

YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**

**East Wallasey
(Liscard & Seacombe)**

Area Forum

Papers for the forum meeting

Tuesday 3rd June 2008

**Committee Room 1
Town Hall, Brighton Street
Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED**

7.00pm – 9.00pm

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Section One

Minutes - East Wallasey Area Forum (Liscard/Seacombe) 6 February 2008

Present	
Chair	Dave Hawkins
Ward Councillors	Leah Fraser , Karen Hayes , Adrian Jones , Denis Knowles
Community Representatives	Margaret Allen (Seacombe Community Representative) , Ken Harrison , Diane Ledder , Joseph Lee , Fr. Leon Ostaszewski , Carole Thomas (Liscard Community Representative)
Lead Officer	Mark Camborne (Health & Safety & Resilience Operations Manager)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Michelle Gray
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Tricia Moroney , 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
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Tony Mooney
Council Officers	Simon Fitzpatrick (Community Safety) , Christina Jones (Education & Cultural Services) , Sue Weldon (Corporate Services)
Apologies	Tara Dumas (Recycling Officer) , Cllr John Salter , Mrs Wendy Sheed (Governor - Wirral NHS Trust)

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Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions & apologies

The Chair, Councillor Dave Hawkins, welcomed forum members and 26 members of the public to the meeting of the East Wallasey [Liscard/Seacombe] Area Forum in Wallasey Town Hall. He also introduced two new community representatives to the forum - Joe Lee and Ken Harrison, and congratulated Ken on being awarded an MBE for his community work in Liscard.

Minute 2 - Minutes & matters arising from previous October forum

The Chair informed the forum that the minutes were included in the Area Co-ordinators report and asked if there were any specific questions / issues relating to these:

Page 11 - Father Ostaszewski:

Q3 - "from Clare Mount Road via St Hilary Brow" should read "from Penny Bridge, Clare Mount Road and Wallasey Road"

Q5 - crack in Belvedere Road / Wallasey Road is getting worse

Q6 - "roads through Egremont" should read "Egremont Kings Street area"

It was agreed that the minutes be amended re: questions 3 and 6. Chris Jones added that will note point raised re: Q6 and that the crack in Belvedere Road was due to an old gas

re-instatement that is now out of warranty. This is being monitored and a permanent re-instatement will be carried out when we carry out planned road improvements on this section.

Page 11 - Diane Ledder - the keep clear markings at the entrance to Love Lane allotments has still not been repainted. Chris Jones agreed to take this matter up.

Page 14 - Dave Hanlon - provided the forum with further information on new free travel pass scheme and it was agreed that this would be added to the next Area Co-ordinators report. Councillor Knowles confirmed that all existing pass holders will receive a new concession pass. These will be issued in March for use from April onwards. It will be a plastic credit card size pass for use by over 60's on local bus services and will be issued automatically if you already have a bus pass (which will run until 14 April 2008). Merseytravel pass holders will still be able to travel on Merseyrail and Mersey Ferries. A question and answer sheet with more information on this was available at the meeting.

Margaret Allen added that would like more buses to go with these passes. Councillor Knowles added that the new Transport Bill will try to address this by introducing a franchise system (similar to the trains) to give more control re: timetables and fares.

Members of the public added that passes are not automatically issued as have received requests for new photographs to be sent to Hull.

Dave Hanlon asked what would happen re: disability pass as the new pass does not have the same rights as the disability pass. Councillor Knowles agreed to discuss this and any other specific issues at the end of the meeting.

Minute Decision : Resolved that:

- (i) the Area Co-ordinator to arrange for page 11 of the minutes to be amended to reflect points raised by Father Ostaszewski and attach the information publication to these minutes and for article re: new English Concessionary Travel Scheme to be added to the June Area Co-ordinators report.
- (ii) the Streetscene Manager to note points raised by Father Ostaszewski and progress issue re: keep clear marking at Love Lane allotments.

Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators report

The Area Co-ordinator gave an overview of her report to the Area Forum:

Section 1 - Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising (covered under item 2 of the agenda).

Section 2 - Local updates.

Section 3 - Partner updates.

Section 4 - Local area plan, a copy of which was available for inspection at the meeting, copies of this can be requested by contacting Michelle Gray on 0151 691 8213 / michellegray@wirral.gov.uk. This is being refreshed in June 2008.

Section 5 - Streetscene.

Section 6 - Equalities and Diversity

Section 7 - Funding, including funding available and awards for all funding.

All, or part, of the Area Co-ordinator's report can be downloaded from the Internet at www.wirral.gov.uk; alternatively, a paper version will be sent on request to any member of the public who wishes to attend a future meeting.

The Area Co-ordinator was thanked for her report.

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

Minute 4 - Sustainable Community Strategy

The Chair introduced Sue Weldon, Sustainable Community Co-ordinator, who gave a

presentation on the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreements (LAAs).

Sue informed the forum that it is a statutory requirement to have an SCS which sets a strategic, long-term vision for the area. The Council, in consultation with its partners, sets a framework for an action plan, with the LAA as the delivery plan. The aim of this is to enhance quality of life of local communities through actions aimed at improving economic, social and environmental well-being.

The SCS tells Wirral's 'story' (people and places); highlights the differences between areas, the big problems and solutions; determines vision and what do we need to do to achieve the long-term vision for Wirral. Wirral's long-term vision: A more prosperous and equal Wirral, enabling all communities and people to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Wirral's 'story' / big problems:

- it is a borough of stark contrasts (25 areas are within the 3% most deprived but 7 areas are within 10% most affluent)
- it has the worst health inequality in the North West
- has an underperforming economy and an ageing population
- has a significant inequalities including educational attainment; crime and worklessness.

How do we solve the problems?

- focus on right people and places
- shared local action (work in partnership, involve all agencies including the third sector and direct resources to where most needed)
- shared principles (community cohesion, sustainability and equality & diversity)

The Strategy belongs to and allows everyone to connect to the 'big picture'. You can be involved by letting us know what people and places you think we need to focus on. A consultation document will be available, within the next few weeks, at www.wirral.gov.uk. If you would like more information on this or have this in a different format please telephone 0151 691 8030.

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

Q. Can this consultation be included on UK on-line centres?

A. Sue agreed to do this.

Q. This has the potential to reach every resident and if it does not then may end up being a sample survey rather than a full consultation.

A. The consultation is open to every resident of the borough, and will be advertised in as many ways and as widely as possible. All responses will be taken into account.

Q. Are the area forums taking positive steps to take positive action to ensure all views are taken into account (i.e. disabled, BME communities), is this measured and is positive action taken to enforce this?

A. Mark Camborne - the forums do try to encourage contributions from all areas, at the last meeting we had signers to assist a deaf person who wished to attend the meeting, and do engage with all recognised groups.

Q. Where is the forum meeting advertised, as this is the first meeting I have heard about, via a survey?

A. Michelle Gray - the forums are advertised on the internet, in libraries, one stop shops, Wirral Globe, doctors and dentists surgeries, and was even advertised on local radio last year. Michelle agreed to discuss this further at the end of the meeting.

Councillor Adrian Jones / the Chair advised the forum that all ideas / views on ways to publicise the forums would be welcomed and considered.

Minute Decision : Resolved that:

- (i) Sue Weldon be thanked for her presentation

(ii) Sue Weldon to ensure SCS is available at UK on-line centres

Minute 5 - Streetscene/recycling/bins public question time

Mark Camborne gave an update on recycling, as Tara Dumas was unable to attend the meeting:

Operation Joker - there was a list of roads covered by this at the meeting, that will be attached to the minutes. Mark agreed to provide more details on this at the end of the meeting.

Bins blocking pavements at Ladyewood and Silverbeech Road - will raise this at next meeting with Biffa, although there is no history of this being reported as an ongoing problem. Bins should always be returned to the point from which they were taken.

Marlowe Road URC - brown bin will be delivered by the end of the week.

Streetscene call centre - choices are available on the menu to speed up enquiries, press 1 for bin collections.

Discounted kitchen recycling bins - there are no plans at present to offer discounted kitchen bins to allow waste to be split into specific bins for recycling etc., but leaflets were available at the meeting for "Kitchen Caddies" to transport waste from kitchen to composter.

The following questions / issues were raised:

Q. Carole Thomas - there have been complaints re: the state of Liscard in general (the entries, rubbish, empty buildings, bad state of repair of properties over shops. Could alleygates be added to the entry in Kemlyn Road, as tyres and bin bags dumped there and it is used as a urinal by people leaving the public houses. This has been reported on numerous occasions but situation has not improved. Staff from the GPO opposite sit outside eating meals and dropping litter.

A. Chris Jones agreed to contact the environmental enforcement officers about this and follow this up with Carole directly. The issue of litter / dropping of cigarette stubs is being tackled, fixed penalty notices are being served. Will bring the issue re: GPO to enforcement officers attention.

Stan Thompson

1. Thanked Chris Jones, as the pot holes at Magazine Brow have now been repaired. The pot hole at the roundabout at Dock Road / Mill Lane has been filled in twice, but has re-appeared due to use by trucks / ferry traffic.

A. Chris Jones - we are aware of the defect at the Wallasey Bridge Road roundabout and are having to dig down to resolve the problem (on the early hours of Sunday morning). There are plans for major re-surfacing of the Dock Road and it is hoped that work will start on this mid March.

2. Gave appreciation for refurbishment work carried out on the Seacombe to New Brighton promenade. However within days the refurbished shelter was covered in graffiti. There is a CCTV camera to the north of the shelter - could this be re-directed onto the shelter?

A. Chris Jones - the view of cameras can be changed to try and observe / prevent damage, as have remote access. Chris agreed to pass this request to colleagues in charge of CCTV cameras.

3. Was anything done about parking on the corner of roads?

A. Inspector Fletcher - tickets have been issued and work has been carried out in partnership with council officers to try and get notices posted about this. PCSOs have been placing notices on windscreens. Chris Jones added that enforcement officers are targeting corners.

Diane Ledder

1. Bins - information was released last week, via the media, that the Government were advising Councils to clarify enforcement measures for bins left out or put out early. What

would happen if householder is going on holiday and has no-one to bring the bin in, works shifts, or the bins are blown over?

A. Mark Camborne - there is a report due to go to Cabinet next week on the enforcement policy. Tara will update at next forum.

2. At the Wallasey Central Park Forum meeting the CSO commented that work was not to be carried out on the potholed roadway from Liscard Road to depot, even though a young child on a trike hit the pothole and went over.

A. Chris Jones - this is an unadopted road, but will try to find out who is responsible for this and highlight their responsibilities. If anyone comes across things that need urgent attention please contact the Streetscene call centre (0151 606 2004) where the call will be logged and sent electronically to Inspectors who can immediately pass this on to our contractors. We do need your help in dealing with such issues.

3. When planning permission is given for change of use from shops to residential can it be ensured that the job is finished and the property is given a reasonable front?

A. Mark Camborne - agreed to pass this request to planning officers and report back at the next meeting.

Q. Margaret Allen - why aren't persistent offenders carrying out fly-tipping in alleyways being prosecuted, as evidence (such as addresses) is usually left?

A. Chris Jones - we now have an enforcement section leader who is keen to tackle such issues. The enforcement team do look into this and carry out prosecutions, maybe we need to publicise this more.

Q. Roger (OPP)

1. Congratulated Streetscene on the removal of unauthorised adverts in Liscard, but have these been removed permanently?

A. Chris Jones - enforcement officers will have dealt with this and they have procedures in place to act quickly on this type of offence and issue fixed penalty fines.

2. Who is liable if someone falls over a bin?

A. Mark Camborne - this would be judged on individual case by case basis, if the bin had fallen over it would most likely be classed as an accident but if a bin was pushed into someone it would most likely be classed as deliberate. This type of issue will be dealt with in more detail by Tara Dumas at the roadshows planned.

Q. The issue re: Serpentine Road calming has been going on for 12/24 months - when will this happen?

A. Mark Camborne - the work has been planned and budgeted for, the signs have gone up and the work is due to start this week.

Q. David Hale - what is happening re: bin pick up points for terraced houses in Merton Road, Silverby Avenue, as this issue has been going on for three years?

A. Mark Camborne - will take this back and get an answer for the next meeting.

Q. Elderly people have difficulty taking bins along cobbled entries, if entries were resurfaced this would make it easier as bins would be less likely to tip / fall over.

A. Mark Camborne - education officers will be out to try and solve such problems, these types of issues will be dealt with in more detail at roadshows due to be held soon. Chris Jones - help is available for assisted pickups- please phone the Streetscene call centre and an officer will be assigned to look into this.

David Hale added that it would not be advisable to re-surface the entries as they would be used by skateboarders.

Q. Dave Hanlon - When is the orange phone box going to be removed from Liscard Way?

A. Chris Jones - the company that owns the phone box has gone into liquidation. Manweb and BT feed into this box and we have made major efforts to sort this, but there are Health and Safety issues. We are trying to get the feeds disconnected and restore the footway.

Minute Decision : Resolved that:

- (i) Mark Camborne to arrange for issue of bins blocking pavements at Ladyewood and Silverbeech Road to be raised with Biffa.
- (ii) Chris Jones to raise issues in Liscard with environmental enforcement officers and follow this up with Carole Thomas directly.
- (iii) Chris Jones to pass request re: repositioning of CCTV on the promenade.
- (iv) Tara Dumas to give detailed report on bin enforcement policy at the June area forum.
- (v) Mark Camborne to raise issue re: bin collection points for terraced houses in Merton Road and Silverby Road and report back on this at the next meeting.
- (vi) Mark Camborne to raise issue re: planning permission for change of use from shops to residential and report back on this at the next meeting.

Minute 6 - General public question time

Stan Thompson -

1. Where is the Respect Bus stationed?

A. Inspector Fletcher - the bus is in the Poulton area (Sherlock Lane). It will be there every Wednesday for the next six weeks and is open from 7-10pm.

2. Thanked the Fire Service for fitting smoke detectors at Mariners Park.

The Chair requested that if anyone would like written responses please leave your name and address with Michelle Gray at the end of the meeting.

Minute 7 - Partner Information

Primary Care Trust

Iain Stewart informed the forum that the trust has been developing a commissioning strategy for the next five years (2008 - 2013) and identifying priorities for additional services to invest in and develop, on top of core services. The priorities over the next five years are to:

- improve health inequalities
- provide minor services more locally
- improve access to mental health and specialist services
- develop services for older people
- reduce the scale of alcohol misuse and alcohol related conditions
- work with the Council to improve our services for children and young people
- modernise community based services

We want to work with people and community groups to see if you agree with our priorities. Leaflets have been posted to households, events are taking place and focus groups have been arranged to enable everyone to get involved, ask for more information and feed in your views.

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

Q. How will the new initiatives put in place for older people affect private nursing homes?

A. The initiatives aim to have the right services and support packages available to NHS patients, to enable older people to retain their independence.

Q. New Mill Lane practice has led to patients having to change doctors, as not able to travel to new surgery for appointments / to collect prescriptions.

A. This was the most practical solution, and we are working with Merseytravel to get a public transport link to the centre - which should be available by the end of the year.

Margaret Allen added that many GPs now offer a service where prescriptions are automatically delivered to patients homes. Iain confirmed this and added that GPs can also arrange for prescriptions to be sent directly to local chemists.

Q. There are a fantastic number of wonderful carers in this country, who look after relatives at home, and without them existing nursing homes would not be able to cope. More respite care should be offered - how many wards are available for this?

A. This is a social care aspect, and we are working together to be patient and carer focussed. Will get a response to the number of wards available for the next meeting.

Q. Government figures have shown that many older people leave hospital malnourished, why is this happening and what will be done to eliminate this? The national figures are grim and we fall within the top 10.

A. Jo Goodfellow - patients often come into hospital malnourished. When they are admitted a survey is done by nurses to look at how well they are eating and their body mass so can help them, refer them to a dietician and build them up. This can be difficult if they are not feeling well, so can be referred back to GPs / nurses when discharged. Will arrange for further information to be made available about this.

The Chair requested a formal response on this to be provided for the next meeting.

Councillor Knowles informed the forum that question re: drug outreach areas in the Wallasey area, to tackle drug misuse in Seacombe and Liscard, has been included on page 16 of the Area Co-ordinators report.

Tricia Moroney added that a new directory of drug and alcohol services will be available in the next few months.

Older People's Parliament (OPP)

Stan Thompson informed the forum that a full report was available on page 31 of the Area Co-ordinators report, and highlighted the following:

Wirral Integrated Services Project - this is being piloted in Wallasey later this year. This will involve services working closer together to organise needs quickly and without bureaucracy and help improve people's quality of life when things are tough. Consultations will take place with various groups, if you would like more information on this please the OPP on 0151 666 2220 / parliament@ageconcernwirral.org.

The Chair requested that detailed information on this be passed to Michelle Gray for inclusion in the next report, thanked Stan Thompson for his update and the following issues / questions were raised:

Q. Grandparent carers do not get a national / state benefit whilst bringing up grandchildren, and would like to reach more people in this situation and improve help available for them. Foster carers receive £378 per child per week, but carers with residents orders receive nothing except for child benefit.

A. This is a big issue and there are different rules for different parts of the country, feel that the Government should look at this. The Older People's Parliament are looking for more members to become involved and help us to take up more issues, (large and small) on behalf of older people, such as "See what you have missed" - a practical issue that the OPP is looking at to ensure that bus numbers are displayed on both the back and front of the buses. If you are interested in becoming part of the forum please contact us on 0151 666 2220 / parliament@ageconcernwirral.org.

Councillor Knowles - agreed to raise this issue with the Merseytravel committee.

Dave Hanlon added that the advisory panel for Wirral Merseytravel has raised the issue of numbers being displayed on the back of buses. David Hale added that Neil Scales has confirmed that all parts of the bus should be visible. First buses have numbers on the back, but Arriva do not - they have been tackled about this a number of times. Father Ostaszewski added that this was first raised about four years ago and has still not been resolved.

Stan Thompson requested that Arriva's illuminated destination boards be changed, as can't be seen in the Summer (First buses signs are clearly marked).

Councillor Knowles agreed to raise this with the Merseytravel committee.

The Chair requested that public transport be added as an agenda item on / Neil Scales be

invited to the next forum meeting.

Q. Father Ostaszewski requested that information be provided by Social Services about what is available for grandchild care.

A. The Chair agreed to pass on this request and report back on this at the next meeting.

Minute Decision : Resolved that:

(i) Iain Stewart and Stan Thompson be thanked for their updates.

(ii) Iain Stewart to report on number of wards available re: respite care.

(iii) Jo Goodfellow to provide a formal response re: malnourished patients for the next meeting.

(iv) Stan Thompson to forward detailed information on Wirral Integrated Services Project to Michelle Gray, for inclusion in the next Area Co-ordinators report.

(v) Councillor Knowles to raise issue re: numbers on back of buses / illuminated destinations board with Merseytravel committee.

(vi) Michelle Gray to add public transport as an agenda item / invite Neil Scales to attend the next forum meeting.

(vii) Councillor Hawkins to contact Social Services on services available re: grandchild care and report back on this at the next forum.

Minute 8 - Date of next meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 3 June 2008. The meeting was closed at 9pm.

Minute 9 - Operation Joker - list of roads in Liscard and Seacombe area (as per item 5)

Liscard

- GREENWOOD LANE / IVOR ROAD. - RICE HEY LANE / RICE HEY ROAD. - - CHEPSTOW ROAD / TRAFALGAR ROAD. - EXETER ROAD / TRAFALGAR ROAD

Seacombe

- ALBEMARLE ROAD / BROUGHAM ROAD	- ALBERMARLE ROAD / EDITH ROAD
- BALFOUR RD / CHAMBERLAIN ST	- BELL ROAD / RAPPART ROAD
- BULKELEY ROAD / ILCHESTER ROAD	- CHAMBERLIN STREET / KENDAL ROAD
- CLARENCE ROAD / YORK ROAD	- CLIFFORD ROAD / ERSKINE ROAD
- DRAYTON ROAD / KARSLAKE ROAD	- DRAYTON ROAD / TRENTHAM RD
- EVELYN RD / ERSKINE RD	- FLORENCE ROAD / EDITH ROAD
- FLORENCE ROAD / HARCOURT AVENUE	- HARTISMERE RD / WALLSINGHAM RD
- ILCHESTER RD / MAINWARING RD	- ILFORD AVENUE / LINDETH AVENUE
- KENDAL ROAD / SHERLOCK LANE	- MAY AVENUE / YORK ROAD
- POULTON ROAD / YORK ROAD	- ADELAIDE STREET / STIRLING STREET
- ACACIA GROVE / BRIDLE ROAD	- CROSSFIELDS/ TRENTHAM ROAD
- ALVERSTONE AVENUE/HALDANE AVE	- AVERSTON AVE/CRANBOURNE AVE
- SEALEY AVENUE / CRANBOURNE AVENUE	- GENEVA ROAD / LUCERNE ROAD
- JAMES STREET / PRIMROSE GROVE	- JAMES STREET / PETER STREET
- NAPLES ROAD / POULTON ROAD	- NAPLES ROAD / OAKDALE ROAD
- NEW STREET (REAR OF 3-37)	- PALATINE ROAD / PALERMO CLOSE
- PALATINE RD / PERCY ROAD	- ALVERSTONE ROAD / LUMLEY ROAD
- RIVINGTON ROAD / ALVERSTONE RD	- BUCHANAN RD / LITTLEDALE ROAD
- HAMPSTEAD ROAD / SUNBURY ROAD	- BUCHANAN ROAD / BELL ROAD
- CLARENDON ROAD / LITTLEDALE ROAD	- CLARENDON ROAD / FALKLAND ROAD
- HALLVILLE ROAD / PARK ROAD	- NORTHBROOKE RD/WALLSINGHAM ROAD.

Matters arising

Liscard Hall - The situation is that officers have met the competing parties to discuss their respective proposals, on an informal basis, and outlined to them the next stage of the bidding process. The necessary documentation is being prepared and this will enable the Council to judge the quality of any bids received against set criteria aimed at identifying the optimum scheme to bring the Hall back into beneficial use at the earliest possible opportunity

Malnourished patients – *(copy of response to forum members)* At the East Wallasey Area Forum on 6th February 08 you put a question to myself, the Wirral University Teaching Hospital representative at the Forum regarding the number of patients discharged from hospital in a malnourished state. You raised concerns that these patients are more prone to infections, have more complications after surgery and higher mortality rates. You also commented that a few years ago these kind of issues would have been picked up by the staff on wards 6 and 7 at Victoria Central Hospital.

I agreed to speak to the Director of Nursing at Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Mr Michael Monaghan, regarding your concerns.

Mr Monaghan believes that you were referring to figures obtained by the Shadow Health Minister, Stephen O'Brien, MP which showed that 1,370 cases were discharged from Wirral University Teaching Hospital in 2006/07 with a diagnosis of malnutrition, nutritional anaemia or other nutritional deficiency. Mr O'Brien stated that the number of patients discharged from the hospital in a malnourished state had almost doubled since 1997.

Mr Monaghan would like to stress that as an organisation that leads the way in ensuring patients receive the right nutrition whilst in hospital, we would disagree with the claims made by Mr O'Brien "To infer from interpreting Hospital Episode Statistics that more people leave hospital with malnutrition, nutritional anaemia or other nutritional disorders is incorrect.

It may be the case that in 2006/07 1,370 patients had one of the above recorded on what is called their "discharge episode", but this does not reflect:

- The number who had malnutrition, nutritional anaemia or other nutritional disorders when they were admitted to hospital or indeed at *what point* during the stay in hospital the diagnosis was made. The Trust has implemented nutritional screening specifically for malnutrition, as part of the routine assessment of inpatients
- The nature of patients' conditions, many of which will be chronic and affect their ability to eat a balanced diet
- The fact that the Trust serves some of the country's most deprived areas where diet and lifestyle is poorer
- The fact that a large proportion of the patients treated by the Trust are older people or live by themselves, groups for whom malnutrition is statistically more common
- That many people discharged from hospital continue to have dietary support in the community and that the end of a stay in hospital is not necessarily the end of their care and treatment"

Mr Monaghan has informed me that in 2007 the Healthcare Commission specifically reviewed nutritional support as part of a privacy and dignity audit. We were one of only 5 out of 23 trusts that complied with their requirements. This reflects our commitment to addressing this important issue.

Wirral University Teaching Hospital have introduced a number of innovations to address patients' nutritional needs during their stay. These include introducing nutritional screening, a "red tray scheme" to ensure patients who have difficulty during mealtimes get additional care and assistance when food is served and volunteers to help patients eat. A "protected mealtimes" policy ensures minimum disruption from interruptions such as doctors' rounds or cleaning.

Mr Monaghan would like to reassure East Wallasey Area Forum that the Trust scored well in the latest Healthcare Commission survey of patients. Around 78% of patients were offered the choice of food while being treated by the Trust, 80% of patients who needed help to eat received some help and 61% thought food was "good" or "very good".

We hope that Mr Monaghan's response will reassure residents of East Wallasey and the whole of the Wirral that Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is proactive in ensuring patients receive the right nutrition whilst in hospital. If there are further concerns Mr Monaghan would be pleased to attend the Forum to personally answer questions or concerns.

Wearing ID badges - For information, member of the public has requested this to be shared with forum members and members of the public concerning - employees of organisations wearing and showing their identification cards when maintaining appointments and attending private home visits. It is important that all staff wear their ID badges to prove who they are and which organisation they are from.

Sustainable Community Strategy - Can this consultation be included on UK on-line centres? Answer: Sue Weldon agreed to do this.

New English Concessionary Travel Scheme – member of public asked for a copy of the advert that went in the local press regarding Travel Scheme to be included in this report to share with others (see next page).

New English National Concessionary Travel Scheme

If you have an old style 'Zone' or 'Trio' free travel pass, like this...



you should have recently received a letter from Merseytravel asking you to confirm that we have your correct details and to send us an up-to-date photograph. It is important that you reply as soon as possible so that we can have your new pass ready.

If you have an 'Access All Areas' travel pass, like this...



then **you do not need to do anything** unless you have changed your name and/or address.

If you have any questions, please call the Merseytravel Ticket Unit on 0151 236 6056

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 Sustainable Communities Strategy themes *strong local economy, sustainable appropriate housing, life chances for children and young people, health and well being and living and working environment.*

Strong Local Economy

Prince Andrew has unveiled a £1.75 million state-of-the-art maritime training centre in Birkenhead.

The Duke of York, who served for 22 years with the Royal Navy, also revealed the new name for the Laird Foundation in Birkenhead, which merged with Mersey Maritime last year and is now known as Maritime and Engineering College North West.

Based at Maritime and Engineering College North West in Monks Ferry, the Quay Skills training programme uses virtual reality technology from the filming and gaming industries to create virtual ports, where port workers can learn to drive forklift trucks, cranes and other equipment.

The training focuses on port operations and international trade and logistics. After a tour of the college and demonstration of the virtual reality facility, the prince unveiled a plaque with the college's new name and said: "This part of the world has obviously got huge potential for growth in the maritime sector and it's really good to see that you've actually put your minds to it locally and you're driving this maritime heritage forward in a way that's going to give these young people a future."

The college represents more than 1,000 maritime businesses on Merseyside, providing more than 26,000 jobs in the city-region and contributing £2.5billion to the local economy each year.

In order to develop Quay Skills, Mersey Maritime, with the support of Wirral council received £656,000 from the Single Regeneration Budget, funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency and £656,000 European funding from Merseyside's Objective One programme. A further £450,000 investment came from the private sector. [Article and picture by Wirral Globe]



Pride in Our Promenades

“Most of the improvements to the Promenade between Seacombe and New Brighton will be completed by the end of June, in time for the return of the Tall ships to the Mersey the following month. The works have been funded by grants from the European Union and the Northwest Development Agency through Mersey Waterfront. They form part of Mersey Waterfront’s Pride in our Promenades programme, and 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

To help publicise the improvements, Mersey Waterfront is supporting a series of performances in mid-July being organised by Hand in Hand Productions, with participation by many local schools and arts groups.

For further information, contact Martin Pursell, Project Manager Wirral Waterfront, 0151 691 8626, martinpursell@wirral.gov.uk”

Hand-in-Hand Theatre Productions

Joining communities in performance



A Not-For-Profit Arts Organisation
MAKING A SPLASH IN WALLASEY!

All Along The River© is the school/community production for July 2008, with Wallasey set to show that culture is happening here in Wirral too.

Children from several Wallasey schools will perform alongside other community groups in a grand pageant of music, poetry, movement and song.

Hand in Hand Theatre Productions, is working with **St Mary’s College of Performing Arts, Wirral Youth Theatre**, and many local music, media and drama groups, to take creative writing and visual arts initiatives into schools in Wallasey.

The resulting production will be a celebration of the River Mersey - its history, its heritage and its many changing faces. Inspired by the seven Millennium Trail artworks embedded in the Promenade between Seacombe and New Brighton, and coinciding with Mersey Waterfront’s **Pride in our Promenades** initiative and **The Tall Ships Festival**, the project is supported by the **National Lottery Awards for All**, **Mersey Waterfront** and **Wirral Council** as part of **Culture for All**.

Writer and composer Bev Clark, with the help of musical director Liam Corcoran, will co-ordinate the whole production, working with the schools and community groups towards performances at St Mary's College on the 10th, 11th and 12th July.

For further details, please contact Hand in Hand Theatre Productions on 0151 639 5482 Or handinhandtheatre@googlemail.com
www.handinhandtheatreproductions.co.uk

Sustainable Appropriate Housing

Affordable Renovated Houses For Sale - Wirral Council's new improved HOUSED scheme

As part of Wirral Council's Empty Property Strategy the Empty Property Team have established a scheme called HOUSED (Home Ownership Using Sustainable Empty Dwellings). The scheme enables those wishing to own their home, the opportunity to purchase a property that has been refurbished to extremely high standards at an affordable price.

There are currently five properties under refurbishment that will be ready for sale in May. All of the properties in the scheme are fully refurbished to Decent Homes standard with new kitchens and bathrooms. They also have a full Gas Central Heating system, new UPVC double glazed windows and doors, electrics and plumbing. The available properties are in the Birkenhead/Rock Ferry/Tranmere areas, prices range from £75,000-£85,000 although a 10% grant may be available reducing these costs to £67,500-£76,500.

We are also able to offer the free service of a Home Ownership Advisory Officer and a grant of up to £2,000 to help with reasonable costs such as Legal & IFA Fees and Removal Costs. If you are unsuccessful with this phase of properties, your details can be kept on file as there will be more properties available in the next phase.

For more information call Michelle Griffiths on the Empty Property Hotline, 0151 691 8005 or log onto www.wirral.gov.uk/he/housing/PSHR/housed. You can also email us at emptyproperties@wirral.gov.uk.

Life Chances for Children and Young People

Wirral given green light to offer new diplomas

Wirral has been given the go-ahead to offer Diplomas, a new qualification for 14-19 year olds.

Developed in partnership with universities and employers, the Diploma combines theoretical and practical study, providing a different style of learning that will offer young people an alternative route into higher education, apprenticeships or employment with training.

From September 2009, eight diplomas will initially be offered: Construction and the Built Environment, Creative and Media, Society, Health and Development, Engineering, Hospitality and Catering, Hair and Beauty, Business and Administration and Information Technology. By 2013 a total of 17 diplomas will be available for all Wirral's learners.

Students studying the diploma will continue to be based at their school or college but will have opportunities for hands-on experiences in a work related environment. This could be with a local employer, university or college or training provider.

The Diploma represents a huge opportunity for Wirral students of all abilities to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes to succeed in work and life in the twentieth first century. Information about these new qualifications will be available next term from schools and colleges in the consortium, Connexions and i-choosewirral.org.uk

For further information ring Barbara Mervyn, 14-19 Curriculum Manager, Wirral Council, 0151 346 6749.

Young people's achievements celebrated

The achievements of 13 young people have been celebrated at an event facilitated by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

The celebration evening took place for a determined group of young people from across the borough to commend their participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme as part of their silver award.



Caroline Laing, Manager of Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, who hosted the evening said: "We too often hear about the negative behaviour that a small minority of young people engage in. This event was a chance to celebrate the achievement of a group of committed young people and the positive contribution they have made."

The programme was co-ordinated by Jo-Anne Seddon, an Advocate from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service seconded to Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and conducted in her own time as a volunteer. The 26-week programme saw the young people study first aid, undertake search and rescue exercises, use personal protective equipment used by fire crews and spend time with a number of services such as Response, Merseyside Police (Mounted Section), Forum Housing, HMP Walton and Marine Rescue.

Centre Stage Youth Theatre

The Centre Stage Youth Theatre started by Chris Cookson and Barrie Robert in October 2001. The society has been running continuously ever since with a membership off up to 18 boys and girls.

In order to comply with the Children's Act and the safe to grow policy of Serpentine Road Family Church, the leadership consists of adults of both sexes.

The society is overseen by an elected executive committee which meets at least three times a year and with an AGM each February.

What we do on each week

Mime & movement, Dance, Film making, Play performances, Improvisation work and play making, Speech training (voice projection), Stage craft & performance skills

Where and when we meet.

We meet at Serpentine Road Family Church every Wednesday during school term.

Our normal meeting time is 7.30pm – 9.00pm but this is sometimes extended as performance dates draw near.

Membership

Memberships is open to boys and girls aged 10 upwards. New members are admitted three times a year (January, April and September) The weekly subscriptions is £1

When members reach the age of 16 they are expected to become junior leaders and help the training of younger members.

On reaching 18 they can apply to join the Out & About Theatre Company also meets at Serpentine Road Church on a Monday night.

Grant Funding News

We received a grant from the East Wallasey Area Forum (Liscard/Seacombe) in 2005 which has enabled us to buy high quality video equipment.

With this equipment we have been able to start make our own films and also it has aided our theatre training.

We are currently trying to edited our own films as a result of three of our members have completed a course at the CBED UK Online Centre on film making.

Performances

Our policy is to tour round local venues including churches such as Serpentine Road Family Church, Claremount Methodist Church and Marlowe Road United Reformed Church.

We are extending this to the Scout and Guide troops and Youth Clubs. We also support the Churches charities from our production receipts.

Wirral Youth Service Update

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, "Kontaktabus", "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.

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 Gorse 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.

Seacombe Youth Project is now operating a youth club from the YMCA on a Wednesday evening and delivers an outreach session on a Monday night. As part of a joint project with Wallasey Young People's Project, a football coaching course attended by thirty four young people has been organised at Weatherhead School. Funding is being sought by young people from the Seacombe Project and other community groups to make repairs and improvements to the Seacombe Football cage. The young people use the facility on a nightly basis want to be involved in this planned work and are willing to give up their time to support the project.

Wallasey Young People's Project has continued to work with young people in Wallasey, Seacombe, Liscard, Poulton and New Brighton. As well as addressing risk taking behaviour issues, both on the street and by making use of the Kontakta Bus for workshops, the youth workers have successfully engaged young people in a range of activities. Thirteen young people have completed a ten-week accredited climbing course at Awesome Walls. Working with Poulton Victoria AFC and Sports Development staff, WYPP has facilitated sports sessions at the Lottery funded pitches at Weatherhead School. During the Easter holidays, young people enjoyed mountain biking in Delamere Forest, a visit to Manley Mere and a bowling night.

Safer Communities

Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team (January 2008 – May 2008)

In addition to ongoing enforcement action against the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, specific activity has included:

Celebration evening for young people (March 2008)

A celebration evening took place for a determined group of thirteen young people from across the borough to commend their participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme as part of their silver award. The programme was co-ordinated by Jo-Anne Seddon, an Advocate from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service seconded to Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and conducted in her own time as a volunteer. The young people were respectively from Woodchurch High School, Oldershaw School, St Mary's RC College, Weatherhead High School, Ridgeway High School, Wirral Alternative Schools Provision and the Fire Support Network. Their achievements were acknowledged by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wirral, High Sheriff of Merseyside and senior Council and Fire Service officers, including Wirral Council's Chief Executive.

Ice Cream Engagement Project (launched April 2008)

This innovative project is funded initially by Wirral Drug & Alcohol Action Team. It involves the use of a decommissioned ice cream van staffed with workers from Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's Youth Respect Team, including a specialist alcohol misuse worker. The purpose of the project is to provide alcohol misuse awareness to young people and the project is touring Wirral twice a week, targeting both hot-spot locations of anti-social behaviour and areas where young people congregate. The project is being sponsored this financial year by Beechwood & Ballantyne Community Housing Association.

Anti-Social Behaviour Advice Surgeries (launched May 2008)

A six-month programme of advice surgeries for residents in the private sector suffering with anti-social behaviour has been launched by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team. This will see the Team's Respect Bus taken into communities and staffed with Enforcement Officers who can take complaints directly from the public and provide comprehensive advice. The full timetable can be found at:

http://www.wirral.gov.uk/News/Archive/200804/news_0000601.html

Deployment of the Community Mobile Police Station (May 2008)

The unit, a partnership between Wirral Council and Merseyside Police, managed by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, has been re-located to Poulton, on the corner of Sherlock Lane and Clayton Lane. This part of the Poulton area has been identified as a 'hot-spot' for anti-social and criminal behaviour and the unit will be located within the area, as a central hub, for tackling crime and disorder within the neighbourhood until the end of the school summer holidays.

East Wallasey Neighbourhood Inspector's Update

DRUGS It has been a very busy few months and we have continued our campaign of enforcement in relation to the above issue. My team have executed another 14 drugs warrants since my last update to you in February this year. This has resulted in 15 arrests for various offences and the recovery of Class A/Class B drugs and offensive weapons. All of the information in relation to drug dealing has come from the community and I would urge you all to continue to contact us directly with anything you feel is relevant. Alternatively, if you prefer to remain anonymous, please telephone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. We will endeavour to act on all information.

ROADS POLICING We have been holding 'spotlight' afternoons to combat complaints regarding roads policing. My staff have been targeting the area's generating most complaints from members of the community. In total, 145 fixed penalty notices have been issued since February for speeding offences, seat belt offences and mobile phone offences.

Following complaints of cyclists riding on the pavement in the Liscard and Seacombe area, we will be specifically targeting this particular offence in the very near future.

PCSO's In December 2007, the PCSO staff received additional 'powers' as part of the police reform act 2002. This will certainly enhance their role within the neighbourhood and assist us to deal with low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR Our ongoing efforts in this particular area are certainly starting to impact within the neighbourhood. We have been working very hard and we are securing more acceptable behaviour contracts than ever before. Not only this, we are identifying any breaches very quickly and this is also having a positive effect.

We had great success in this area over the Easter period. By working closely with our partner agencies, we secured funding for diversionary activities for young people to attend during the course of the holiday. The events were positively received within the area and this resulted in a **52% reduction** in anti-social behaviour, when compared the same holiday period in 2007.

There is still more work to be done here and I anticipate that we will be facing even more challenges as the weather improves, but please be assured that we are doing everything in our power to tackle this very emotive issue.

As always, if there is anything you wish to discuss with me, then please ring my team directly on 777-2046 or email us at A.BCU.Wards.A1@Merseyside.police.uk

Julie Fletcher - East Wallasey Neighbourhood Inspector

Bring Accidents Down 2 Zer0



'Bring accidents down 2 zero' is a new scheme that aims to reduce the speed of traffic in your area, without the need for traffic calming measures such as speed bumps and chicanes.

Driving at 20 miles per hour through residential areas makes you 80% less likely to have an accident than if you drive at 40mph, and 40% less than if you drive at 30mph.

Through the use of 20 mph signs, erected on lamp posts at the roadside, drivers will be aware of the advisory 20 mph speed limit and will be encouraged to reduce their speed, though no legal enforcement will be in place.

Which areas are involved?

There are seven areas across Wirral in which we are trialling the scheme. These areas include Oxton, West Kirby, Liscard/New Brighton, Greasby, Meols, New Ferry and Bromborough

Will the Police be issuing fines for people driving at over 20 mph?

No, the Police will not be issuing speeding fines, as these 20 mph signs are advisory, not a legal requirement. However, Community Speedwatch members will be on duty across Wirral using radar guns to gauge traffic speeds. Anyone driving at unacceptable speeds will have their registration noted down and forwarded to Merseyside Police who may take action.

What can I do to help promote the scheme?

If you wish to raise awareness of the scheme in your area, then feel free to download a copy of the poster and leaflet to display in your window, or local shop window etc. The more local people that are aware of the scheme the better, as everyone will watch their speed in your area.

How do I get a 'Bring accidents down 2 zero' scheme in my area?

You could apply via your local councillor, or you could contact us via the contact details below.

How do I give Wirral Council some feedback about the scheme?

You can send an email to streetscene@wirral.gov.uk , call us on 0151 606 2004 or write to Road Safety Team, Cheshire Lines Building, Canning Street, Birkenhead CH44 8ED.

Wirral Council signs up to Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

Wirral Council has thrown its support behind a borough-wide strategy to reduce the harm caused by alcohol.

It aims to tackle misuse of alcohol by young people, to improve the treatment for people experiencing problems with alcohol and to address the related social problems of antisocial behaviour, crime and domestic violence.

John Webb, Wirral Council's Director of Adult Social Services said: "We recognise that alcohol plays an important part in the local economy and for the majority of people who drink sensibly, it is an enjoyable part of their social lives.

"However, we are also aware of the significant harm that alcohol misuse causes to the health of people and the well-being of communities in the borough, and we are concerned that, for an increasing number of people, the effects of alcohol misuse are presenting serious and in many instances, life-threatening dangers."

Marie Armitage, Wirral's Joint Director of Public Health added: "I would like to formally welcome Wirral Council's decision to offer their support to this important strategy. I firmly believe that, by effectively tackling alcohol misuse, we will support local people to lead safer, healthier and more fulfilled lives."

Wirral's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy sets out a number of targets including;

- Improving access to alcohol interventions and specialist alcohol programmes
- Reducing the number of people who abuse alcohol being denied immediate access to appropriate specialist treatment
- Increasing the number of people who abuse alcohol successfully completing their treatment programme
- Reducing admission and re-admission rates amongst those presenting at Wirral Hospital Trust, with alcohol specific and related conditions
- Reducing the length of stay within Wirral Hospital Trust for patients admitted with alcohol specific and related conditions
- Increasing the number of people who abuse alcohol taking advantage of support services and entering into education, training and employment
- Increasing the number of people reporting a reduction in their drinking levels
- Increasing the numbers of people receiving aftercare following treatment for alcohol misuse

Mobile police station moves to Poulton

Wirral's Community Mobile Police Station has been deployed to Poulton this week to tackle anti-social behaviour. The unit, a partnership between Wirral Council and Merseyside Police, managed by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, has been located on the corner of Sherlock Lane and Clayton Lane for the past week.

This part of the Poulton area has been identified as a 'hot-spot' for anti-social and criminal behaviour and the unit will be located within the area, as a central hub, for tackling crime and disorder within the neighbourhood until the end of the school summer holidays. The deployment of the Community Mobile Police Station has followed an operation of intensive activity earlier this week within the area involving a number of agencies.

Neighbourhood Inspector Julie Fletcher said: "This operation was launched as part of our Total Policing approach to combat criminal and anti-social behaviour in the Poulton area. It was a joint agency approach involving Merseyside Police, Wirral's Anti Social Behaviour Team, Mersey Tunnels Police and other enforcement agencies. During the operation we executed a number of Misuse of Drugs Act warrants. As a result of this direct action, several people were arrested for various offences such as possession of drugs with intent to supply, possession of an offensive weapon and handling stolen goods.

The Community Mobile Police Station, a 40 x 12 x 10 foot converted shipping container, was introduced in Wirral in January 2006. The specially made unit is equipped with a public enquiry desk and a wide range of literature for community safety, support groups and local activities. It also contains a meeting area that can be used for a variety of purposes and is equipped with the technology necessary to help with a wide range of activities, such as meetings, workshops and group sessions.

The unit is managed by Community Development Officer Laura Newman, who is based within Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, and whose role it is to co-ordinate multi-agency activity within the deployment area. A main focus of the officer's work is to ensure that any work undertaken is sustainable by the community following the withdrawal of the unit. Laura said: "The Anti-Social Behaviour Team, the police and other agencies are here to help what is the majority of law abiding citizens stand up against the anti-social minority and reclaim their community." The deployment of the station will see the continuation of robust policing in the area to combat anti-social behaviour and crime.

For further information contact Alan Creevy, Press and PR Officer, Wirral Council, 0151 691 8039

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 an **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.

Merseyside has become the first fire and rescue service in the country to receive a **Beacon award** for its role in improving public health – and in doing so has become the first fire service to win three Beacon awards. The Fire Service was one of only six authorities across the UK to receive Beacon Status for Reducing Health Inequalities. It has previously been awarded Beacon Status for its Services for Older People and Children At Risk – Early Intervention. Furthermore, young people from the Wirral are currently undertaking a 12 week **Beacon Course**. The use of the fire service as a vehicle to reduce and prevent fire and anti social behaviour and to engage with young people in our local communities has been recognised as a valuable contributor both locally and nationally and is one of a number of multi partnership initiatives that Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service is facilitating as part of its contribution to community safety.

The Fire and Rescue Service also received further recognition for making a significant contribution outside its core role and consistently showing excellence and innovation.

The health award means fire services and other agencies from all over the world, concerned with the health agenda will come to Merseyside to learn more about MFRS' successful health programme, which include

Fire Fit Kids - Firefighters deliver fun, high energy physical activity programmes to school pupils, with a particular emphasis on encouraging the participation of those pupils who traditionally shy away from competitive sports. This will hopefully be introduced into schools on Wirral later this year.

Heartbeat Gyms: Outreach gyms in Community Fire Stations across Wirral help promote rehabilitation and health promotion needs of people with cardiac problems. Start Right: Aims to reduce childhood obesity and encourage healthy lifestyle in children aged 5-8 and their parents, using firefighters as positive role models.

Market garden: Use of land at Bromborough Community Fire Station for local youngsters to grow fruit and vegetables and then use them in healthy recipes.

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.

With the onset of the finer weather and the large areas of green belt land on the Wirral we are in the process of implementing a collaborative **grass fire strategy** which will help reduce the risk of fires and also assist in how better to deal with these incidents.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service is extremely proud to be hosting the 10th **World Firefighters Games** as its contribution towards the city's European Capital of Culture celebrations. The Games take place between August 24 and September 2, 2008, with the new waterfront Echo Arena being transformed into the 'Official Games Village' for the duration of the 10 days.

Find out more about the World Firefighters Games 2008 by visiting www.wfg08.com

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 at www.firesupportnet.org.uk or contact via telephone on 0151 296 4600.

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

FREE phone 0800 731 5958

Health and Well Being

Wirral University Teaching Hospital 
NHS Foundation Trust

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 elected Public Governor for the host constituency.

Controlling Infection

- 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
- The annual incidence of MRSA bloodstream infections across the Trust has reduced from 35 in 2006/07 to 26 in 2007/08 – a 26% reduction.
- Reducing the incidence of MRSA and Clostridium difficile is a very high priority for the Trust and staff are implementing a comprehensive action plan to achieve this.
- In partnership with local GPs, our staff are working towards a more prudent use of broad spectrum antibiotics that, if over-used, can make C.difficile infection more likely to develop.

Waiting for Treatment

- Currently, no patient waits longer than 5 weeks for an outpatient appointment when referred by a GP for a specialist opinion and many waits are much shorter than this
- Many patients referred for most orthopaedic and gynaecology outpatient appointments will wait only 2 weeks
- Currently, most patients will wait no longer than 10 weeks for their operation once they have been 'listed' by a consultant.
- Patients with suspected or confirmed cancers are referred, diagnosed and treated well within national targets
- Waiting times for new referrals to the Audiology service have reached an all time low of 6 weeks thanks to the hard work of the staff in that department.

Improving Our Standards

- Our Women's Services achieved a 'hat-trick of excellence' when they were recently awarded CNST Level 3 accreditation. Of the 156 Maternity Units in the country, only 17 others have achieved Level 3 and our Unit is the only one to have achieved 100% in every standard at every level.
Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) Level 3 is evidence that our maternity services are extremely safe, well-managed and overall 'first-class'. This follows the Unit's score of 'best performing' in the Healthcare Commission's Maternity Services Review and being named 'best in the region' in a national survey of new mothers and mothers-to-be at the end of 2007
- For the second year running we have been named as one of the country's Top 40 performing hospitals by an independent benchmarking company that compares our performance in 20 key areas – including infection rates, mortality rates and waiting times – against other, similar hospitals.

- 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
<i>Arrowe Park</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>4 (Good)</i>	<i>5 (Excellent)</i>
<i>Clatterbridge</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>4 (Good)</i>	<i>4 (Good)</i>

Improving Our Facilities

In this financial year, 2008/09, around £10million will be spent on capital schemes to improve our facilities and update the services we provide – schemes will include:

- £3.1m to upgrade our IT systems
- £900k to provide parents' accommodation at Arrowe Park Hospital
- £500k to replace medical equipment
- £1.3m to upgrade surgical wards
- £290k to improve car park Infrastructure
- £400k to improve & standardise ward storage facilities
- £100k to improve disability access
- £780k for environmental/energy usage improvements
- £250k to improve privacy & dignity at ward level

Providing New Services

- The Trust is now 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 is a designated Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery
- We are the only NHS organisation in Merseyside and Cheshire to offer a new laser technique – the *greenlight laser* – that is transforming the treatment of prostate conditions
- We will soon be bringing our Rheumatology services closer to where people live and work with the appointment of an additional Consultant Rheumatologist – clinics will soon be up and running at St Catherine's Community Hospital and Victoria Central Hospital as well as Arrowe Park & Clatterbridge Hospitals.

Easy to Use Website

- Our new-look, easy access website can provide lots of useful information for patients, the public, staff and GPs about the Trust and its services go to www.whnt.nhs.uk
- The website is speech enabled for browsers with sight related problems
- The new, easy click, 'email a patient' facility has been very well received by patients and their relatives

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 more than 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 'Public Membership News', our regular newsletter, to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. To join, simply complete and return the attached Membership Application Form or join on-line @ www.whnt.nhs.uk
- During June and July the Trust is holding elections for Public Governors to represent the Public Members of the following Wirral areas - Bidston, Bromborough & Eastham, Claughton, Liscard, Tranmere, New Brighton & Wallasey and West Wirral. The results will be announced after 10th July.

LINK **WIRRAL LOCAL INVOLVEMENT** **NETWORK**



WHAT WILL WIRRAL LINK DO?

- Give everyone a chance to say what they think about **their local health and social care services** – what is working well and what is not so good.
- Give people the chance to check how care services are planned and run
- Feedback what people have said about services so that things can change for the better.
- Operate independently but in partnership with statutory organisations such as the National Health Service and Local Authority.

WHAT POWERS WILL THE WIRRAL LINK HAVE?

- Make reports and recommendations and request information, and get a reply within a set amount of time.
- Where appropriate, enter, view and monitor certain services to see what they do.
- Tell elected politicians on the Wirral Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) what they have found and get a response.

WHO CAN BE A PART OF LINK?

- Anyone can be a part of a Wirral LINK but there will be different levels of activity, involvement and membership.
- The LINK will be representative of everyone in the community, this means all of the different groups, and types of people that make up the local population.
- The LINK should also be able to give people who do not usually have a say to give their views.
- LINKs Members will include:
 - Individuals
 - Service User Led Groups
 - Local Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations

BUT...you do not have to be a member of a LINK to get involved and have your say.

There is lot of work to do however, we have an enthusiastic and dedicated team working within our Community Engagement Team:

Please contact Karen Prior and Lynda Denman,

LINK Support Workers

Tel: 0151 645 4038

Email: wirrallink@vcawirral.org.uk

Living and Working Environment



Wirral top of recycling table!

Wirral Council has emerged as top of the recycling table in Merseyside. Figures recently released by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority show that Wirral recycled 31.68% of its household waste between April 2007 and December 2007, putting the borough ahead of the region's four other authorities.

Wirral's success comes after the implementation of grey recycling bins and an alternate weekly collection, as part of a new waste contract with Biffa. The new figure of 31.68% compares to the previous year's figure of 13.5% of household waste being recycled.

Wirral receives tourism boost

Three of Wirral's visitor attractions have received a ringing endorsement from coach operators from around the UK. Representatives from over fifty UK tour operators visited a number of attractions in Merseyside including The Lady Lever Art Gallery, Sunlight Vision Museum in Port Sunlight and Ness Gardens.

The tour was organised by the Mersey Partnership and Northumberland-based Steve Reed Tourism in Partnership with Wirral Council's Tourism Team. The idea behind the tour was to attract more business to Wirral and exploit the massive tourism potential in the Borough.

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG)

Jacqui Cross started working for the council six months ago as the Corporate Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator. Jacqui's job is to co-ordinate numerous activities across the whole council in order for us to reach level three of the equality standard for local government.

Each and every one of us (council employees and residents) has a role to play in ensuring services are appropriate for people who need to use them, and for all residents to feel they are able to access job opportunities here at the council.

Why is this so important? Wirral is a great place to live and work for most people. However, because some people are different from that majority for example they may be older than you, have a different sexual orientation than yours, they may follow a different religion than you, or be disabled, have a different ethnic background, or wish to become a different gender than they were assigned at birth, we want to play our part in making Wirral a great place to be for everyone.

No one wants to face or fear discrimination, so it is crucial that we promote equal chances for all and take pride in making the positive changes that will need to happen.

Over the coming year everyone will be encouraged to take part in one or more of the following activities (to name but a few):

- Participating in one of the council's equality consultation events
- Taking part in completing equality impact assessments

- Completing questionnaires in order for us to develop an equality profile of those who use our services
- Visiting the equality and diversity section of the council's website
- Reading a copy of our 6-monthly newsletter Equality Watch (first issue late summer 2008)
- Helping us to assess the accessibility of our buildings

Finally a big thank you to everyone who has helped us in the last six months to speed up the momentum of activities. For more information please contact Jacqui on 0151 691 8064 or jacquicross@wirral.gov.uk

Equality profiles

Sexual Orientation issues – profile of Wirral LGBT forum

What is the LGB&T Forum? The Wirral LGB&T Forum was set up with the help of the Wirral Voluntary & Community Sector Network (The Network) for members of the LGB&T community who live and work on the Wirral. Its purpose is to give these members a voice in the decision making process that affects Wirral, to sign post members to services that can help with particular issues and to provide social networking opportunities. The Forum has been established to help any one of any Age, Culture, Faith or Disability.

Website: <http://www.everyoneweb.com/wirralgbtforum> email wirralgbt_forum@yahoo.co.uk

Disability issues – profile of Wirral Carers / WIRED

Do you look after someone? Does someone depend on you? Is your caring role too much at times? If you answered yes to any of these questions then you are one of Wirral's 37,500 carers.

A carer is someone who looks after a family member, partner or friend in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability. This can be a mother, father, brother, husband, child or even a friend or neighbour.

At Wired we may be able to support you with your caring responsibilities by offering advice, help and even someone to talk to when things are getting too much for you. In a recent national survey nearly 90% of the people said that caring had an impact on their health. Many carers were affected by stress, anxiety, depression or loss of sleep.

We now have over 470 carers registered with us who receive quarterly news letters which include information about changes to services, invitations to carers' events and activities such as the carers' art classes, pamper days and even samba drumming.

We have a carers counselling service which gives you the opportunity to talk to someone about any issues you have without feeling guilty or judged. Our counsellors are experienced at listening, are unpaid and offer their services voluntarily.



If you would like to join the carers register or talk to someone about anything relating to your caring responsibilities then please call the Carers Team on the **Carers Helpline** on **0151 670 0777** between the hours of 9am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday or you could log onto www.wirralcarers.co.uk and email us. On the website you will find lots of helpful information and links to other organisations who may be able to help you.

Sexual Health - Terrence Higgins Trust on the Wirral On 22 February 2008, Terrence Higgins Trust officially opened its new centre in Birkenhead. Attended by Claire Sweeney, the Mayor of Wirral, Cllr Phil Gilchrist and Chairman of Wirral PCT, Frances Street, as well as over 50 representatives of other agencies on the Wirral, the opening was a great success.

Terrence Higgins Trust was established in 1982 in response to the death of Terry Higgins. Terry was one of the first people in the UK to die of HIV related illness. Terry's friends wanted to do something that would highlight the situation both politically and socially with a view to stopping other people going through what Terry went through.

25 years later, and Terrence Higgins Trust is now the largest HIV and sexual health charity in Europe with over 30 offices across England, Wales and Scotland. Whilst we still provide many of our services primarily for people infected or affected by HIV, we increasingly provide other sexual health services such as, in some areas, screening for sexually transmitted infections.

Across the board, one of the biggest barriers that exists to the maintenance of good sexual health in the UK is the stigma and discrimination associated with sexual ill health. This is particularly pronounced for people living with HIV.

On the Wirral, we will be providing services with a strong emphasis on sexual health promotion as well as harm reduction. We will continue to provide services for communities that are under-represented in many ways, such as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

However, our services are for anyone, and thus individuals or professionals with queries or concerns about sexual health can contact us for support and information. Our services will include:

Outreach, Face to face, Targeted group work, Capacity building with communities, Safer sex information and advice, Safer sex campaign and other resource distribution, Training and education, Counselling

Some of these services are currently in place whilst others will be developed and rolled out throughout 2008/9.

For more information contact: Terrence Higgins Trust, 5 Bridge Street, Birkenhead, CH41 1AS, Tel: 0151 666 9890, Email: info.wirral@tth.org.uk, Web: www.tth.org.uk

Age Issues – profile of Age Concern Age Concern Wirral exists to promote the well being of older people in the whole of the borough of Wirral helping to make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience. We believe that each person has a right to a life, which maintains their personal independence, safeguards their privacy, offers genuine and informed choices, and provides opportunity for them to enjoy and contribute to the community as fully as possible, and meet their social, spiritual, cultural and individual needs.

Head Office, 42-44 Market Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 5BT 0151 666 2220

Active Age Centre, Whetstone Lane, Birkenhead, CH41 2QS, 0151 647 3537

The Lauries Centre, Unit 2, 142 Cloughton Road, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 6EY, 0151 649 1760

Devonshire Resource Centre, 141 Park Road North, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 0DD, 0151 653 4404

Please visit the following website to find out more about Age Concern

www.ageconcernwirral.org

Gender Issues – profile of TransWirral is an education, advocacy, campaigning and support organisation for all transsexual/intersex people (including teens) who reside in the north west of England.

Transsexualism is a gender identity disorder in which there is strong and on-going cross-gender identification, i.e. a desire to live and be accepted as a member of the opposite sex. There is a persistent discomfort with his or her anatomical sex and a sense of inappropriateness in the gender role of that sex. There is a wish to have hormonal treatment and surgery to make one's body as congruent as possible with one's psychological sex.

TransWirral provides a supportive environment for transsexual/intersex individuals, helping them overcome their sense of isolation and providing educational and social opportunities.

Meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of each month between 1 – 3pm. Trans people are encouraged to bring along family members and friends who themselves may need help and advice.

email robyn@transwirral.zzn.com or penny@transwirral.zzn.com or visit www.transwirral.btik.com Helplines: 07833 385126 or 07961 828471

Race Issues – profile of Wirral Change Wirral Change provides support for members of the Black Racial Minority community who have multiple barriers to employment which are further compounded by issues relating to language, culture, unrecognised qualifications and a lack of recent or local work experience. Specialist guidance workers engage and support customers to access employment opportunities and support participants to overcome multiple barriers to employment.

For further information contact Clint Agard, Wirral Change on 0151 650 5428 or email clint.wirralchange@yahoo.co.uk

Section Three

Every year each area forum has funding to give out to small community groups within their ward area. This funding is to help and support services that benefit the community. This section provides an update on how some of this money has been spent in this area.

Its up to you!

Wirral has been named as a government pilot area for Participatory Budgeting.

Participatory budgeting (PB) engages with local people to take decisions on the spending priorities for a part of the local authority budget in their local area for activities such as local environmental issues, community facilities, road safety measures or local crime initiatives.

PB must be conducted on an inclusive basis and can help bring about a change in the relationship between communities, elected councillors and local authorities.

In order to move this work forward we took the advice of the Participatory Budget Unit in order for trials to take place.

After discussions with the unit we have earmarked 3 area forums:

- **Bidston and Claughton**
- **Oxton and Prenton**
- **West Wirral**

The pilot will provide us with a new and innovative way of allocating community initiatives fund in these three areas.

The most significant change will be in the replacement of panel decisions with all projects voting on who should be allocated funds.

Applications for funding will remain the same; however the consideration of bids will be determined by PB sessions. Applicants will be requested to attend the session in their area, and in a 2-3 minutes statement why they should be funded. Attendance is compulsory.

Each presentation will be scored out of ten by the other applicants and when scores are added together the top ranking projects will receive funding. Further details and information about the sessions will be sent out to the applicants who submit eligible bids.

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