

YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**

**East Wallasey
(Liscard & Seacombe)
Area Forum**

**Papers for the forum meeting
Wednesday 6th February 2008**

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

7.00pm – 9.00pm

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**East Wallasey (Liscard & Seacombe)
Area Forum Agenda**

Wednesday 6th February 2008

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

7.00pm – 9.00pm

- 1 Welcome, introductions & apologies**
- 2 Minutes & matters arising from previous October forum**
- 3 Area co-ordinators report**
- 4 Sustainable Community Strategy**
- 5 Streetscene/recycling/bins public question time**
- 6 General public question time**
- 7 Partner Information**

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Section One

Minutes from last meeting and any
matters arising

Minutes - East Wallasey Area Forum (Liscard/Seacombe) 11 October 2007

Present	
Chair	Cllr Dave Hawkins
Ward Councillors	Karen Hayes , Adrian Jones , Denis Knowles , John Salter
Community Representatives	Margaret Allen (Seacombe Community Representative) , Diane Ledder , Jo McCourt (Wallasey YMCA) , Fr. Leon Ostaszewski , Carole Thomas (Liscard Community Representative)
Older People's Parliament Representative	Geoffrey Dormand , Joe Lee , Audrey Moore
Lead Officer	Mark Camborne (Health & Safety & Resilience Operations Manager)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Michelle Gray
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Iain Stewart
Street Scene Manager	Chris Jones
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Jo Goodfellow (Div. General Manager for Women and Children)
Merseyside Police	Inspector Julie Fletcher , Sergeant Ian McEwan
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Tony Mooney
Council Officers	Tara Dumas (Recycling Officer) , Christina Jones (Education & Cultural Services) , Howard Mortimer (Special Initiatives Team) , Carol Sharratt (Community Planning Assistant)
British Sign Language Interpreters	Ken Butterfield , Ian Duncan
Apologies	John Drew (Seacombe LCP) , Cllr Leah Fraser , Bernadette Howson (Wirral University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust)

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- Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinator's report update
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- Minute 5 - Liscard Hall update
- Minute 6 - Streetscene/recycling/bins - public question time
- Minute 7 - General public Question Time
- Minute 8 - Partner updates - Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Wirral Primary Care Trust and the Older People's Parliament
- Minute 9 - Date of next meeting Wednesday - 6 February 2008 at Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral

Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair, Councillor Dave Hawkins, welcomed forum members and 32 members of the public to the meeting of the East Wallasey [Liscard/Seacombe] Area Forum in Wallasey Town Hall. He also introduced Ian Duncan and Ken Butterfield, British Sign Language Interpreters to the forum and asked if anyone required this service, and thanked them for their attendance at this meeting.

Minute Decision : Resolved that Ian Duncan and Ken Butterfield be thanked for attending this forum meeting.

Minute 2 - Minutes and matters arising from previous June forum meeting

Minute 5: Dave Hanlon informed the forum that the bus stop outside the Queens Hotel has now been re-instated 30 yards further on from the original stop.

Margaret Allen - Mark Camborne gave an update on unlicensed private landlords. Mark informed the forum that he was not aware of any further progress on this but will keep the forum informed of any developments.

Minute Decision : Resolved that Mark Camborne to keep the forum informed of future developments on unlicensed private landlords.

Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinator's report update

The Chair requested that if anyone has any questions or comments on the report could they pass these to Michelle Gray at the end of the meeting, due to the number of items on the agenda.

Minute 4 - Fair shares lottery

The Chair introduced Carolyn Boyce, Operations Director, Community Foundation, who had been invited to give a presentation on the Fair Shares Lottery.

Carolyn informed the forum that the Foundation is a charitable organisation that raises funds to provide a grant making service across Merseyside. The Fair Shares Trust Programme was launched by the Big Lottery in 2002 from a pot of £50m to ensure that a larger share of total lottery funding is received in the fair share areas and that a sustainable impact is made on the lives of disadvantaged people in these areas. There are 77 fair share area in the UK and the programme will run until March 2013.

The Foundation's vision for Wirral is in line with the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Foundation work closely with the LSP, the Community and Council Leaders on this. The vision is to:

- create a neighbourhood where people want to live and spend time, where its residents are proud of their neighbourhood and their surroundings
- invest in the provision of opportunities for young people and to engage them in community life to promote a sense of ownership and pride
- improve the local environment making it a safer and healthier place to live
- invest in and support existing community facilities for the benefit of all residents in the neighbourhood.

The current local priorities (these may be revised next year) for the Liscard neighbourhood are:

- providing opportunities for children and young people (aged between 5 and 18 years) to develop as individuals (all opportunities based upon consultation)
- improving the local environment, promoting a sense of pride and a feeling of security and investing in existing community facilities to ensure they are meeting the needs of all residents
- supporting the community and voluntary sector within Liscard to deliver their core services.

How will grants make an impact?

- commissioning process
- fund strategic projects
- they will contribute to specific goals identified by the areas Fair Share Trust Priorities

Document

- projects will contribute towards agreed outputs or indicators set within funding application
- monitoring visit and performance management by panel.

The panels are at local level and work with other partnerships, look for matched funding for projects and work strategically.

Projects that have been funded so far:

1. Liscard Communities Facilities Complex - the Grosvenor Ballrooms - £170,000. This was brought about through issues raised at the forum. The project included the completion of kitchen refurbishment to enable catering training and income generation to ensure sustainability. The priority was community and voluntary sector development and the issues were poor training opportunities in the ward and lack of inter-generational training. The indicators for this project were to provide:

- basic catering training for 30 beneficiaries from Liscard ward
- accredited training for 20 beneficiaries from Liscard ward
- volunteering opportunity for one local resident.

The Catering for Life Project which hosted the Community Foundation Network National Conference Delegates to Merseyside – September 2007. This brought delegates to Wirral and was very successful.

The Community Garden Project - the aim of the project was to transform an unused parking area adjacent to the community centre into an environmentally friendly sensory garden that could be used for educational purposes for children, as a peaceful area for older residents and as an extension of facilities for centre user groups. This was an extension of the current centre based there and was only launched recently. The priority - community and voluntary sector development. The indicators for this project were to:

- encourage 150 new users
- employ a local gardener
- provide training for 2 local volunteers.

2. CBED Wirral Wide Development Trust - £172,975. The panel commissioned them to improve accessibility to the facility. Priority - children & young people and the aim was to:

- improve accessibility of facility to young people through the extension of opening hours by a minimum of 10 per week.
- increase users by a minimum of 48 with 50% being young people
- increase the number of volunteers by 2.

The range of projects included First Time Online, Basic PC Courses, Myguide, Taste of English, Wirral Community TV Video Course, Job search facilities and CV assistance.

3. YMCA - £187,354 The project was to appoint staff to expand and develop the delivery of a wide range of services and opportunities for children, young people and adults whilst providing local people with new and improved facilities and services in the Liscard ward. Priority - children and young people. The indicators were to:

- increase users of facilities by 200 - the majority being Young People
- expand and develop new services for Children and young people
- provide opportunities for partners to develop preventative/ innovatory projects using the facility as a resource
- expand services, projects and programmes for children, young people and the wider community in a safe environment.

4. Maritime Warden Project - £120,000 The project was to improve community safety and to foster social inclusion issues raised at the Area Forum with regards to Safer

Communities and to achieve cleaner and safer environment. The priority - Local Environment. The indicators include: neighbourhood nuisance, vandalism, anti social behaviour, alleygating schemes, and the lack of Police presence. The Key Issues: anti social behaviour and youths causing annoyance, Criminal damage and arson, violent offences, theft and handling stolen goods. This is a successful project where we do feel that we are making a positive impact on anti-social behaviour and the local environment.

The next steps for the panel:

- £758,931 spent
- £100,447 remaining
- quarterly meetings
- monitoring and performance visits
- ringfenced and/or revisit priorities/further allocations?
- sustainability and partnership working

The panel have been looking at a project they wish to commission with the remaining funds available, but external funding may be obtained for this and the funding may come back into the pot, if so then the panel will revisit the priorities to decide how to allocate the remaining funds.

It is hoped that the partnership may stay involved in the area, now that the Government has recognised Fair Share.

Carolyn was given a round of applause and the Chair thanked her for her presentation and no issues / questions were raised on this.

Minute Decision : Resolved that Carolyn Boyce be thanked for her presentation.

Minute 5 - Liscard Hall update

The Chair introduced Howard Mortimer, Special Initiatives Officer, Corporate Services Department, who had been invited to give an update on the proposals for Liscard Hall.

Howard informed the forum that he had been usurped by the Wallasey News (copy of this attached to agenda under item 5) and expressed his disappointment on seeing confidential information on the front page of the paper.

Two bids had been received and shared with the steering group, but these have yet to be put forward to the Council's Cabinet who will decide how it wishes to proceed and whether it wishes to see both or either schemes encouraged to detailed stage. We are aware of the poor condition of the hall, that has not been in use for seven years. We have tried hard over the last two years to secure its use for public sector, but this has not been possible, so we then tried to get interest from the private sector. We will closely control any development to safeguard the park and are looking at a long term lease arrangement. We are preparing a report, which we hope to place before Cabinet in November, on the two bids as outlined below:

1. An investment proposal - principally residential with a modest amount of leisure use with a possible value of £3-4m.
2. A more ambitious scheme proposing approximately 50% commercial leisure development / 50% residential apartments and mews development, with a possible value of £9-10m.

The steering group declared themselves in favour of option 2. If Cabinet is minded ultimately to a point a preferred developer, Council Officers will work with the nominated

company. The local community will then have an opportunity to get involved and give their views are part of the public consultation process.

The Chair thanked Howard Mortimer for his update and informed the forum that Howard would not be able to answer questions on the specific developments, and that only questions that would have been raised prior to the newspaper article the following issues / questions were raised:

Councillor Adrian Jones - it is wonderful that this Grade II listed building will be preserved for the future and will include continual use for the community, with covenants to preserve control over future developments / uses. He congratulated the officers for their professionalism, but expressed dismay over confidential meetings between councillors and officers being leaked.

Councillor Denis Knowles - the meeting last week also included leading members of the community.

Carole Thomas - raised concern that the above remark intimated that it was a member of the community that leaked the information. Councillor Knowles confirmed that he was just clarifying who was at the meeting, and apologised for any misunderstanding this may have caused.

Diane Ledger - there was a discussion at the end of the meeting on what information was / was not allowable to be disclosed, but it became obvious at the next meeting that most of the information from this meeting was already known. I had previously declined to comment and was given a lot of grief about this, which is unfair when I am representing the communities interests.

David Hale - what level of public consultation will be carried out this?

A. there will be meetings, workshops etc. giving members of the community opportunities to inspect the plans for the scheme and input ideas and comments on these. The programme has not yet been developed, but it will be a vigorous and open and inclusive programme.

Jean (Vice Chair of Friends Group) - it is good to know that one of the schemes is likely to be taken up, how soon will things start to move from when the decision is made and can we be involved with the developers?

A. After Cabinet have made a decision and the ten day call in period has ended we will contact the developers to start working on the details. Developments like this do take time to get going, and the timescale is also dependant on how fast the developers wish to move. It is not likely that development would start on site before next Autumn. Comments and ideas from the community will be taken on board wherever possible.

Chair asked if the forum would like to arrange a special meeting to discuss this when a clear understanding on the preferences / project is available. David Hale congratulated the Chair on this suggestion. It was agreed that the area co-ordinator organise this.

Minute Decision: Resolved that: i. Howard Mortimer be thanked for his update.

ii. Area Co-ordinator to arrange special forum meeting to discuss Liscard Hall development proposals.

Minute 6 - Streetscene/recycling/bins - public question time

Recycling - Tara Dumas, Recycling Officer informed the forum that there was an update in the area co-ordinators report, and gave a further update on this:

- 32% of household waste was recycled in August and this increased to 36% in September.

The overall prediction for the year was 28%. Grey bins are really successful and trips to the recycling plant has nearly doubled.

- Garden waste, there are still about 3,000 properties that are not on this scheme (some of these are in Liscard). This cannot be expanded further at this time, but the properties will be included by the end of March 2008. If anyone knows of any streets or parts of streets that are not on the scheme please report these to the Streetscene call centre on 0151 606 2004.

- Christmas, the grey/green bin calendars run out during the second week of December. the new calendars will be issued six weeks up to Christmas and new stickers will be placed on the bins. There are no plans to change the collection days, but some Saturday collections will be made during the Christmas period.

- Flytipping, 100 streets in the Neighbourhood Renewal area will be included in a special project to reduce flytipping. A list of the streets will be published in the next area co-ordinators report and this will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

The following issues / questions were raised:

Diane Ledder

1. Who controls the bin collection service employees, as after the green bins in Ladywood Road and Silverbeech Road had been emptied they were left across the pavement with no room left for people to walk past and was particularly dangerous for disabled people?

A. Tara agreed to raise this issue with Biffa.

2. If you live in a terrace and have a garden do you have to have a brown bin.

A. No, some residents with small gardens share bins, if you have been given a bin but do not want this let Streetscene know and this will be collected.

David Hale

1. Pleased with the service, but that not all houses have brown bins.

A. You have to have a garden to have a brown bin. Some brown bins were given out accidentally, if you let Streetscene know about these they will be collected.

2. When call Streetscene the choice includes kerbside collection which causes confusion, suggest that it could just refer to collection point.

A. This is the first time this issue has been raised, the term used is a universal one used by all authorities, will look into this.

Audrey Moore - is items being placed in the wrong bins a common problem?

A. It is more of a problem in some areas, but on the whole the scheme is understood by the Public. Participation officers will visit properties where this occurs to try and solve this, including looking at alternative solutions to bins being placed on the pavement.

Tony Forder - Marlowe Road URC, Torrington Road, has been told that are not entitled to a free brown bin.

A. If the garden is tended by the community then the church can be issued with a free brown bin. Tony confirmed that the garden is tended to by the community and Tara agreed to arrange for a bin to be provided.

Christina Jones - is there a discount scheme for kitchen bins where waste can be separated for recycling?

A. Will look into this and report back at next forum.

Streetscene - Chris Jones, Streetscene Manager

David Hanlon - when cable TV was installed in Wallasey the pavement replacement was very poor and it has been like this for 12 years, will this be replaced?

A. Am aware of the condition of the footpaths. The Council has certain powers over works carried out by utility companies, but this has gone past the date when the council can get them to rectify this. Safety inspections are carried out in this area, but will put this forward for possible inclusion for works.

Diane Ledger - the keep clear markings at the entrance to Love Lane allotments has still not been repainted.

A. Chris apologised that this has not yet been done and agreed to discuss this further at the end of the meeting.

David Hale - thanked Chris Jones / Streetscene for doing the impossible at Moseley Avenue.

Father Ostaszewski

1. The traffic lights on the route from Duke Street through Wallasey need to be re-timed before 6am

A. There are currently several sets of signals with vehicle detectors damaged on the route from, Duke Street north through Wallasey. This affects the operation of the signals which is more, noticeable at quiet times. The detectors will be repaired as soon as possible and in the mean, time the overnight signal timings will be reviewed.

2. The pedestrian light at Seaview Road by Edinburgh Road is not functioning properly.

A. The Puffin crossing at Seaview Road near Edinburgh Road was checked in August and September and no faults have been found.

3. The sign 'Poulton' when approaching Liscard from Clare Mount Road via St Hilary Brow, has been removed and needs to be replaced, preferably on a lamp post nearby where it is not so accessible to vandalism.

A. A new sign will be ordered.

4. All dock signs leading from the A54 should state Wirral docks, to avoid confusion for drivers who wish to access the docks on the Liverpool side.

A. This issue has been raised previously but Liverpool is clearly signed and anybody who wants the "Docks" whether they be in Liverpool / Birkenhead or Wallasey will be aware of the River Mersey and consequently realise that any docks in Liverpool will be signposted once over the river.

5. There is a crack in Belvedere to Rolleston Road that is getting worse, can this be looked into?

A. Are aware of this, it is from a gas re-instatement, will contact the streetworks officers to see where this is up to and report back on this at the next forum.

6. A meeting was held with David Ball about a year ago re: improving roads through Egremont and have heard nothing since.

A. Mark Camborne - will discuss this in more detail at the end of the meeting, but can arrange for responses to be brought to these meetings.

Resident - Mariners Park

1. There are pot holes in Manor Lane and by the Magazine PH that have been filled, but the fillings have been gouged out by vehicles, can this be looked into?

A. Will revisit the work and get the contractor to re-do the work if it has not been done satisfactorily.

2. A petition was submitted for a crossing to be placed outside Manor Road Church, but the application was turned down as unnecessary. There are many elderly residents at Mariners Park and it is dangerous trying to get from one bus stop to the other, particularly during peak hour, this will become even worse with the new development in New Brighton.

A. The Chair asked Chris Jones to look into this again in the light of the number of elderly residents in the vicinity. Chris agreed to ask the traffic engineers to revisit this.

3. Suggest that parking wardens look at vehicles, particularly large vans, parking on the corner of minor roads leading onto Seabank Road as they are a hazard.

A. Inspector Julie Fletcher - it is an offence to park within 15 metres of a junction.

Sergeant Ian McEwan - we have carried out a number of road safety campaigns and issued 60 prosecutions in this area. It is an ongoing project and PCSOs can target vehicles parked on corners.

Councillor Denis Knowles - The building site at Borough Road has had scaffolding around it for 12 months now and is an obstacle for pedestrians, can anything be done about this?

A. Will send an inspector out to see if the scaffolding permit is in order.

Audrey Moore - are private hire drivers responsible for ensuring passengers wear seatbelts?

A. Inspector Julie Fletcher - children should wear seatbelts, private hire drivers can be reported to the licensing authority.

Carole Thomas - cars are also parking on junction of Seaview Road and Rake Lane.

A. Inspector Julie Fletcher - the Police can look at obstruction offences, will discuss this further at the end of the meeting. Chris Jones agreed to highlight this area to enforcement officers who can give out fixed penalties.

Minute Decision : Rolved that:

i. Tara Dumas to:

- produce list of roads to be included in special project to tackle flytipping for the next area co-ordinators report.
- raise issue re: bins blocking pavements in Ladywood Road and Silverbeech Road with Biffa
- look at choices available on the Streetscene call centre phone service
- arrange for a brown bin to provided at the Marlowe URC
- look into possibility of discount scheme for kitchen recycling bins and report back on this at next forum.

ii. Chris Jones to:

- put forward footpaths in Wallasey on the proposed Road Maintenance Programme list
- look into repainting of keep clear signage at the entrance to Love Lane allotments
- arrange for traffic lights at Duke Street to be repaired and the signal timings to be reviewed
- order a new sign for Poulton
- report back at the next forum on progress re: repair to Belvedere Road following gas re-instatement
- check work carried out in Manor Lane and arrange for the contractors to re-do the work if it has not been carried out satisfactorily
- arrange for the traffic engineers to look at need for a crossing at Manor Road
- arrange for an inspector to visit building site in Borough Road and check if scaffolding permit is in order
- arrange for enforcement officers to target cars parking on junction of Seaview Road and Rake Lane.

iii. Mark Camborne to arrange for information on progress re: road improvements in Egremont to be brought to future forum meetings.

Minute 7 - General public Question Time

Member of Public - is the doctors surgery in King Street moving?

A. Iain Stewart - confirmed that the Egremont development centre is not being moved.

David Hanlon - there were four youths drinking alcohol at the side of the football pitch during a match at Wallacre Park, could the Police have done anything about this if they had been called?

A. Inspector Julie Fletcher - if they were under age the Police could have seized the alcohol, but could only have them removed if they were causing a problem. Sergeant Ian McEwan - it is an alcohol free zone so we could enforce this.

Minute 8 - Partner updates - Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Wirral Primary Care Trust and the Older People's Parliament

Merseyside Police

Resident of Mariners Park thanked the Police and the CSOs for work on reducing incidents over the summer.

Councillor Adrian Jones informed the forum that he was heartened by the praise for the Police and welcomed Inspector Julie Fletcher to the forum. We have lost our Area Commander, Colin Matthews, who has been promoted. Twenty officers have been diverted to Liverpool to assist in gun crime problems, and some of these may be from Wirral, but they will be replaced. I am very proud of our local police and their successes, such as drugs raids.

The Police were given a round of applause. - Inspector Julie Fletcher thanked the forum and explained that she has been in post for four weeks, and is from a response background. She will be tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) and an ASB Co-ordinator has been appointed. Contact details will be sent out to Councillors and local residents for report problems / crimes. She is impressed with the team and the PCSOs. Operation Fonthill resulted in four drugs warrants being issued at Leasowe Hotel and nearby properties, four arrests were made and a machete was recovered - these operations will continue.

Fire and Rescue Service - Tony Mooney gave the forum the following information:

- 700 homes have had fire safety checks
- 300 electric blankets have been replaced and over 700 tested through the winter warm campaign. Age Concern are holding a blanket testing day on 15 October 2007, appointments can be made by telephoning 0845 6760031.
- a bonfire reduction strategy has been put in place to reduce nuisance bonfires, in partnership with the Anti-social Behaviour Team and the Probation Service. The Fire Service will supply the vehicles and equipment and will go and clear any hazards over the bonfire period (between 15/10/07 and 08/11/07). If anyone spots any hazards please report these to the Birkenhead Fire Station (0800 731 5958).
- a fireworks strategy is also in place and daily briefings are held with partners to reduce ASB around Bonfire Night. There are limited periods when fireworks can be sold (starting Monday). If there are any concerns re: fireworks please phone the police in the first instance.

The Chair thanked Tony for his update, no issues / questions were raised on this.

Wirral Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Iain Stewart informed the forum that there was an update from the PCT in the Area Co-ordinators report and highlighted the following:

- The PCT are supporting the Community Initiatives Fund by making £5,000 available for this forum area for projects based on health. Application packs can be obtained from the Community Engagement Team (0151 691 8650 / engage@wirral.gov.uk).
- Commissioning Strategy, there are 7-8 priority areas re: health which will be concentrated on over the next few years, the full strategy will be available on our website in the near future.
- Have Your Say, this is a new tool to gather your comments on any aspect of the PCT. The leaflets area available at this meeting, in libraries, doctors surgeries and on our website.

The Chair thanked Iain for his update and the following issues / questions were raised:

Councillor Denis Knowles - are there any drug outreach areas in the Wallasey area to tackle drug misuse in Seacombe and Liscard?

A. I am not aware of any in the area, but will take this back to the drug/alcohol team and report back at the next meeting. Alcohol is the biggest issue and there are long-term strategies to reduce alcohol problems.

Wirral University Teaching Hospital Trust NHS Foundation Trust

Jo Goodfellow informed the forum that Clatterbridge and the Women's at Arrowe Park are free from MRSA bug. We take this very seriously and practice cleanliness. An external assessment rated us as good/excellent for environment/food. We still have some mixed assessment bays, but we are working on this.

Margaret Allen - praised the hospitals for the treatment received whilst a patient at Arrowe Park.

Chair - have nothing but praise for the NHS, the service is first class.

Jo - Thanks - will feed this back to the staff.

Resident, Mariners Park - when I was an outpatient in a day ward at Arrowe Park I witnessed a secretary and a staff nurse licking their fingers to turn pages of files. I wrote to the Chief Executive about this and received a satisfactory reply, so please report any concerns you have.

A. Thank you for reporting this, we need this input and examples such as this have real impact.

Older Peoples Parliament (OPP)

Audrey Moore - there is a update on the OPP in the Area Co-ordinators report. The OPP was established in January 2007, and we now have eight sub-committees. We have looked at concerns such as theft of blue badges. We will be looking at a major report on human rights for elderly people in care and setting up a group to monitor homes in Wirral; access to stations (e.g. Wallasey), education issues - IT skills for elderly people and distance learning for those who do not wish to leave their homes.

David Hanlon - thanked Audrey and informed the forum that from next April there will be free transport on the buses for OAPs. Merseytravel plans will be issued in the near future. Member of the Public - will the start time for bus passes still be 9.30 am?

A. Chair asked Councillor Denis Knowles to report on this at the next meeting.

Joyce Woosley - the bus service from Brighton Street / Arrowe Park / Liverpool is appalling and getting worse. I have sent a letter complaining about this and have received an acknowledgement but no response. Stand 10 at the new bus station in Birkenhead has no seats and the bus only comes along every half hour.

A. Councillor Knowles agreed to take these details back to Merseytravel.

Minute Decision : Resolved that: i. Tony Mooney, Inspector Julie Fletcher, Sergeant Ian McEwan, Iain Stewart and Jo Goodfellow and Audrey Moor be thanked for their updates.
ii. Iain Stewart to report back on drug outreach areas in Wallasey at the next forum.
iii. Councillor Denis Knowles to report on Merseytravel's plans for free bus journeys for OAPs at next meeting and pass information re: Wallasey bus service / Birkenhead bus station to Merseytravel.

Minute 9 - Date of next meeting Wednesday - 6 February 2008 at Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 February 2008 at Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED. There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9pm.

Matters arising from previous forum October

Pride in the Promenade

“Improvements to the Promenade between Seacombe and New Brighton are now well underway. They are being funded by grants from the European Union and the Northwest Development Agency through Mersey Waterfront. The works, which form part of Mersey Waterfront’s Pride in our Promenades programme, include:

- A much more inviting entrance to the Seacombe end of the prom, with the removal of parked cars and the provision of more attractive surfacing, seating, lighting and landscaping
- New entrance features and signage at the Seacombe and New Brighton entrances to the prom
- Improved settings for the seven pieces of artwork making up the Millennium Trail
- Installation of interpretive artwork on two previously dilapidated walls between Seacombe and the Town Hall
- Improved paths and landscaping to the banks to the north of the ventilation shaft
- New railings at Vale Park
- Refurbishment of Dr Poggi’s shelter at Vale Park
- Better signage and additional seating and litter bins along the whole of the prom

The works are due for completion this June, in time for the return of the Tall Ships to the Mersey the following month, when thousands of visitors will be flocking to the promenade to view those magnificent sailing ships from the many vantage points between Seacombe and New Brighton. **For further information, contact Martin Purssell, Project Manager Wirral Waterfront, 0151 691 8626, martinpurssell@wirral.gov.uk”**

Liscard Hall

Update: The last Area Forum meeting was advised that 2 prospective developers had submitted Expressions of Interest, which met the criteria of the Development Brief for Liscard Hall.

The Steering Group had considered them both and expressed its support for one of the options, however, the matter had to be referred to Cabinet.

Accordingly, on 14th November 2007, Cabinet received a report regarding progress in this matter. The report explained how the 2 schemes were initially appraised by officers, in accordance with the evaluation criteria in Stage 1, and thereafter considered in detail by the Liscard Hall Steering Group, which comprises Local Members and representatives of the Central Park Forum and Community Based Economic Development.

The Steering Group expressed a clear preference for 1 of the 2 options. However, the Selection process, as set out in the Development Brief, requires the Council to invite all prospective Developers, who have satisfied the evaluation criteria in Stage 1, an opportunity to submit formal proposals in Stage 2 of the process.

These submissions will cover all the necessary detail such as layout, design, quality, costs, traffic management and car parking, financial resources and previous experience of such projects. Stage 2 of the process will also include the developers' bids for Liscard Hall.

The current position is that, by mid February, the 2 developers will have been interviewed by officers to clarify the information they supplied, initially, in Stage 1. They will also be briefed as to the exact requirements they will need to meet with regard to their detailed Stage 2 submissions.

It is important that the Stage 2 process is unambiguous and transparent so each party is treated equally to comply with the Council's procurement rules and to meet the requirements of the Council's Auditors.

Once the 2 developers have worked up their respective schemes, over the next 3 months, the Council will score them against a matrix, which weights the various elements of their proposals. This process will lead to a further report to Cabinet recommending the selection of a preferred developer. The Area Forum will be kept apprised of progress.

Drug Outreach

Question Are there any drug outreach areas in the Wallasey area to tackle drug misuse in Seacombe and Liscard?

Answer on night: I am not aware of any in the area, but will take this back to the drug/alcohol team and report back at the next meeting. Alcohol is the biggest issue and there are long-term strategies to reduce alcohol problems.

- Iain Stewart to report back on drug outreach areas in Wallasey at the next forum.

Feedback/Information: Adult and young peoples outreach services operate across the whole of Wirral and will have the potential to cover Seacombe and Liscard. The outreach services largely work on "local information and intelligence" If the Wirral Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) were alerted of the potential need for their service they would welcome this if forum members or members of the public knew of a specific location then they should contact the DAAT Team at St Catherine's Hospital, Church Road, Tranmere, Wirral. CH42 0LQ tel: 0151 488 7750.

Also all GP's in the area are involved in the shared carte scheme and are linked in with the drug service and can provide direct referrals for those individuals who require this service.

Section Two

Local Updates

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services. They involve local ward councillors, police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, fire safety representatives along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council. Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.

This section covers relevant news under the Council's local area agreement themes *of safer and stronger communities, healthier communities and older people, children and young people and economic development and enterprise.*

Safer & Stronger Communities



Acting up!

Young people from Wirral have displayed their talents in a drama production to tackle anti social behaviour in a project in partnership with Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

The production was the culmination of many months' work to tackle issues of anti social behaviour in the Wallasey area. In March 2007, Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team drew together a number of agencies and people to respond to complaints of anti social behaviour in Wallasey, some of which coincided with the lunch-times of a number of local secondary schools.

The group included representatives from Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Wirral Youth Service, local secondary schools and also included the Chair of the local residents' group and a local ward councillor. During the meetings, young people representing the schools suggested producing a drama to take into the local primary schools about anti social behaviour.

A number of workshops have recently taken place involving young people from Weatherhead High School, Mosslands School and St Mary's Catholic College led by their drama teachers, where the issues around anti social behaviour were explored.

The workshops were visited by officers from Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team whose knowledge was put to the test during sessions with the young people where they were grilled about their areas of expertise. The production has been taken into a number of primary schools across Wallasey this week, including Egremont Primary, Somerville Primary, Greenleas Primary and St George's Primary.

Step on board for ASB advice

Wirral Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team are inviting residents to step on board Wirral's new Respect Bus where they will be able to seek advice and discuss a wide range of anti-social behaviour problems from noisy neighbours and abandoned cars to vandalism, graffiti and youth nuisance.

The bus is available to provide advice, support and information. Members of the public are welcome to visit the bus to discuss any issues they may have about tackling all forms of anti-social behaviour.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team consists of specialist officers from many disciplines who work closely with residents to help build up a community culture of respect. A number of the team's specialists will be on board, including criminal damage reduction and youth engagement officers. There will also be Enforcement Officers available for residents to discuss, in confidence, any specific problems they have. Residents can also report anti-social behaviour to 'It's Your Call' on 606 2020 or visit any One Stop Shop.

Healthier Communities & Older People



Wirral Information Resource

for Equality and Disability

CARERS COUNSELLING SERVICE

Are you caring for someone at home who has a disability? Do you sometimes feel stressed or isolated?

Sometimes caring for a loved one, friend or neighbour can take up so much of your time and energy that it is easy to neglect your own needs. Do you sometimes feel that no one listens to you?

That is where the counselling service may help. Talking to someone who is outside the situation can relieve tensions. Our counselling service will offer you the opportunity to talk to a counsellor in confidence, in a one to one setting.

Our counsellors are experienced at listening and will provide attention and respect. It can sometimes be helpful to talk over any problems or issues and even though the problems may not change, it may help you to talk over how you are feeling and to know you are not alone.

Counselling can help people to reach their own solutions, become better informed, receive support and encouragement and gain insight into themselves.

Why not get in touch with Wired Carers Counselling Service and we would be happy to give you more information.

**WIRED Carers Team Cavendish Enterprise Centre Brassey Street
Birkenhead Wirral CH41 8BY Tel: Carers Helpline 0151 670 0777**

Children & Young People

Wirral Youth Service provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

The Service works with young people aged 13-19 years, and specifically targeted young people aged 20 until their 25th birthday who have additional needs and need support with transition into adult life/services.

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. 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 Kontaktabuses.

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.

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 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.

During the summer holidays the Youth Service was able to offer an adventure activity programme to youth clubs and associated organisations. Over 160 young people took part in sailing, canoeing, rafting, climbing and adventure course activities which were delivered by both licensed operators and our own staff. Despite the inclement weather there was a 90% take up on the activities offered.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children in a bid to help them successfully complete their Bronze Awards. In August, most of this group attended a 3 day residential course at The Oaklands Centre where they engaged in a wide variety of outdoor activities. One young woman in particular was identified as having the potential to take a future lead role and will probably be invited back and given a work experience opportunity. Wirral's D of E Open Award Centre is due to move premises again. Following a decision to vacate the Somerville Site at Gorsey Lane we have entered into negotiations regarding the use of the Wirral Alternative Schools Programme new premises at Solar Campus. In our drive to make the Award available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units run the Award. This includes Meadowside Special School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with complex learning difficulties.

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.

Fender Youth Club is open: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (outreach), Thursday, Friday (outreach)

Operation Wishing Well - Over the half term week Fender worked in partnership with the police and Bean Bag (an environmental Charity) to deliver a project for Young people. The project transformed old wooden pallets (donated from the police) into Wishing Well planters which were planted up and given to people living in the community.

Hoole Rd Memorial Gardens – In partnership with Bean Bag, The Bank Youth Project and the Police 2 gardens have been designed and installed by Young people to remember the young people who have recently died on the estate.

Towns Women's Guild Regional Meeting - Four young people from the 'Motivate Programme' attended the annual meeting of the Town's Women's Guild. The focus of the day was 'Looking to the Future' and a number of speakers attended the day including The Mayor, Steve Maddox, Friends of the Earth, Wirral Grammar for Girls and Boys. Fender

YP did a 15 minute presentation and power point display of their experiences of the 'Motivate Programme' so far and their fears and expectations for their forth coming expeditions.

Virtual Babies - Five virtual babies have been bought with YOF money. We also have a bump and shaken, drug affected and alcohol foetal baby. These will be used alongside a programme called Life Choices with a small group of young women

Senior Member Volunteering – 7 YP are doing they award and are volunteering in our Junior club, and these hours also count towards the Motivate project. We are looking to put some of these young people on Senior Member Training.

The Seacombe Youth Project (formally The Allandale Senior Youth Club) operates on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. This unit is now working in an outreach capacity within Seacombe. The unit has a youth club on a Wednesday night running from the YMCA; this includes a Dj ing session. The dj ing has been a project with a group of young males. As a result of the training, members of the group have secured some employment as DJ's. Thursday is a dance session at Guinea Gap baths and outreach. Currently the young people are also involved in a project to go to residential homes and meet residents while putting up Christmas decorations and trees.

Other Present and Future work:

- Dance Project
- Music project
- Competition being done to design cover of the CD
- Some of the y/p are involved in the Seacombe community day d-j(ing) and mc(ing) also marshalling the event this is taking place on the 29th September

The Wallasey Young People's Project has worked in Central Park with young people. Support was given to Halloween discos at Mosslands, Oldershaw and St Mary's College.

Neighbouring wards - New Brighton and Wallasey.

St Mary's College Youth Club is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On-going D of E activity. The young volunteers have organised a Christmas party for the special needs night. Young people in this unit are actively involved in the running of the club and the special needs session. 73 young people did a Wirral way walk to raise money for equipment. There is peer education with Gold members teaching and supporting silver members through the work.

The Wallasey Young People's Project works with young people in a variety of public places in the area and the Kontactabus Bus is used as a point of contact with young people in some locations. Work has been undertaken in Wallasey Village.

A group from Earlstone Park participated in Youth Parliament evening debates. Support was given to Halloween discos at Mosslands, Oldershaw and St Mary's College.

Wirral's Primary Schools raise achievement again

Primary Schools in Wirral have proved yet again they are continuing to improve with the release of the Key Stage Two Achievement and Attainment Tables today (6/12/07) by the DCFS (Department for Children, Family and Schools). Wirral's point score for pupils achieving the expected level or above has risen for the third year in a row to 249. That compares with the national average of 245 points putting Wirral above the national average again.

Councillor Phil Davies, Wirral's Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, said: "This really is excellent news for Wirral schools, pupils and their parents. Wirral has some of the best teaching in the country and staff show passion and commitment to their jobs. This is reflected in a consistent rise in achievement by pupils leaving primary schools over the past few years.

"It should also be noted that our schools provide much more than these tables illustrate – they provide a quality environment for children to learn and flourish in all aspects of their life - not just academically. "And the fact that Wirral has a higher than average number of pupils with Special Educational Needs statements just shows what a good job is being done with pupils of all abilities."

Economic Development & Enterprise

MoD contract boost for Cammell Laird

Wirral Council today welcomed the news that Merseyside's shipbuilding industry has been boosted by a new defence contract. Birkenhead-based North-western Shiprepairers and Shipbuilders (NSL) – soon to be renamed Cammell Laird – has won ship maintenance contracts for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, which supplies the Royal Navy at sea, with food, fuel, ammunition and spares. NSL was given "exclusive preferred contractor status" in a deal which could be worth more than £160m.

Wirral Council Leader, Cllr Steve Foulkes said: "This is fantastic news. It is just reward for the hard work of the managers and staff at Northwestern Shiprepairers and a further indication of the continued renaissance of ship repair in Wirral. It vindicates the council's continued support for this sort of industry and the hard work put in to maintain the site for such employment uses."

The company was awarded the status by the Ministry of Defence on four out of a possible five support contracts for the 17-strong fleet of specialist vessels, including tankers, stores ships and landing vessels. NSL managing director John Syvret will enter into final negotiations for the contracts early in the New Year and says they will help secure the firm's future for some years to come.

Council's fight against businesses' illegal waste

In order to protect our environment and to discourage and reduce the illegal tipping of rubbish, Wirral Council have been granted powers by the government to issue penalty notices to Wirral based businesses who do not have correct trade waste disposal procedures in place.

Without official trade waste disposal arrangements, businesses may have difficulty disposing of their waste and then resort to dumping the waste illegally. This is a serious offence, and Wirral Council works around the clock to catch and prosecute fly-tippers.

Businesses now have a legal duty to provide the Council with documentary evidence that they dispose of their waste legally. A 'Trade Waste Agreement' must be made available by businesses upon the request of Council Officers. Businesses who fail to produce evidence of an agreement will be issued with a £300 fixed penalty notice. Non-payment of the penalty can result in legal action.

Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Gill Gardiner said; "There are a small number of Wirral businesses who do not care about our environment and to save themselves some money, they simply dump their rubbish, spoiling our park land and green spaces. Our message to them is clear - sooner or later they will be caught and prosecuted for fly-tipping, or they will be fined for not having a correct Trade Waste Agreement. Either way, it is time for these businesses to start thinking of the environment and make some proper waste disposal arrangements."

Businesses who would like more information can [click here](#), or contact Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 or email streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Wirral's Chief Executive honoured by Queen

Wirral Council's Chief Executive Steve Maddox has been awarded an OBE for Services to Local Government in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

Steve, who joined Wirral Council as a trainee solicitor in 1974 and became Chief Executive of the Authority in 1998, said: "I am obviously delighted and honoured, but I'm also proud that local government and Wirral in particular, has been recognised in this way."

Also honoured were Lou McGrath, from Oxtun who received an OBE for his services to mine clearance as co-founder of the charity Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Mrs Elizabeth Renshaw, Business Manager for Woodchurch High Specialist Engineering College who received an MBE for Services to Education.

Both Kenneth Harrison and Mrs Barbara Norris received their MBEs for Services to the Community in Wirral.

Section Three

Partner Organisations

Area forums also provide an opportunity to meet partners and organisations who are working to deliver a better, safer and cleaner Wirral.

Merseyside Police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Wirral Community Safety Team and Mersey Fire and Rescue Service to name just a few, are active members of the forum. This section is to share partner information with forum members and the community.

The Trust is pleased to be able to participate in the Local Area Forums and welcomes the opportunity to brief Wirral residents and our partner organisations on topical issues. Representing the Trust will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the Public Governor for the host constituency.

Infection Control

- Our Elective Surgical Unit at Clatterbridge remains MRSA bloodstream infection free – this Unit can undertake most planned surgical procedures including joint replacements.
- Our Women's Services Unit at Arrowe Park is also MRSA bloodstream infection free
- Elsewhere in the Trust the number of MRSA bloodstream infections recorded between April to December 2007 reduced by 40% compared to the same period in 2006

Waiting for Treatment

- Currently, no patient waits longer than 5 weeks for an outpatient appointment when referred by a GP for a specialist opinion
- Patients referred for most orthopaedic and gynaecology outpatient appointments will wait only 2 weeks
- Patients referred for ENT outpatient appointments will wait only 3 weeks
- Currently, most patients will wait no longer than 11 weeks for their operation once they have been 'listed' by a consultant. The exception is Orthopaedics where the waiting time is 14 weeks.
- Currently, patients with suspected or confirmed cancers are referred, diagnosed and treated well within national targets

Improving Our Standards

- In the 2006/07 Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check we scored 'good' for our use of resources and 'good' for the quality of our services
- An external assessment of our standards by the Patient Environment Action Team resulted in the following scores being awarded to the Trust for 2007

	Environment	Food	Privacy & Dignity
Arrowe Park	Good	4 (Good)	5 (Excellent)
Clatterbridge	Good	4 (Good)	4 (Good)

Improving Our Facilities

- In this financial year, 2007/08, £16million will be spent on capital schemes to improve our facilities and update the services we provide – schemes include:
- Implementing a 'state of art' digital X-Ray system = £3.1m
- Replacing Cardiac Catheter Laboratory equipment = £1.7m
- Expanding the Endoscopy suite at Arrowe Park = £1.3m
- Improving the Maternity Ward and Delivery Suite = £200K
- Altering and refurbishing wards to increase the number of single rooms, improve toilet and storage facilities = £650k
- New & replacement medical and surgical equipment = £2.5m
- In addition, we are working with an independent provider to improve Renal Dialysis facilities at Clatterbridge

Providing New Services

- The Trust has recently been designated as a centre for providing drug therapy for age-related Macular Degeneration. This is a new, local service for the benefit of Wirral residents.
- The Trust has recently been designated as a Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery

Come and Join Us! As a Foundation Trust we are keen to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have 5,500 Public Members and are keen to recruit more. Public Members can get involved as much or as little as they like – from just receiving regular newsletters to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. If you would like to become a public member please complete and return the membership application form that is available from the area forum area co-ordinator.

Wirral Primary Care Trust launch Health for all, Have Your Say

People in Wirral will have a greater opportunity than ever before to have a say about their health services. Wirral PCT is launching a wide-reaching listening exercise, 'Health for all, Have your say' which will give local people the opportunity to have their say on proposed plans for health and healthcare in Wirral over the next five years.

These plans will show how the PCT will work to reduce the gap between those who experience the best and the poorest of health, offer people greater choice about how and where they are treated and provide quality, personalised care.

The listening exercise will be launched on 7th January 2008 and people will be asked to forward their views by 14th April 2008. During January 2008, each person over the age of 16 who is registered with a GP will receive a personalised letter and the 'Health for all, Have your say' booklet, summarising the PCT's plans. There are a variety of ways in which people will be able to send us their views. Full details of this, together with a free post feedback form are included in the booklet. All members of the public who send in their comments will be entered into a draw with the chance to win a range of prizes including a LCD television, iPod Touch or shopping vouchers.

The 'Health for All, Have Your Say' campaign is being officially launched at a high profile event taking place on Monday 7th January at the Pyramids Shopping Centre in Birkenhead. There will also be a wide range of opportunities for people of all ages to get involved in having their say in the coming weeks, including Local Area Forums, Fun for All activity days, focus groups and other community based events.

Kathy Doran, Chief Executive of Wirral Primary Care Trust said: "We are committed to delivering the very best healthcare for everyone living in Wirral and believe that by working together we can make this happen. We were recently awarded the National Health Service Journal Award for Primary Care Organisation of the Year 2007, which was due in part to our commitment in involving patients and the public in what we do.

"We believe that this exercise will give local people the chance more than ever before to have their say about the future of local health services. We would like to encourage everybody to get involved in the coming weeks and months. We will ensure that all comments received will be taken into consideration in future plans."

Community Safety

October 2007 – January 2008

'Respect Wirral' from 1-5 October 2007. A week-long event aimed at promoting respect and raising awareness about preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour. The event, organised by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and involving many agencies, commenced with an 'Info Day' at Birkenhead Park for the public. Throughout the week, activities took place in a number of areas across the Borough, which included conducting environmental audits and clean-ups of areas. The event concluded with a Respect Conference for community representatives, ward councillor and MPs.

'Respect Bus' launched October 2007. The vehicle (a converted bus), managed by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, is designed to "take respect into the heart of communities". It has been used at least once a week since launch, visiting many areas across the Borough, and has been utilised for engagement with communities, including adults and young people. The vehicle is also equipped with sophisticated lighting allowing exterior areas to be lit.

Wirral's Family Intervention Project launched October 2007. The Project is run by NCH (formerly National Children's Homes) on behalf of Wirral Council. The Project targets the most problematic families (primarily those subject to enforcement action due to anti-social behaviour) and addresses the underlying causes of that behaviour. An approach of support coupled with sanction for non-compliance is adopted. The Project is currently funded by the government's Youth Task Force (formerly the Home Office Respect Task Force).

Wirral's Parenting Support Project launched October 2007. The Project provides parenting support to families engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, lower level anti-social behaviour. The Project is managed by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's Parenting Co-ordinator and is delivered through the Council's Children & Young People's Department, Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Trust and Wirral NHS Primary Care Trust. The Project is funded by the former Department for Education and Skills.

Housing Benefit Sanctions launched November 2007 Wirral is one of only eight areas in the country piloting new Sanctions for Housing Benefit. The new legislation allows for households that have been evicted for anti-social behaviour and fail to accept support to address the underlying causes of their behaviour, to have their Housing Benefit reduced or stopped. The Sanctions are designed to be preventative, encouraging households to accept the help they need.

Pantha vehicles These are 'trap' vehicles which record on CCTV person(s) breaking into the vehicle and spray the perpetrator with Smartwater. Police officers have been issued with special UV torches to detect someone having been in contact with Smartwater and make an arrest. There have been a number of arrests which has been a major factor in reducing car crime levels on Wirral.

Tranmere Winter Festival The Community Safety Team attended the festival on a chilly day in December but comfortably housed in a wigwam! We had our volunteers with us who manage the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme met a lot of people very interested in

Neighbourhood Watch and the Vehicle Watch project. Vehicle Watch consists of two aspects, 'Over 25 years of age drivers only' and vehicles not used between midnight and 6am. Any breach will result in police officers stopping the vehicle and checking the occupants. A number of people enlisted in the Vehicle Watch scheme. The Parenting Co-ordinator and Volume Crime Manager were present to give advice and guidance. In addition, the team provided crime reduction gadgets and aide memoir key rings to remind people to keep items out of sight - "On show It'll go". A very successful show where the team met with a lot of residents and visitors to the area.

3G CCTV This unique CCTV system has been rolled out to various hotspot locations and has the effect of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. There have been many favourable comments by residents who have seen the camera system of giving them a chance to breathe as the system adds to their quality of life..

Remote Alarms These are being issued to burglary victims to protect sheds where tools are taken which have led to a Burglary Dwelling. In other cases when cycles or other items are stolen from outbuildings or garages. The alarm alerts the householder who is made aware by the alarm activation. They have been distributed to Neighbourhood Police Inspectors and issued by CSO's in hotspot areas.

DVLA Project We developed a relationship with the Home Office Car Crime Unit and DVLA who sent letters to the registered keepers of vehicles that had items on display which our Parking Wardens identified. There have been in the region of 50 vehicles per week so identified but with the funding stream having finished, we have now worked closely with our partners to restart the scheme.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at Birkenhead, Bromborough, Heswall, Upton, West Kirby and Wallasey.

We are committed to innovative and imaginative change in order to help make our communities safer and stronger. We are also committed to integrated working with other authorities, agencies and the voluntary sector to improve public safety and well being.

We have recently published our Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/09 which sets out the measures which are intended to be taken to continue the modernisation and improvement of services to the people of Merseyside. This I.R.M.P can be viewed online at www.merseyfire.gov.uk/media or copies are available at local libraries and One Stop Shops.

A specific action point for Wirral is the implementation of the Hazardous Materials Incident Response Pump at Bromborough Fire Station. This will be a highly skilled team which will use the latest technology and equipment to facilitate the resolution of any incident involving the presence of hazardous materials. It is envisaged that Bromborough Community Fire Station will become the Centre of Excellence for training of all Fire Service personnel in the knowledge and skills required to deal with incidents involving hazardous materials, including the threats posted by terrorist attacks. This resource although Wirral

based will provide cover throughout Merseyside and is due to be implemented early this year.

Community engagement remains the cornerstone of our proactive activity, in particular the delivery of the Home Fire Safety Checks and the provision of free smoke detectors were necessary. We continue to improve our effectiveness by utilising intelligence led targeting of HFSCs. We are currently developing household specific dwelling fire prediction software to assist in the process.

The Service has set challenging performance targets and we are pleased to report that Wirral stations regularly achieve and exceed these targets.

During the last quarter the Fire Service visited nearly 6,000 homes on Wirral and completed Home Fire Safety Checks.

Following our work to lessen the impact over the bonfire period, through our collaborative Bonfire Strategy, we are pleased to advise that Wirral saw a significant decrease of bonfires requiring Fire Service attendance. Working in partnership with the Police and Trading Standards we were also able to secure a reduction in the illegal sale and storage of fireworks across the district.

Fire Support Network is a non-profitable registered charity which works in partnership with the Fire Service on Merseyside to promote fire safety to the local communities through volunteers and partner organisations. Volunteer roles vary from working directly with the fire-fighters, leafleting and replacing batteries in smoke detectors to providing an after fire care service and fund raising. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can register online www.firesupportnet.org.uk or 0151 296 4600

The fire service on Wirral has many partnership arrangements which contribute to the development of healthier lifestyles across communities. Work with the PCT (smoking cessation, lifestyle and weight management etc) and Wirral Community Safety Team (Anti-social behaviour; arson reduction; youth engagement/distraction) are all having a positive effect upon the quality of life for Wirral residents as well as helping partners achieve their targeted objectives.

Community Fire Stations

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • Birkenhead: Exmouth Street. Birkenhead CH41 4AX | 0151 296 5325 |
| • Bromborough: Dock Road South. Bebington CH62 4SQ | 0151 296 5925 |
| • Heswall: Telegraph Road, Heswall CH60 OAF | 0151 296 5805 |
| • Upton: Arrowe Park Road. Upton CH49 OUF | 0151 296 5895 |
| • West Kirby: The Concourse. West Kirby CH48 4HX | 0151 296 5955 |
| • Wallasey: Mill Lane. Wallasey CH44 5UE | 0151 296 6180 |

For a FREE Home Fire Safety Check, including FREE smoke alarm installation if required please contact Fire Service Direct on FREEphone 0800 731 5958

Older People's Parliament

Wirral Older Peoples Parliament 2007 Our organisation has been in existence for almost a year, following the initial set up it has achieved some quite remarkable results. Firstly from setting up a small body with people from many diverse backgrounds. All combined with the very valuable assistance and encouragement from Wirral Borough Council, working in conjunction with Age Concern.

Recognition This has evolved into the recognition of the constructive contribution being made by elderly people in assisting and resolving issues, things that specifically have effect on those in the community, aged from 50 years plus. Our respective Sub Committee chairperson's, Committee Members, etc. Have established direct links with The National Health Service both at Major Hospital level and Wirral Primary Care Trust, Elected Members of the National Parliament and local Authority Administrators.

Disabilities Mr Alan Stanbury, one of the founder members of the Parliament successfully negotiated a number of additional disabled parking places in close proximity to the main building at Arrowe Park University Teaching Hospital Trust, plus additional signage and close monitoring by security staff. To ensure the system is being used correctly. Unfortunately Alan has since passed away but has left a legacy of what can be achieved by indentifying a problem and solving the issue by skilful negotiation with the necessary authority involved.

Health Provision Sandra Wall, and her committee members, are actively involved in important discussion over a wide range of health care issues, items relating to Health Care Services provided by Hospitals, Clinics, and Specialist Providers, together with assessment and standards in Nursing Homes and Care Establishments throughout the Wirral. The Health & Social Care subcommittee, have such a wide list of elements to deal with, ranging from care and services within hospitals and outpatient, or clinical service facilities normally provided in your Own Home and Care Home locations. Involving Chiropody/Podiatry, Surgical Replacements, Hearing Aids, Dementia, and Optical improvement procedures.

Population Statistically the elderly population in Wirral is an ever growing number in comparison to the whole population count. And of course people are living longer, making the present and future provision of improved medical and social needs, a very high priority to all concerned. **Wirral Older Peoples Parliament**, is playing an important function with major constructive contribution, to the overall decision making process, carried out by The Council Officers, Hospital Trusts, Care Homes, and Clinics, etc.

Education Margaret Testo, and her committee members are deeply involved with a number of noted Educational Providers and various other departments. Like Wirral 3 L's and the Wirral Met College or the Learning & Skills Council. Who are all involved in the provision, encouragement, and availability of facilities, equipment, and assistance in the extension of learning systems for older people? The use of computer technology is quite important in today's society, and whilst some older persons may feel intimidated by such developments, the provisions of simple learning techniques are proving to be invaluable.

Accommodation Parliament Committee Members, belonging to various other organisations are using gathered information to ensure that elderly or vulnerable citizens in the community have a collective voice in the standards and compatibility of sheltered housing and community living facilities.

Law and Order Ken McDermott, has been in progressive consultation with the Police Authorities and Wirral Council Officers, expressing the related fears and concerns felt by many elderly residents, about the safety or wellbeing of communities, this is also an ongoing part of education and understanding being carried out in the schools educational system. The authorities place a high importance on that senior citizens and vulnerable members of our communities, have a right to live their lives in comparative safety and comfort.

Transport Joanna McIlhatton, and committee members have been assessing the available transport facilities provisions. And urging the need for better improved use of public transport. Enabling older maybe less mobile members of the community to travel in comfort. There are many examples where public transport fall short of providing adequate services, if people are to be aware of the environmental impact that private cars have on society as a whole.

Jack Cuffe (Chairman Wirral OPP) Jack Cuffe, has dedicated a huge commitment to establishing the parliament, raising awareness and obtaining funding for the parliament to function. He himself has attended numerous meetings together with various Executive Committee Members, establishing a presence on **(The North West Older Peoples Advisory Group)** an active part of the **(Better Government for Older People)** with direct contact to the British Government Parliament in London.

Wirral Older Peoples Parliament has had meetings and presentations with many leading figures in authorities both here in the Wirral and Merseyside plus the North West Region. The Chief Constable of Merseyside, Wirral Borough Council Chief Executive, plus senior directors of Wirral Social Services, Chief Executive of Wirral PCT and many of the senior managers of the PCT, also representatives from Wirral Voluntary Services, Wirral Libraries, Ambulance & Fire Service, plus many more representative bodies.

Local Forums The very successful local area forums have been a vital communication link with numerous other voluntary service groups in all of the Council Wards at the recent **WBC Area Forum Annual Conference** in July there were 16 representative members of the Wirral OPP present.

Later Life Convention (Staged by AGE Concern Sep 08) in Hulme Hall A stall manned by Wirral OPP gave out thousands of leaflets and information packs, to the general public and answered many queries about the vast range **“AGE Concern”** information booklets available, and documents relating to those in The 50 + age group. Booklets with advice on Welfare Benefits, Housing, Insurance, Investment, Transport, Keeping Warm, and Healthy Eating, etc are available from any AGE Concern office.

Executive Body Members The executive members of **Wirral Older People Parliament** have met a frequent intervals carrying out a multitude of organisational and promotional duties, arranging informative talks and presentations, gathering information and data,

supporting committees, etc with extensive use of **AGE Concern** assistance and facilities, Cutesy of Jamie Anderson, who has been of exceptional help.

The support assistance and general encouragement from Council CEO Stephen Maddox OBE, Kevin Miller, John Webb, and Wirral Borough Council, staff members Andrea Grant, Tracey Smith, plus others has made a significant contribution to setting up the Wirral OPP in its first year of office. For more information Ring 0151 666 2220 (Parliament) E-Mail: parliament@ageconcernwirral.org

Better still have some input at the next Parliament Meeting in Wallasey Town Hall.

Take Note - Are you in the 50+ age bracket? Then you should be interested in the

“Wirral Older Peoples Parliament” our organisation working very closely with AGE Concern, and Wirral Borough Council, together with all the other major organisations in Wirral, are beginning to have a positive benefit in listening too and resolving many issues that particularly have effect on the older population.

With our links to the National Health Service, Police, Fire, & Security, Organisation we are able to examine and very often resolve issues for vulnerable sections of the community.

Assisting the elderly to have their voice heard and listened too. We are able to offer advice and assistance to those in Sheltered Communities, Care Homes, Nursing Facilities, etc.

The collective knowledge and experience of those in the 50+ age bracket is of absolute value and incredible service to the members of community that need it most.

You can play a most valuable part, get involved Come along to our parliament meetings and air your views, Write or phone, send an e-mail, get in touch, if not for yourself for a loved one, friend, neighbour, or family.

You can make a difference

- **Phone AGE Concern 0151 666 2220 (Parliament)**
- **Write to AGE Concern 44 Market Street, Birkenhead, CH41 5BT**
- **E-Mail: parliament@ageconcernwirral.org**

Merseyside Police

East Wallasey Neighbourhood Inspector's Update

Drugs/ Anti-Social Behaviour On my arrival as the new Neighbourhood Inspector, I made promises to do everything within my power to rigorously deal with drug dealing and anti-social behaviour. To combat this, I launched OPERATION UXBRIDGE at the beginning of October. This operation is an ongoing initiative, but I wanted to give you an update now that we are at the three-month stage.

Since its launch, a total of 15 warrants have been executed on this neighbourhood under the misuse of drugs legislation. The warrants have all been executed by the dedicated neighbourhood staff and have resulted in 14 arrests. Large quantities of controlled drugs have been recovered and other offences have also been detected, such as abstracting electricity and theft.

The most successful warrant so far was executed on the morning of 23rd December 2007 at an address in New Brighton. Class 'A' drugs with a street value in excess of £40,000.00 was recovered, together with large quantities of cash, dozens of brand new mobile phone sim cards and offensive weapons. Two people were arrested and are currently on police bail.

In addition to the enforcement detailed above, my team are also working hard to implement our 'prevent and deter' strategy, targeting young people who engage in anti-social behaviour on the neighbourhood. We have been working closely with officers from Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and together; we have successfully secured acceptable behaviour contracts (ABC) for 5 youths, an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) for 1 youth and an anti-social behaviour order on conviction (ASBOC) for 3 youths.

Success in both of the above areas is still in the early stages, but with continued focus and direction, we will continue to improve on our performance and I am confident that I will be reporting further good news to you in the future.

Crime Figures: Below is a very brief overview of improvements in crime figures for the three-month period up to December 2007, compared to the same period in 2006. As you can see, there has been positive progress in every area.

East Wallasey Neighbourhood	Diff	% Diff
Total Crime	-199	-18.75%
Violence	-10	-4.70%
Burglary Dwelling	-17	-31.50%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	-1	-2.60%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	-20	-33.90%
Criminal Damage	-93	-26.00%

Please be assured that my Officers and I will continue working to reduce and detect crime in order to improve the quality of life for the residents of East Wallasey Neighbourhood. These improvements can only be achieved with the help of our partners and the local community and I would urge anybody with information regarding criminal activity or anti social behaviour to contact your Neighbourhood team on 709 6010.

Julie Fletcher Neighbourhood Inspector

Section Four

Area Forum Plan

The area forum 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 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 quality of life in the area.

Area forum plans form part of a much wider agenda for improving local services across the whole of Wirral and will influence the work of the local strategic partnership and the ongoing development of Wirral's local area agreement.

This section provides an update on some of the issues that have been resolved for this area forum.

Currently all Local Area Forum Plans are being refreshed and updated. This is an annual process to ensure that the plans are continually addressing the needs of individual areas.

There will be a more detailed update of the Area Forum Plans at the June 2008 forums which include:

- Operation Joker
- The Integrated Transport Block
- Highway Maintenance Programme
- Ensuring better transport links
- School Travel Plans/walk to school schemes
- Community Initiative Funding
- Community Safety Funding
- Local Agenda 21 Funding
- Primary Care Trust Funding

If you would like more information on the Area Forum Plan covering the area in which you live or how you can help towards any of the above issues please contact your area co-ordinator Michelle Gray 0151 691 8213 or email michellegray@wirral.gov.uk

Section Five

Streetscene

Wirral Council's Streetscene department is the main point of contact for people wishing to report issues affecting their area such as recycling, condition of roads, street lighting etc.

This section provides a report on the recent activities carried by the Streetscene department.

STREETSCENE AREA FORUM REPORT – produced January 2008

Waste Enforcement Policy - Wirral Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee recently passed an enforcement policy regarding Household Waste. This policy, subject to Cabinet approval, determines that anyone found to be deliberately and repeatedly contaminating their grey recycling bin can now be fined, after a warnings and offers of help from Council Offers.

It is important that residents note that the contamination we refer to is serious deliberate contamination, e.g completely filling the grey recycling bin with food waste, nappies, mixed rubbish in bin bags etc, week after week. It is not the intention to fine people who on the whole make a good attempt to recycle but put one or two wrong items in accidentally.

The policy also allows fines to be issued, after warnings, for leaving bins out after collection day. Leaving bins out on the pavement poses health and safety risks to disabled, visually impaired, and elderly people, and children. Also bins left out at are risk from contamination by passers by / neighbours etc. The fines will be £100, £60 if paid within 7 days.

This enforcement policy has been brought in as Wirral Council are now successfully recycling more than 220% more rubbish than this time last year - yet certain problem households are contaminating the recycling and we are having to take wagon loads of recycling to landfill as a result. This is bad for the environment but also costs us and therefore the tax payer.

School's Recycling - A pilot scheme is to be trialled in ten Wirral schools throughout February, in which 'Grey bin recycling' will be installed in class rooms, allowing children to recycle in school the same as at home. If successful, the scheme will in time be rolled out to all Wirral schools.

Residents Parking - All residents parking requests will now be coming through Area Forums. Initially, concerned residents should still call Streetscene on 606 2004 for background information on what is required for a residents parking scheme to be considered. Streetscene will provide residents with a criteria list, and when the criteria is met, residents are to revisit an area forum with the proposal, where like minded residents may want to contribute or discuss. The criteria basically is that at least 80% of at least 300 homes must be in favour of the scheme. All houses must be in favour of contributing a one off amount of approximately 75 for set up fees.

Community Speed Watch - Along with Merseyside Police, we are recruiting volunteers for our Community Speedwatch Scheme, where residents and community groups can use our radar guns and hi-viz jackets to perform speed checks on problem roads. All data captured can be passed back to the police and action may be taken. For more info, or to volunteer, contact Sgt Kate Roberts kate.roberts@merseyside.police.uk or 0151 606 5448 or visit their website at www.merseyside.police.uk

Road Safety - The Road Safety Team still have a few copies of the Highway Code to give away, after a pre-Christmas give away. If you would like your free copy, as there have been quite a few updates in the revised 2007 version, please call Streetscene on 6060

2004 or email streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

Planning Webcasts - We would like to remind residents that a trip to The Town Hall is no longer necessary to view a planning committee meeting. All meetings are available to watch online via www.wirral.gov.uk, click 'planning webcasts' in the right hand menu.

If you are unable to watch it live, you can watch it at any time convenient to you after it has been archived and uploaded the next day.

Traffic Management Schemes - The following Traffic Management schemes completed since the last area forums in September/October 2007.

Eastham Rake, Eastham Puffin Crossing
Tollemache Road, Bidson Pedestrian Refuge
Bidston Moss (Roundabout) Signage Scheme

Highway Maintenance - The following Highway maintenance schemes have been completed since the last area forums in September/October 2007.

Footway Reconstruction Completed - Dalmorton Road New Brighton, Nursury Close Oxton, Upton Road Claughton, Grafton Street (part) Oxton, Burlingham Avenue West Kirby, Fieldway Bebington, Sussex Close Pensby, Mere Farm Grove Oxton, Oak Road Bebington, Reedville Road Bebington and Richardson Road Rock Ferry.

Footway Reconstruction Planned Works for - Hillfield Drive, Pensby Started 7/01/08 and Somerset Road, (part) Pensby.

Carriageway Resurfacing Completed: Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge, Neville Road Bromborough, Dibbins Hey (part) Clatterbridge, Wirral Gardens Clatterbridge, Patterdale Road Clatterbridge, Bassentwaite Avenue Claughton, Laburnum Road New Brighton, Sandheys Road New Brighton, Mount Road access link to Clatterbridge Hospital

Carriageway Resurfacing Planned: Wetherby Avenue Wallasey, started w/c 7/01/08 Brynmoss Avenue Wallasey, started w/c 7/01/08, Kingston Close Moreton, to start w/c 14/01/08, Hawarden Avenue Liscard and Dock Road (part) Seacombe

Carriageway Retread Works Completed: Grant Road Leasowe, Mackenzie Road Leasowe, Harvest Lane (part) Moreton and Devonshire Road, West Kirby

Carriageway Surface Treatment Works Planned: Vyner Road North Bidston, Wroxham Way Upton, Seabank Road (part) Liscard, Newling Street Birkenhead, Trinity Street Birkenhead, Helena Street Birkenhead, Whiteheath Way Leasowe, Northbrooke Way Upton, Domville Drive Upton, Bridge Farm Close Upton, Glebe Hey Road Upton

Footway Surface Treatment Completed: Duke Street, (part) Birkenhead, Reeds Lane (part) Leasowe, St Marys Street Liscard, St Marys Avenue Liscard, Westminster Road Liscard, Wilton Street Liscard

Footway Surface Treatment Planned: Woodchurch Road (part) Upton, Pensby Road (part) Pensby and Bassentwaite Avenue (island area only) Claughton.

Section Six

Equalities & Diversity

The Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG) provides a framework for local authorities to deliver continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

The standard has six strands or pillars:

Race

Disability

Gender

Age

Sexual Orientation

Religion or belief

New Corporate Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator appointed!

Jacqui Cross joined Corporate Policy Team on 5th November (and yes fireworks did fly!).

She is responsible for co-ordinating efforts across the whole authority to ensure high quality services are available to all citizens on the basis of need and to ensure the Council provides a fair and supportive environment for all staff, members and partners.

Jacqui can be contacted on 0151 691 8064 or email jacquicross@wirral.gov.uk

Other members of the Corporate Equality and Diversity Programme Team are:

Steve Foden, Access Officer, 0151 691 8212 or email stevefoden@wirral.gov.uk,

Ged Smyth NRAC Auditor, 0151 691 8217 or email gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk

Maxine Joynson Support Officer, 0151 691 6266 or email maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk

Comprehensive Engagement Strategy A community engagement strategy for Wirral is currently being developed under the remit of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). This strategy will provide the mechanisms for delivering a strategic approach to community engagement, involving a wide range of partners and stakeholders.

As this strategy emerges, a consultation framework with residents, customers, local groups and communities will be designed for use across the whole Council.

Who we are working with A single equality group for Wirral known as Wirral Equalities Forum (WEF) has recently been established and includes partners from the LSP such as Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Police and PCT.

We are also working closely with the Merseyside Equality Forum and regional equality networks in order to promote the work being done across Wirral and to share information and best practice.

Initiatives We have recently established initiatives within the Council including:

- Three diversity forums for Council staff
- Launch of 'Equality Watch' – a newsletter for Council staff
- Further Equality and Diversity training for Council staff
- Continued access audits of buildings

Equality Impact Assessments (EIA's) An EIA is a self-assessment tool to help our council departments and services look at the likely positive and negative impact of their work on staff, members, service users / customers, partnerships, individuals and communities with regards to equality of opportunity in employment and service delivery.

The council is committed to ensuring that it delivers all of its services in a fair and equal way. It also pledges to develop an inclusive recruitment and selection procedure aimed at creating a strong and diverse workforce. This two-pronged approach ensures that we work towards removing barriers to our services and actively promote and support diversity.

The Equality Standard for Local Government helps us to measure progress towards promoting equality and diversity. The standard has five levels and Wirral council is currently at level two. In order to meet the requirements of the standard we need to ensure we carry out Equality Impact Assessments on all council functions, services, projects, strategies and policies.

Every service, function, policy and strategy that Wirral Council has, needs to have an EIA to highlight both positive and negative impact on various population groups.

Some useful information under the equality strands:

Age

Age Concern Wirral – please contact head office on 666 2220 or email www.ageconcernwirral.org

Youth forums for more information please contact Debbie McCabe on 637 6362 or email debbiemccabe@wirral.gov.uk

Older People's Parliament - for more information please contact Jack Cuffe on 652 0039

Gender

Women's Diversity Forum (Council) – met 26th November due to meet again on 15th January. For more info please contact Christina Bebbington on 691 8063 or email christinabebbington@wirral.gov.uk

Press for Change - is a political lobbying and educational organisation, which campaigns to achieve equal civil rights and liberties for all trans people in the United Kingdom, through legislation and social change. www.pfc.org.uk

Race

Race Diversity Forum (Council) – held their inaugural meeting on 26th November. For more information please contact Katrina Roberts on 691 8382 or email katrinaroberts@wirral.gov.uk

Promoting the talents of Muslim Women 21 January 2008, 1.45 – 6.45pm, Alberts Hall, Bolton. For more information please visit www.nwra.gov.uk/promotingmuslimwomen

Disability

Disability Diversity Forum (Council) – last on Monday 7th January 2008. For more information please contact Ged Smyth on 691 8217 or email gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk

Wirral Disability Action Forum – 25 January 2008 at Highcroft Centre, Bebbington. For more information contact Diane Jones at Wired on 670 1500.

Sexual Orientation

LGBT Rainbow Partnership - For more information please contact Darren Knight via email at the Rainbow Partnership on rainbow@lqf.org.uk

LGBT Forum (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender) forum due to meet in February 2008. For more information please contact Peter Barnett via email on Wirralgbt_forum@yahoo.co.uk

Religion and belief

Churches together in Wirral - Churches Together in Wirral (CTiW) has provided representatives on a variety of strategic bodies including Local Community Forums, the Standing Advisory Body for Religious Education, and the Local Strategic Partnership. The Local Authority regard our work as being crucial to the partnerships they seek, and appreciate the integrity that CTiW give in their communications with a variety of bodies including National Government. www.churcheswirral.co.uk

Section Seven

Funding

FREE FUNDING INFORMATION 4 YOU

Wirral Council supported by Wirral Local Strategic Partnership's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund are pleased to provide a FREE funding information service available online.

There are hundreds of grants available to support Wirral's voluntary and community groups from local opportunities to Government, National Lottery and Trust Funding sources.

To find out which grants you may be eligible to apply for visit our free search facility:

Step One

Go to **www.wirral.gov.uk**

Click on the *Funding Initiatives* icon under the 'Popular Pages' list.

Step Two

Then click on one of these links to browse and search for funding information.

www.open4community.info/wirral
www.open4socialenterprise.info/wirral

You no longer have to be left in the dark about what funding your group or organisation could apply for, find this out for yourself.

In addition you can also visit the following web site for a wide range of associated information including signing up for regular early funding alerts via email.

www.mfip.org.uk



Could Your Community Benefit From Up To £10,000?

Awards for All is a small grants programme supported by the Arts Council England, The Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England. If you have an idea that will make your community a better place, Awards for All could make it a reality with a Lottery grant of between £300 and £10,000. We want to fund organisations that deliver projects for people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, as well as projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.

Regional Overview Between 1 April 2007 and 31 December 2007 we received over 1,700 applications in the North West region. 931 applications have been funded amounting to around £6.4m. 48% of applications requested grants of between £7,500 and £10,000. The average award in the North West during this period stands at just over £6,800, with a success rate of 53%. The awards break down between the sub-regions as follows:

Sub Region	Amounts Awarded	Number of Awards
Cheshire	£681,213	108
Cumbria	£716,085	108
Greater Manchester	£2,254,219	325
Lancashire	£1,315,036	196
Merseyside	£1,336,415	184
North West wide	£77,844	10

Common reject reasons One of the main reasons that applications fail is because organisations do not send in all of the information required. As well as the completed application form, an organisation must also provide its governing document (or constitution), a formal set of accounts, a bank details form and three months worth of original bank statements. Another reason that applications fail is that the organisation does not have sufficient financial controls. You must ensure that you have appropriate financial procedures in place to adequately manage the funds you are requesting.

Further information can be found in the guidance at http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/docs/awardsforall_england_guide.pdf. You can also contact your local Council for Voluntary Service, Local Authority External Funding Officer or helper agency for further advice on completing the application form.

Regional Outcomes In the North West we have prioritised four strategic outcomes. Although your project does not have to meet the regional outcomes, your application will have a better chance of success if it does meet one of them. The regional outcomes for the North West are:

Increased involvement from people who face barriers to participation, Greater use of community buildings, Improved skills for running small community groups and Different communities working closer together

How to apply If Awards for All might be for you, applying is relatively easy. You can apply at any time, the application form is straightforward and you will receive a decision within eight weeks of sending in your completed application. You can apply if you are a not for profit group, a parish or town council, school or health body. Groups can apply for £300 to £10,000 in any two-year period and the grant must be spent within 12 months.

The kind of things we can fund include: Publicity materials, venue hire, computers, research costs, transport costs, volunteers' expenses, updating equipment for health and safety reasons, refurbishments, training, sessional staff, fees to hire equipment, educational toys and games.

For more information or to download application pack visit www.awardsforall.org.uk or call 0845 600 20 40 or textphone 0845 755 6656 to request a pack in hard copy. If you would like help in completing an application form contact Suzanne Fennah Lottery Officer 691 8196, e-mail suzannefennah@wirral.gov.uk