaston Road from Telegraph Road to reduced to 40mph.

**Residents Parking Zones** After many requests and complaints from residents about the lack of parking facilities outside their homes due to non-residents (students, shoppers, commuters) using the spaces, Wirral Council are running a **consultation** about possible Residents' Parking Zones. The consultation is in the very early stages and will be carried out in seven pilot areas across the borough.

The Council have no budget set aside for creating Residents' Parking Zones so are suggesting that all residents' who opt for a zone pay an approximate £75 set up charge per household. This funding would then go to signing, road markings, permit issuing and enforcement.

Residents in the seven pilot areas will be receiving a letter, leaflet and questionnaire. We urge everyone who receives this correspondence to state their views via the feedback questionnaire and return it. No charges will be incurred by residents within existing zones.

#### The seven pilot areas are:

- **Atherton Street area, New Brighton** – near to New Brighton train station and a small number of businesses.
- **Alexandra Road area, West Kirby** – Near to boating lake, beach, shops and Coronation Gardens.
- **Grasmere Drive area, Wallasey** – Just outside of Liscard resident parking scheme. Near to local shops.
- **Barnston Lane area, Moreton** – To the north of an existing small scheme. Within Moreton town centre where there is generally low provision for commercial off-street parking.
- **Probyn Road/Ponsonby Road, Wallasey Village** – Near to train station.
- **Acacia Grove area, West Kirby** – Mixed residential/commercial use, close to train station, shopping centre and leisure areas.

- **Brookfield Road/Brookfield Gardens, West Kirby** – primarily residential with displaced parking related to nearby businesses and train station.

**Road Safety Campaigns - Young pedestrians, young drivers and young passengers** Wirral Road Safety Partnership (Wirral Council & Merseyside Police) commissioned a radio advertisement campaign aimed at teenagers and young people. A series of three hard-hitting adverts were aired daily on Radio City 96.7 throughout March and April, urging young people to belt up when in car, and to take care as a pedestrian.

In addition to the air-time campaign, Wirral Road Safety and Radio City are hosting a competition between four Wirral high schools - Woodchurch, Park High, Rock Ferry High and The Wallasey School. This competition asks for students to compile a short road safety advert film, and spread the film to friends and other young people, via mobile phone and the internet etc. The winners will be announced in June.

**Port Sunlight/Clatterbridge Cycle Route** Wirral Council is committed to promoting cycling as a healthy, sustainable mode of transport. The cycle route between Port Sunlight Railway Station and Clatterbridge Hospital is nearing completion and will increase road safety for cyclists who currently experience difficulties on main roads and at junctions. It will also encourage workers, visitors and residents of the area to take up cycling as a form of transport. To benefit pedestrians and cyclists, three toucan crossings have been installed in Brimstage Road, Church Road and Bromborough Road to enable them to cross the road safely.

The route will also enable thousands of local schoolchildren to get out on their bikes and into the fresh air by providing safe routes for them to cycle.

**Traffic Safety Schemes** Since the last update at the beginning of the year, we have implemented the following traffic safety schemes:

Conway Street / Exmouth Street	Signal Improvement
Hoylake Road / Reeds Lane	Signal Improvement
Duke Street	New Puffin Crossing
Port Sunlight Station	New Refuge
Bebington Station	New Refuge
Greenfield Avenue / Dawpool Drive	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
Dock Road	Traffic Improvement
Birkenhead Park Station	Convert Zebra to Puffin Crossing
Manor Lane, Liscard	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
St. Georges Way, Thornton Hough	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
M53 exit slip road (Toyota Dealership)	Speed limit reduction /New Carriageway and markings / New signs

**Highway Maintenance Contracts** The extensive procurement exercise for the future provision of all Highway Maintenance works continues. Consultants, Capita Symonds, are currently preparing options and reports to be put to Members. The contract will cover maintenance works such as footway and carriageway works, traffic signals, gully cleansing and street lighting.

**Wirral on the Road to Recycling** Working alongside Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, Wirral Council is encouraging local companies to use recycled materials and where possible use them within Council business.

One example of this is how we are using 100% recycled plastic kerb stones for pavements around the borough. The kerbs are light, very hard wearing and are reducing the length of time it takes to repair roads. This ultimately will save the Council money and provide us with a more effective material for road reconstruction.

The kerbs mean the use of technical lifting equipment is unnecessary due to their light weight and it's therefore much safer for staff to use. All the pilot schemes have also shown us how hard wearing the material is.

**Cigarette / Smoking-related Litter** Wirral Council are aware that when Wirral goes 'smokefree' on July 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a backlash of cigarette litter.

In preparation for this, the installation of 50 cigarette bins is imminent in the Birkenhead and Liscard town centre areas. Discarding cigarette butts is an offence, as is dropping any litter, and is subject to a £75 fine.

To deter Wirral residents from committing the offence, we are warning them of the £75 fine. We are heading up an extensive advertising campaign, including adverts on billboards, bus stops, phone boxes and bus rears. Will also be hosting events to give away portable ashtrays (Stubbi pouches) and communicate the fact that people will be given £75 fines if they are caught dropping a cigarette stub, or any form of litter.

**Major Surfacing Schemes** The Highway Maintenance Division has been very busy since the last review with the following surfacing schemes undertaken:

**Footway works completed**

Heswall Mount, Thingwall	Cestrian Drive, Thingwall
Rullerton Road, Wallasey (part)	Birchway, Gayton
Downham Road, Tranmere (part)	Aysgarth Road, Wallasey
Orchard Road, Moreton	Craigleigh Grove, Eastham
Parkway/Parkway Close, Irby	Holmlands Drive (Part) Oxton
Moseley Avenue, Wallasey	Haydock Road, New Brighton
135 -157 Thingwall Road Irby	Darmonds Green, West Kirby

**Future footway works planned**

Wakefield Drive, Leasowe	Devonshire Road, West Kirby
Caldwell Drive, Upton	Bassenthwaite Avene, Claughton
Burlingham Avenue, West Kirby (part)	Upton Road (part) Claughton
The Laund, Wallasey	Nursury Close, Oxton
Derwent Drive, Liscard	Grafton Street (part) Birkenhead
Dalmorton Road (part) New Brighton	Well Lane, Bebington
Croxth Avenue, Liscard	Fieldway, Bebington
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard	

**Carriageway resurfacing completed**

Trinity/Eddisbury/Kingswood/Berwyn Roads, Wallasey	Gorsedale Road (part) Seacombe
Wright Street, Wallasey	Beryl Road, Claughton
Kinglake Road, Wallasey (part)	St Elmo Road, Liscard
Lingdale Road North, Claughton	Hoscote Park, West Kirby
Adelaide Road, Birkenhead	Elm Grove, Hoylake
Byron Close, Prenton	Orchard Grange, Moreton
Redcar Road, Wallasey	Twickenham Drive (part) Leasowe
Moseley Avenue, Liscard	Darmonds Green, West Kirby
Palmerston Road, Wallasey	Redhouse Lane, West Kirby

**Carriageway resurfacing planned**

Sherlock Lane, Poulton	Neville Road, Bromborough
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Brompton Avenue, Wallasey	Dibbins Hey (part), Clatterbridge
Haydock Road, New Brighton	Wirral Mount, Clatterbridge
Chadwick Street, Moreton	Patterdale Road, Clatterbridge
Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge	Devonshire Road (part) Birkenhead
Derwent Drive, Liscard	Townsend/Challis/Curlender Roads, Bidston
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard	Bedford Road (part) Rock Ferry
Wharfedale Road, Wallasey	New Chester Road (part) Rock Ferry
Aysgarth Road, Wallasey	Bridge Street, (part) Birkenhead
The Laund, Wallasey	Argyle Street,(part) Birkenhead
Perrin Road. Wallasey	Mount Road (part) Bebington
Acres Road, Bebington	
Richmond Close, Bebington	

**Tall Ships 2008** Plans are already underway to manage the huge amount of traffic that the Tall Ships 2008 event will attract. The event is set to take place between 18-21 July NEXT YEAR (2008). We are working with Merseytravel, Culture Company and Liverpool Council to create a suitable park and ride site on Wirral and to ensure East Wirral's streets are not gridlocked when the event is taking place.

**Walk to School Week 2007** Wirral Council have been working hard to ensure as many schools as possible encourage their students to walk to school by setting up 'walking bus' programmes throughout the year. Walk to School Week is Monday 21 – Friday 25 May 2007. The Mayor of Wirral, Phil Gilchrist will be joining a walking bus to Woodchurch Primary School on Wednesday May 23 at 8.30am and then St Joseph's Primary School, Seacombe on Friday May 25 8.30am.

**Garden Recycling** Garden waste brown bins have now been delivered to most homes that have a garden. This includes an extra 11,500 households previously without a garden collection scheme and brings the total to approximately 85,000 households.

Collection calendars have been delivered to all households with a brown bin. Collection days have been changed in order to provide greater balance of collection rounds and more logical route plans. Unfortunately, after being considerably let down by the distribution company some households did not receive their calendars. Wirral Council is now collating this information and arranging for calendars to be delivered as quickly as possible. There have been some teething problems getting residents on to the new collection days, however the contractor are now catching up with collections and bins are being presented with lots of garden recycling.

**Paper and Packaging Recycling** The new paper and packaging scheme has now been extended to more residents bringing the total households to 110,000. Plastic bottles, glass, paper, cardboard, tins and cans are being collected, combined, from the kerb-side and taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Bidston where they are separated and sent to local processors for turning into new products.

The final phase (excluding flats) is beginning with the grey wheelie bins being distributed currently. All residents will be on the scheme by 11 June, this includes a further 33,000 properties.

Comprehensive information and advertising for the scheme has been provided to all residents. The Council applied for funding from the Waste Resource Action Program (WRAP) for the communications activities and this was awarded providing Wirral with an extensive marketing campaign. The marketing literature was used as good-practice by WRAP. Wirral's website has been updated and provides all the most recent information for residents.

Some problems occurred at the beginning of the recent roll-out of the bins. This was mainly due to the contractor playing catch up after the Easter Bank Holiday's as residents were unaware collections would take place. This led to a back-log of bins to collect and caused some problems with delayed collections. The Council did

experience high volumes of calls to Streetscene and negative press coverage, however since the scheme has begun, residents have presented huge amounts of recycling and have really taken ownership of the scheme.

Wirral saw almost treble the volume of recycling within the first four weeks on the paper and packaging scheme with a 95% participation rate. It is anticipated that Wirral will exceed our recycling target of 23% next year. Wirral is very encouraged about the standard of recycling with very few bins having to be rejected for contamination, i.e. wrong items presented for collection in a recycling bin.

**Home Composting** WRAP (Waste Resource Action Program) are funding a home compost incentive scheme for Wirral residents throughout 2007. Residents can purchase home composters for as little as £8 including free delivery. The scheme also provides residents with an information starter kit, access to a compost help line and regular newsletters with helpful hints. Details of the scheme are posted on the Council's website. In addition Wrap will carry out several borough wide leaflet drops promoting the scheme to every household in the borough.

# SECTION SIX

## Equality and Diversity

**Introduction** Welcome to this new section of the forum's report! This will be a regular feature in future and if anyone has any comments, ideas or items they would like to see included in this section, they will be most welcome.

**What is Equality and Diversity?** The ESLG (Equality Standard for Local Government) assesses how we are performing in respect of gender, race and disability. The standard provides a framework for delivering continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

**There are 6 strands/pillars of the Equality Standard:**

Race      Disability      Gender      Age      Sexual Orientation      Religion or belief

We currently have a statutory duty to produce schemes which address any negative impact in respect of race, disability and gender, all of which can be found on the Council's website.

[http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO\\_Policy.htm](http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm)

The Equality Standard has 5 levels, Wirral is aiming to achieve level 2 by December 2007. A validation exercise took place recently where 'critical friends' were invited to help assess us informally as an Authority in order for us to reach level 2. The process for level 2 is self assessment and includes colleagues from other local authorities, Age Concern, Youth Service, Jigsaw, Wirral Change, WIRED and Women's Enterprise Breakthrough.

The Council has mechanisms to ensure all departments regularly discuss equalities. There is also a Corporate Group which meets bi-monthly to assess the progress of departments through the equality agenda. In this way we hope to address any areas of weaknesses in our employment practice or service delivery.

If you are interested to find out more please visit our website and your views/comments would be appreciated and fed back to the Corporate Group.

### Useful groups/contacts

**Clint Agard, Wirral Change** - Wirral Change is a Black and Racial Minority Outreach Service which offers information, advice and guidance on jobs, education, training, self-employment and signposting to other services for Racial Minority people on the Wirral. We offer drop-in sessions for internet access/job search. We also now have a new service which provides immigration advice.

For further information please contact Clint on 0151 650 5428

**Margaret Jones, Chair - Wirral Disabled People's Forum** - The Wirral Disabled People's Forum meets four times a year at different accessible venues across the Wirral. The Forum exists to discuss issues that are of importance to disabled people and their carers and to ensure that their views are taken forward to the relevant bodies where decisions are being made. By doing this disabled people in Wirral have the opportunity to influence services in the area.

For further information please contact Margaret on 0151 327 5508

**Peter Barnett, Wirral LGB&T Forum (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender)** - A forum for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender community has been set up; this has been done with the support of the NETWORK (WVCSN), Wirral Borough Council and Merseyside Police. At this moment in time we are setting up the core group to assess the policy's and aims of the forum, if any one is interested in joining the core group please email us at

wirralgbt\_forum@yahoo.co.uk

Maxine Joynson Wirral Council Support Officer, Tel: 0151 691 8266, [maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk)