

NEW BRIGHTON/WALLASEY AREA FORUM

Co-ordinator's report

9th June 2005

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8th February 2005

SECTION ONE

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE'S FUNDING

New Brighton & Wallasey Area Forum

For the 2005/06 financial year, each area forum will be responsible for allocating the following specific funding streams:

Community Initiatives Fund - small grants available for voluntary and community groups to support local projects and initiatives in line with area forum agreed priorities (£11,000 per forum);

Community Safety - specific funding ring fenced for initiatives dedicated to tackling crime and nuisance (£3,000 per forum);

Environmental Funding - specific funding, provided through Local Agenda 21, for community based projects aimed at improving or maintaining the local environment (£1,500 per forum).

As in previous years, each area forum will be responsible for setting their own priorities and processes for agreeing and allocating funds.

Community Initiatives Fund Update

2004/2005

The forum had funding of £12,496.66 in 2004/05 (including sum carried forward from 2003/04) and awarded grants totaling £9,382.33 for fourteen projects (detailed overleaf) at the panel meeting in January 2005, which were approved at Cabinet on 16th February 2005.

2005/2006

The forum has a carry forward of £3,114.33 and allocation of £11,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund; and allocations of £3,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund (for community safety projects) and £1,500.00 from the LA21 Fund (for environmental projects). This gives the forum a total of £18,614.33.

Organisation	Project / Service	Amount Awarded
Wallasey Cricket Club	To upgrade dressing room and shower facilities at the club.	£1,000.00
Wallasey Sea Cadets	To buy office screens to create four additional classrooms	£955.22
Harrison Park Bowling Club	To purchase folding chairs, a canteen table and a convector heater.	£510.00
Wallasey Philatelic society	To purchase equipment for the group, the vast majority of whom are over pensionable age.	£118.95
Vale House Community Centre	To purchase a fridge freezer for use by the luncheon club.	£500.00
The Society for Dogs in Distress	To contribute towards veterinary and kennelling costs associated with providing help to dogs and people in Wirral.	£400.00
Bob Bird's Photographs	To save and archive a unique collection of photographs of New Brighton and Wallasey and set up talks and exhibitions for local community groups.	£1,000.00
Greenleas Junior Football Club	To purchase kit and training equipment and fund coaching costs in order to develop girls football in the local area.	£300.00
Wallasey Chess Club (incorporating Wallasey Junior Chess Club)	To improve the facilities and services of both Wallasey Chess Club and Wallasey Junior Chess Club.	£200.00
Wallasey Manor Tennis Club	To purchase tennis equipment and to contribute towards running coaching for young children and child protection and leadership courses for 16-19 year olds.	£978.00
New Brighton Community Partnership	To contribute towards a project with young people to look at how they use park areas.	£1,000.00
Wirral Community Arts	To contribute towards developing an arts resource centre in Wirral.	£1,000.00
Summer Camp for Girls / Wallasey Division Guides	To purchase a large tent, and to fund improved access and disabled facilities at the headquarters, and secure storage facilities.	£800.00
Wallasey District Scout Centre	To restore the scout hut to enable it to be used for the community as well scouting.	£620.16

SECTION TWO

DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A LOCAL AREA PLAN

AREA PLAN UPDATE

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide forum members with an update of progress made in relation to the development of area plans and to suggest possible next steps for the forum to implement which will support the achievement of priorities identified locally for action.

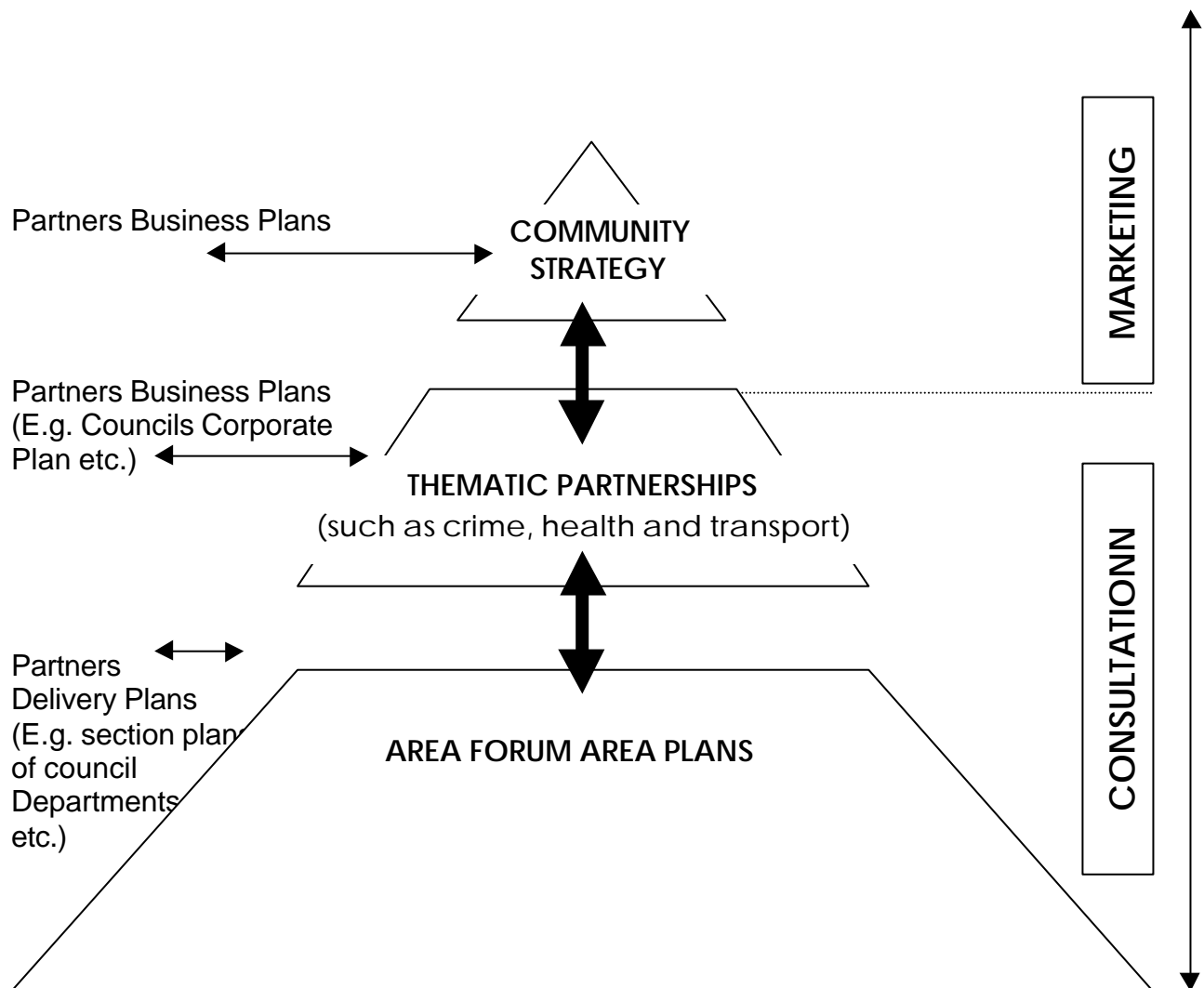
Background

One of the key tasks envisaged for all area forums since their introduction in 2001 was the development of specific local area plans which reflected the needs and priorities of the area forum. The area plans form a key element of the overarching community strategy – developed through Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership – which sets out how the council and its partners will work towards improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of all communities in Wirral.

Area plans are designed to:

- Identify the needs and aspirations of the local community;
- Identify significant social, economic and environmental trends through establishing an overall demographic picture of the area;
- Promote initiatives that will address the identified local needs and priorities;
- Provide a work plan for the area forum;
- Provide a more local perspective to the overarching community strategy through identifying 'common' issues and needs across the area forums;
- Feed into the service planning cycles of the council and its partners to ensure that the identified local needs are influencing business plans and strategies.

The diagram below shows how the area plans developed by local area forums feeds into, and influences, the business plans and overarching community strategy for Wirral.



The development of area plans has been ongoing for the last 18 months. The work carried out by the area forum has also been informed by Quality of life surveys, Wirral's Citizen Panel, specific information drawn from area forums and existing consultation results.

Next Steps

The development of the area plans has been further protracted by the recent changes to ward boundaries and the increase in the number of area forums, which has delayed the production of the plans.

It is proposed that the area forum:

- Approves the attached area plan, developing a work programme to support forum activities in meeting issues identified within the plan as being a priority for local people;
- Refreshes the existing plan (to be completed by December 2005 to allow for the plans to inform service planning cycles);
- Undertake further consultation with local communities – through specific mechanisms identified by the forum – to identify specific local needs and priorities around the new community strategy themes.

SECTION THREE

YOUTH UPDATE

Up 2 U Awards

Wirral won the award for best Council on 27th April 2005. Weston Spirit runs the awards and there are a number of categories including Youth Service, which was won by St Helens Council

Young people judge all the awards. And they felt that in relation to Wirral it was improving and offering young people better services across the Council.

Report from Debbie Dawson - Head of Area Team/Wallasey - Youth and Community Service

Youth forums

AGENDA

- ◆ Consultation with transport dept and Police
- ◆ Allocation of forum money

The first half of the forum involved young people in a large group discussing transport issues as part of a wider consultation on Wirral. The police were consulting with young people on the best way to present information to young people.

For the second part of the forum the young people present were divided into groups. Each group had a set of application forms (designed and filled in by young people). The groups spent about 20 minutes discussing whom they would allocate funding to and why. We reformed into one big group and went through the process of negotiating and allocating the funding.

Some of the unintended outcomes included: user groups sharing some resources as they were doing a similar project, freeing up money to be allocated elsewhere. Offering to fund raise for a particular group if it was unsuccessful in getting funding and putting prejudice aside to allocate money to a rival group.

Funding allocated

Greasby Outreach project	£250
Pensby barge trip	£250
Jigsaw video work	£100
Beaconsfield skills project	£100
Beaconsfield craft project	£100
Beaconsfield/Fender cultural project	£50
Powerhouse newspaper	£90
Fender YAP health project	£100
North end YPP Homelessness project	£110
Eastham YC D of E resources	£100

Eastham YC Drama activities	£100
Bromborough YC cooking project	£100
Bromborough YC Southport trip	£100
Bromborough YC Card Making	£100
YMCA senior member training	£100
Belvidere YC quiet room project	£100
WYPP social event	£100
Skateboard group / skating trip	£100
Leasowe health project	£100
Moreton senior club training	£100

SECTION FOUR

STREETSCENE

Report from Streetscene Manager

PLANS TO SPRUCE UP WIRRAL FOR THE OPEN

WIRRAL Council has announced plans to invest £300,000 on the biggest clean up operation the borough has ever seen – so as the region shines for The Open golf championship in 2006.

The eyes of the world will fall upon Hoylake in July next year, when an estimated 40,000 visitors per day descend upon the area and the event is watched on television by 350 million people around the globe. The authority is enlisting help from public sector colleagues, local businesses, landowners, schools and community groups to spruce up the region and guarantee a warm welcome for visitors.

Director David Green said: “The Open presents us with a fantastic opportunity to showcase Wirral to the rest of the world. We will be embarking on a mammoth tidy up campaign - spanning a huge area and involving people from a wide range of backgrounds. The Council can't do this on its own. We will be relying on the efforts of everyone in Wirral to get behind us, show their pride in the local area and get involved.”

Wirral Council already has a good reputation for its cleanliness - as recognised our recent inspection by the audit commission, and for its work developing innovative anti-litter campaigns that have been short-listed for national awards. This project builds on these successes and aims to ensure that Wirral looks its best for the Open.

The Council has been gathering intelligence from other host Councils to maximise opportunities created by the event and regeneration plans for the Hoylake and West Kirby area are now being implemented. Many of us are aware that work has already begun brightening up the street scene in West Wirral. More than 70 trees have been planted along Meols Drive, and roundabouts and shrub beds have been given a thorough revamp. A litter blitz is set to target key transport routes in and out of Wirral, together with Hoylake, West Kirby and neighbouring town centres. Land owners Network Rail have pledged to tackle waste issues along the Liverpool to West Kirby railway line. As the golf championship approaches, the Highways Agency and Mersey Tunnels will also be working tirelessly to clear their land of any illegally dumped rubbish.

Much work is being done by the local authority to catch the criminals responsible for fly-tipping in these areas and in other parts of Wirral. Every effort is being made to trace those responsible and take action against them. To help the Council with these investigations officers have the use of covert surveillance equipment that is sited in known hotspots. Further educational work will be taking place in Wirral's schools. The Council's award winning 'anti-litter' roadshow that encourages secondary school children to take more pride in their local environment will be embarking on a new series of tours.

Primary School litter clubs are also being asked to get involved in organising community clean-ups.

During the tournament community volunteers will be enlisted to serve as uniformed town guides. These guides, and additional volunteers from the business community, will be encouraged to report any environmental issues to our Streetscene contact centre for immediate action during the Championship. We will have an increased presence in terms of street cleaning staff, for the duration of the event.

SUPPORT FOR RECYCLING

WIRRAL residents have expressed overwhelming support for changes to rubbish collections, according to a recent survey.

More than 75% of householders responding to a waste questionnaire have said that they would like an additional bin or container for storing recyclable waste at home.

The Council's recycling team has been consulting with residents about how it can encourage more people to recycle. This recent survey is one of a series planned for the coming months. Results will be used to inform the Council of key issues to consider when planning the new kerbside collection arrangements.

Wirral Council's Director of Technical Services David Green said: "The reality is that less than 12% of waste is being recycled in Wirral while the rest of our rubbish is being sent to landfill. Changes to waste collections are essential if we are to boost this figure, meet government requirements and more importantly protect our local environment.

"We want to make it even easier for the people of Wirral to recycle. With the results from this recent survey, it is reassuring to see that residents are supportive of all recyclable rubbish being collected from outside their front door."

The local authority is about to embark on a major re-organisation of waste services that will see recycling rates soar - with paper, cardboard, glass, can, garden waste and clear plastic collections likely to come into effect in Spring next year.

These recyclables will be taken to a new Material Recycling Facility, which, after several years of negotiation, is currently being built in Bidston. The site will be managed and owned by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority. Here Wirral's waste will be sorted out and sent on to recycling companies for transforming into new materials.

LITTER PROSECUTIONS

ENFORCEMENT officers are continuing in their fight against litter louts. Thoughtless residents are being warned that illegal dumping could cost them dearly – as two women were heavily fined by the courts this week.

Kelly Cole from New Ferry Road, New Ferry was fined £150 plus costs at a hearing before Birkenhead Magistrates on Tuesday, April 5. The court heard how Miss Cole had dumped bags of rubbish less than 100 yards from her home in Salisbury Avenue last November 18, 2004.

Emma Lyon from Newling Street in Birkenhead was also fined £150 plus costs after leaving household waste in an entry between Newling Street and Prince Edward Street last October 29, 2004.

The women were caught by Wirral Council's environmental enforcement team, responding to fly-tipping reports from local residents. After searching through bags, the officers were able to trace the rubbish back to the owners.

After failing to pay a fixed penalty, both cases were taken to court by Wirral Council and Miss Cole and Miss Lyon were found guilty of the offences in their absence.

ROAD SAFETY UPDATES

ROAD safety officers have been out and about visiting Wirral schools to promote sensible driving.

Pre-driver training has been given to pupils at West Kirby Grammar school. Students were offered advice on selecting a driving school, learning about attitudes, risk and behaviour. They were also given an overview of the demands of both the Theory Test and the Practical Driving Test, taught practical checks (oil, water, brake fluid etc) and even changed a wheel!

Meanwhile students taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award scheme at Pensby High School for Boys welcomed road safety officers and two police motorcyclists to school for a talk this term as part of a traffic education training programme. The police officers took their bikes to the school and engaged the boys in the positive and negative points of being both a police officer and a motorcyclist. Students at the school have one more lesson learning about the physical damage caused by road traffic collisions and then they have to take an examination.

SWITCH OFF AND BELT UP

ROAD safety officers and Merseyside Police have launched a 'Switch off and belt up!' driver safety campaign.

Throughout April, Merseyside Police were cracking down on motorists they saw using a mobile phone whilst driving, and stopping drivers and passengers who were not wearing their seatbelts.

The police enforcement campaign was supported by an educational 'push' from regional road safety officers. They targeted local communities with publicity reminding motorists to switch off their mobile phones before starting the engine, and reiterating the message that seatbelts save lives. The initiative is in support of the ongoing Department for Transport 'Think!' road safety campaign.

Merseyside Police and road safety officers gathered at Tranmere Rovers Football Club at the launch of the road safety campaign. Young drivers who recently passed their test attended to take part in an off-road cone slalom - while using a mobile phone. Anna Cope from Support and Information Services was among those taking part. For safety reasons this was done using dual control cars, with assistance from local driving instructors. It proved the point that it is not possible to control a car with the distraction of a mobile phone.

David Midmer, the bereaved father of road traffic collision victim Nathan, also spoke at the launch to talk about his loss and the impact that careless driving can have on a family.

Wirral Council's road safety officer Dave Watson said: "We want to remind motorists that mobile phone and seatbelt laws are in place to protect people. People are still too complacent about using handheld mobiles whilst driving. Throughout the launch demonstration our young drivers have had great difficulty controlling the car while they had a mobile phone clamped to their ear. We've proved this in a safe environment, but how many people are out there on our roads, still ignoring the law? Anyone using a mobile phone while driving is not in full control of their car - it is a dangerous distraction. If you are setting out on a journey, please be careful and take a moment to carry out your in-car safety checks. Don't forget to switch off your phone and belt up."

SUCCESS IN FIGHTING CLAIMS

THE number of claims being made against Wirral Council has fallen dramatically – as the local authority is establishing a winning reputation for itself in the courtroom.

Improved systems and procedures have brought about a staggering 66% drop in the number of claims pursued against the Council. Whereas two years ago the Council was receiving up to 180 claims a month, the authority now receives less than 60 claims each month. And of 41 cases taken to court in 2003/04, Wirral Council officers successfully defended 35, making for a win rate of 83%.

Recent years have seen local authorities up and down the country facing growing numbers of highway claims made against them. However, officers in Wirral have been working hard to counter this trend as part of its Streetscene overhaul of services.

Highway inspectors have been undergoing specialist training to give them more confidence in the courtroom. They have taken part in one-day intensive workshops which cover everything from preparations before going into court, dealing with cross examination, developing confidence in giving effective evidence and a mock trial.

Wirral Council has also enlisted the help of specialist risk advisors in a bid to make the borough's roads and pavements safer. Insurance giant Zurich Municipal has been assisting the local authority with implementing current industry 'best practice' for maintaining roads and pavements. Inspection regimes have been re-organised, priorities for road repairs are now assessed differently, and there is a new Council policy for replacing paving flags with Bitmac. This has proven to be a much safer and cost effective alternative, particularly in areas where flags are repeatedly broken or lifted because of inconsiderate motorists parking on the pavement. Claims 'hotspot' areas are also mapped and closely monitored by inspectors.

As a result of all these changes the Council is now in a better position to prove that it fulfils its legal obligations for highway maintenance. Wirral will continue to work with industry experts to improve both the condition of roads and pavements and its claims record.

Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council David Green said: "We are striving to make roads and pavements even safer for the Wirral public. Much work has been done to re-organise the way in which we carry out highway inspections in line with national recommendations.

"We've also rolled out an extensive training programme to familiarise our highway inspectors with the court room environment and give them the confidence to provide good evidence. It is now reassuring to see our efforts are paying off with this massive reduction in claims being made against the Council."

AWARD WINNING LITTER CAMPAIGNING

WIRRAL COUNCIL has been shortlisted for a prestigious national environmental award – in recognition of its achievements with anti-litter campaigning to teenagers.

The X:CELL4WIRRAL campaign has seen innovative partnership working between the Council, secondary schools, Radio City and Tranmere Rovers FC. Over the last year all have been involved the co-ordinated targeting of anti-litter messages at school children using the web, radio advertising, live stage shows, text messaging and community litter picks.

The X:CELL4Wirral initiative has already received regional recognition – winning the category for Innovation and Technology at the Merseyside 21 Awards earlier this month). The campaign has been deemed so impressive that it was also shortlisted for the annual ENCAMS ‘People and Places’ awards that took place in Birmingham this month, hosted by comedian Jasper Carrott. The environmental charity, which manages the ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ campaign, organises the awards to highlight work local authorities are doing to tackle local environmental quality issues that blight neighbourhoods.

NEW £1.3m BYPASS opens in SAUGHALL MASSIE

At a glance...

- ❑ New £1.3m road scheme provides better transport links between West Wirral and the motorway network in readiness for The Open in 2006.
- ❑ Improved and safer facilities for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.
- ❑ **Partially opens** to traffic this weekend after eight months of engineering and construction work.

Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council, David Green, said: “Wirral Council is committed to improving transport facilities across the region. This is a route of major strategic importance and the new road will provide better links between North West Wirral and the motorway network.

“Not only will it reduce journey times for motorists, this road has also been designed to take into account the needs and safety of pedestrians, cyclists and even horse riders.”

SECTION FIVE

LOCAL UPDATE

Wirral Metropolitan College, Wirral Lifelong Learning Service, Birkenhead 6th Form College and the Worker's Educational Association

Working in Partnership

Developing Skills for Neighbourhood Renewal

Wirral Metropolitan College, Wirral Lifelong Learning, Birkenhead 6th Form College and the Worker's Educational Association are working together in five Wirral wards; Leasowe, Seacombe, Bidston, Birkenhead and Tranmere to provide a range of opportunities in community settings for individuals who wish to improve skills in literacy, numeracy and communication.

Three development workers have been engaged and work as an impartial team in community locations across the Wirral. They work with individuals on one to one basis providing information on opportunities offered by all the partner organisations and helping to overcome individual barriers. They can provide guidance with financial assistance to help with childcare, travel and books. They also work collaboratively with other community based organisations and groups to provide customised provision in community locations.

By working collaboratively, using the expertise of each provider, the project aims to provide information about local English and Maths courses to individuals and respond to community needs with innovative ways of encouraging adults to participate in courses in the community.

If you would like to talk to a development worker about English, Maths and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses in your area, please contact

Carole Wilshaw at St James' s Centre, Birkenhead or Beechwood Neighbourhood College	670 0359 677 9211
Anna Douglas at Leasowe Early Years & Adult Learning Centre or Rock Ferry Adult Learning Centre	630 5069 645 9182
Janet Castle at South Wallasey Neighbourhood College	691 2640

NEW BRIGHTON FAMILY THROWN OUT OF WIRRAL IN LANDMARK ASBO CASE

A WIRRAL community has been given new hope and longed-for peace following a landmark case in which five members of the same family have been kicked out of the borough.

Both parents and their three older sons have all been issued with Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and banned from entering the peninsula following applications made by Wirral Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

Immediately after the hearing, Caroline Laing, Manager of Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team said, "In my seven years in this job this is the worst case I have ever seen. It has been incredibly difficult to deal with. The case was so serious and the risk of reprisals so severe, that details of those residents who had provided the team with information were withheld in order to protect their identities. The court and defence knew them only as Witness A, Witness B, etc."

Chief Superintendent Alan Jones said: "Together with the Anti-Social Behaviour Team we have used every power available to us to get this fantastic result for the community as a whole.

"By standing up against the intimidation and intolerable behaviour of this family, members of the community have helped us reclaim their neighbourhood - and I would strongly encourage anyone who is suffering from anti-social behaviour to do the same."

At Liverpool Crown Court (Tuesday March 22, 2005), District Judge Sanders issued full Anti-Social Behaviour Orders against John Bridge (40), Karen Bridge (37), John Bridge Junior (20), Alan Bridge (18) and Luke Bridge (16) of Grosvenor Road, New Brighton. This is believed to be the largest application made in the country against any one family.

The Orders were issued following many months spent gathering evidence by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team in partnership with Merseyside Police. The family members had terrorised their New Brighton community for a number of years by engaging in serious anti-social and criminal behaviour. Evidence gathering was hampered significantly by the very serious nature of the anti-social behaviour and the fear of reprisals from residents if they were seen to help the Council or police. Members of the Bridge family were alleged to have engaged in conduct including threatening and violent behaviour, verbal abuse and intimidation and engaged in criminal behaviour including dangerous driving and organised vehicle crime.

Merseyside Police created a special unit of experienced officers, under the umbrella of 'Operation Nashville' to target the criminal offending of the Bridge

family and their associates. John Bridge Junior and Alan Bridge are currently serving custodial sentences as a result of action taken against them by 'Operation Nashville'.

Due to the fear of intimidation and risk of reprisals from the family members, in October 2004 the Council took the unusual step of applying for interim Anti-Social Behaviour Orders against the family members without giving them any notice or informing them of the hearing. This was due to the fear that residents would be at too great a risk if the family was given notice of the applications. Interim Anti-Social Behaviour Orders were issued against the five members of the Bridge family on 21 October 2004 pending the outcome of a final hearing.

On Tuesday March 22, 2005, District Judge Sanders issued Anti-Social Behaviour Orders against John Bridge, Karen Bridge, John Bridge Junior and Alan Bridge banning them from entering the Wirral area managed by Wirral Borough Council until September 2012. Luke Bridge was banned from entering the Wirral until March 2009. The five family members were also banned from causing harassment, alarm or distress to anyone in the whole of England and Wales throughout this time.

A temporary banning order was issued by the court pending a full hearing on Thursday March 24, 2005

Caroline added: "It has taken an enormous amount of time and hard work to bring this case to court. The reputation of the family in the New Brighton area and beyond is very strong and residents were incredibly frightened of reprisals. This was a very real risk and only a small number of people came forward to provide evidence to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team. I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Council and the police, to those members of the community who came forward to help us. Without them we would have struggled to bring this case to court and their community should be truly indebted to them. In the seven years of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team's operation, the behaviour of this family and the fear and distress they caused is the worst I have seen. I hope that the fact that we have targeted and successfully managed to take action against such a family sends a clear message to other families and individuals across the Wirral who think that they can behave how they want without consequence".

Chief Superintendent Alan Jones said: "Although there must have been times when local people doubted that anything could be done to stop this family, I would reassure them that this has been a long-running and intensive operation to target the family's activities and put an end to the misery they have caused. It's the right of every resident to live without fear and we will continue to work together to proactively use Anti-Social Behaviour Orders to bring people to account for their actions and protect our communities."

FEEDBACK ON LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2 CONSULTATION IN WIRRAL

Accessibility

- ◆ Free travel scheme for pensioners is good however the passes should be valid pre 0930hrs
- ◆ Access to work - public transport does not cater for the needs of shift workers.
- ◆ Reliability of buses – cannot rely on them for journeys to work therefore limits opportunities.
- ◆ Bus Networks – distribution of services is not balanced – some areas have lots of buses and others have none.
- ◆ Access to hospitals difficult by public transport but also need to ensure that access to GPs is not overlooked. Shuttle buses from the villages and/or stations to the hospitals would benefit visitors and staff.
- ◆ Need more evening bus services and Sunday services as accessibility to leisure and retail is limited (social inclusion issues). Train services also stop too early. As more people are now employed in leisure and retail this needs to be addressed.
- ◆ Cost - Services are too costly – need more discounted tickets. Suggestion made to have tickets valid on all services for 60 or 90 minutes to make interchange between operators and modes easier. General comments regarding introducing standard fares and more integrated tickets.
- ◆ Safety and Security issues affect accessibility as services are withdrawn due to vandalism. Buses and trains need to have conductors on and more visible staff. Need more CCTV
- ◆ Customer care – inconsiderate attitudes of, and erratic driving by, bus drivers puts people off using the services. (Similar comments regarding private hire vehicles also made).
- ◆ Bus operators/Merseytravel should be providing local services eg. Circulars around housing estates etc that feed into more strategic services along main routes.
- ◆ We should all be looking at bringing services etc back to the communities so that we reduce the need to travel
- ◆ Information – there is still a need for more public transport information and a need to publicise its availability as a lot of people are not aware of where

to get leaflets etc from. Also trains and buses need better information e.g. service numbers and destinations on buses. Need to be aware of information on train fronts not being easily read by partially sighted/elderly people due to “orange dot” format. Bus companies should not be allowed to handwrite their service number and destination on a piece of paper and stick it in the window. Buses should also have service number at the rear so you know if you have just missed it.

- ◆ Pedestrians - Need more road crossing facilities. Footpaths which need to be in better condition. Crossings need to have clear visible indicators to show when safe to cross (some crossings don't have visible 'green man')
- ◆ Bus shelters and bus timetables are much improved in recent years although timetables not always reflecting what the service actually does! – i.e. need speedier responses after changes to services.
- ◆ Employers should be playing a bigger role in subsidising services in order to get people to their place of work.
- ◆ Joblink – service is good but would it be better utilised and more time efficient taking people to the stations instead of direct to work – may reduce long journey times as rail journey often quicker.
- ◆ Access to stations for disabled and parents with prams needs to be improved.
- ◆ Need to consider accessibility to areas outside Merseyside – particular support for electrification of Bidston to Wrexham rail line.
- ◆ Interchange facilities at Liverpool for buses from Wirral need to be improved - buses through the tunnel do not go to the Coach Station or to Bus station. In particular problematic for the elderly or people with cases who have to walk up quite a distance after alighting from the bus.
- ◆ Should try to increase role of ferries

Congestion

- ◆ Congestion only occurs at peak times however it is unacceptable. Mixed views over the definition of congestion from 5 minutes to 30 minutes. General agreement that it has got worse in recent years.
- ◆ Greatest problems outside schools, at the Tunnels, the A41, the Hospitals and the Motorway roundabouts. Main cause is school and work travel.
- ◆ Congestion also caused by more localised issues such as road works – need better co-ordination of road works to reduce disruptions.

- ◆ Park and Ride is key to reducing congestion however many stations need extensions to the car parks as it is pointless trying to encourage people to use the trains if no parking is available.
- ◆ Shuttle buses to key locations such as the Hospitals – would benefit visitors and staff.
- ◆ Rail – rail is crucial in tackling congestion. Car drivers more likely to change to rail than to bus (social class issues). Strong support for the electrification of the Wrexham – Bidston line: would remove some cars off the road and increase accessibility to jobs
- ◆ Could old railway track-beds be better utilised either through re-opening of rail services or making them available for walking/cycling routes?
- ◆ Enforcement issues - specifically taxis and cars double parking needs to be enforced as this causes congestion.
- ◆ Deterioration of bus services has led to increased congestion as more people won't use them. Therefore need to improve reliability and improvement of bus services – strong support that we should be looking at Quality Contracts/more public control of the bus network and more bus lanes (if properly enforced). However, acknowledgement that bus lanes can increase congestion if car drivers unwilling to make shift to bus.
- ◆ Improvement and expansion of Community Transport and Demand Responsive Services. We should also be looking at car clubs. Could the planning system play more of a role with regard to car free developments, or developments where facilities for a car club are designed in from new.
- ◆ Traffic Management – signage needs to be clearer to avoid drivers getting lost and clogging up the towns. Signage painted on the roads is more useful than the signs on posts especially where several lanes of traffic. Improvements needed to traffic lights so that they do not stop cars and buses when there is no other traffic.
- ◆ Need better integration between operators of buses and also better integration between buses and trains.
- ◆ Walking and Cycling – need better facilities to attract people to cycling and walking e.g. storage facilities and changing facilities. Particularly to schools.
- ◆ Mixed views on “stick” approach of reducing congestion, i.e. road tolling and car parking charges, however, agreement that can't build more roads. Some feeling that Wirral residents are already tolled because of the tunnel.
- ◆ Requests for Merseytram be extended to Wirral in the future.

- ◆ Anti- social behaviour needs to be tackled if people are to be encouraged to get back on to public transport.
- ◆ Flexible working/staggered school times – should be encouraging more companies/schools etc to allow flexible working/staggered school times.
- ◆ Young people at the Youth Forum had not realised the link between congestion, air quality and cars - and their main desire was to own cars at age 17.

Road Safety

- ◆ Speed limits – differing views obtained; Some people thought speed limits should be more consistent (less changing of speed limits along routes) however others considered that variable speed limits at different times of day would work better. General support for lower speed limits in residential areas and more speed signs generally. View was that speed cameras work but traffic calming is less effective. Support for Homezones.
- ◆ Enforcement – Residents should be trained to operate speed guns to warn drivers of speed? Should have cameras on buses to photograph cars in bus lanes. People should be more pro-active in reporting bad driving and reporting offenders (police systems would need evidence). General support for enforcement cameras however need for consistency, (not all functional) and their use needs to be further extended. Location of cameras should not be publicised but visibility of boxes could be improved - in Scotland, cameras are striped and were viewed as more visible. Incorrect parking should be more widely enforced.
- ◆ Cameras – strong support, but preference was for speed/distance cameras as opposed to spot speeds which encourage people to slow down and speed up again once drivers have passed the camera. Mobile cameras keep people alert. Support for use of mobile speed warning signs to provide ‘surprise’ factor on roads.
- ◆ Education – drivers need to be educated more – signage alone is not effective enough. Education should be more generally targeted and not just at the young – elderly people were mentioned in particular. Mobile speed warning signs to raise drivers’ awareness of their speeds are effective. “Gateway“ markings were also seen as effective, as were the use of variable speed warning signs on approaches to known black spots.
- ◆ Pedestrians and Cyclists - more roads to be pedestrianised to make it pleasant for walking and there is also the need to promote the health benefits of walking and cycling more. “Walking Bus” idea is excellent.
- ◆ Rat running is a problem at peak times - need to address this.

- ◆ Cycle lanes need to be continuous. Cycling on pavements needs to be addressed. Traffic calming measures need to take cyclists and motorcyclists into account as some speed ramps are too steep at slow speeds.
- ◆ Driving standards – drivers should be re-tested periodically.
- ◆ School buses – more enforcement required on vehicles - drivers cannot/will not control the children. Problem of unruly behaviour by school children also applies on public services.

Ideas -

- ◆ Introduction of 'countdown system' at pedestrian crossings (like in Dublin) to indicate to waiting pedestrians how long they have to wait to cross.
- ◆ Buses stop in roads rather than in laybys like in Leeds – cheap and effective traffic calming on busy routes.

Air Quality/Environment

- ◆ Strong agreement that transport is a significant contributor to poor air quality, however, apart from at specific spots, air quality was felt to be quite good on Wirral - however noticeably worse during peak periods.
- ◆ Main offenders were felt to be buses as they are usually from old inefficient fleets. As well as air pollution this also creates noise pollution. Air quality and noise issue also raised in regard to Liverpool John Lennon airport and increasing numbers of flights over Wirral.
- ◆ Taxis were deemed to contribute to air pollution by leaving engines running
- ◆ Alternative fuels should be investigated and encouraged - Buses should be gas/electric/hydrogen cell powered and trains can also be dual fuel or solar powered.
- ◆ More control needed on HGV's with regard to parking, driving through centres, noise and fumes
- ◆ More freight to be carried by rail to reduce the number of HGV's on the roads.
- ◆ Support for park and ride to reduce cars on the road.
- ◆ Mixed views on "stick" approach of reducing congestion, i.e. road tolling and car parking charges

- ◆ Suggestions for specified 'drop-off' locations near schools to avoid poor air quality at schools due to the numbers of waiting cars.
- ◆ American yellow buses should be used for transporting children to school.
- ◆ Higher taxes for 4x 4's and sports cars.
- ◆ Need enforcement of parking on verges and pavements as these damage the Streetscene.
- ◆ Young people at the Youth Forum had not realised the link between congestion, air quality and cars - and their main desire was to own cars at age 17.

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE – 12
APRIL 2005**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

HIGHWAY STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2005/06

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents to members the Highway Structural Maintenance Programme for 2005/06. Members are asked to endorse the report and refer it to Cabinet for approval.
- 1.2 This is a key decision which was first identified in the Forward Plan in 1 November 2004.

2.0 REPORT

- 2.1 As last year, I present to members one unified programme as attached as Appendix A. That programme has been prioritised and details of the proposed works are included together with draft estimates. At this stage detailed design (if appropriate) and final estimates have not been prepared.
- 2.2 In identifying schemes and producing the prioritised programme I have used the agreed assessment criteria including:
- (i) Schemes highlighted from previous UKPMS surveys using CVI (Course Visual Inspection).
 - (ii) Schemes highlighted from this year's UKPMS survey using CVI (Course Visual Inspection) and DVI (Detailed Visual Inspection). The higher the ranking number (maximum 100) the greater need for works to be done.
 - (iii) Schemes highlighted by Members, Area Forums, the general public and my own staff which have been assessed for urgent attention in 2005/2006 are highlighted in the appendices with an asterisk.
 - (iv) Areas of constant repair mainly due to vehicle override and damage included from Highway Inspectors' safety inspections.
 - (v) The programme has been formulated taking into account the principles of an integrated approach to highway maintenance work. Issues concerning safety and the Environment as well as structural needs have been taken into account.
- 2.3 In addition a number of schemes have also been included as a result of the Open Golf returning to Royal Liverpool in 2006. A figure of £500,000 has been provided via the Council's capital programme specifically for these schemes. The schemes identified would not normally warrant inclusion within the programme due to their overall ranking, however, in recognition of the importance of the event a specific allocation of funding has been provided to allow these locations

to receive attention. A similar provision also exists for other Open Golf improvements and associated support costs.

- 2.4 All works identified in the programme will be subject to either individual tender or the use of existing competitive term maintenance contracts.
- 2.5 The programme includes a greater number of schemes than the budget will sustain. This will allow maximum flexibility to manage disruption to the proposed programme as a result of Statutory Undertakers works or other unforeseen events.
- 2.6 Subject to approval by Cabinet the programme will be immediately circulated to the Statutory Undertakers to allow the necessary adjustments to be made as a result of their proposals.

3.0 AREA FORUMS

- 3.1 All Area Forums were given the opportunity to contribute to this year's programme and submitted lists of work they considered to be local priorities. The programme clearly identifies those schemes included and they are marked "F" on that programme.
- 3.2 I propose to report back to the Area Forums on their suggested priorities and the reasons either for inclusion or otherwise.
- 3.3 Subject to members' approval I would propose the process of involving the Area Forums in the determination of local priorities should continue.

4.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In producing one prioritised programme I have sought to maximise all of the available financial resources contained within the Department's budgets.
- 4.2 It is proposed to undertake the programme in priority order (subject of course to the Statutory Undertakers activities) and complete as many schemes as possible from within the identified resources.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific ethnic minority implications. Maintaining the highways in good condition is of particular benefit for pedestrians who are elderly, have disabilities or are pushing prams.

6.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no planning implications.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no community safety implications arising directly out of this report. The condition of the highway and street lighting network has some influence on community safety. There is a need to provide safe footways and carriageways for users.

8.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

9.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The environmental impact of the proposed construction methods and processes contained within the programme are evaluated on a site by site basis.

9.2 Wherever possible the use of recycling processes are encouraged to reduce the tax burden through landfill and aggregate levies and to promote sustainable initiatives and benefits to the environment.

10.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

10.1 No background papers have been used in the preparation of this report.

11.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Relevant wards are shown in the appendix.

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 That the Structural Maintenance Programme for 2005/06, shown in Appendix A, be endorsed and referred to Cabinet for approval.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE DIVISION**

APPENDIX A

STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2005/2006

Name of Road	Limits	Ward	UKPMS Ranking	Other Priorities	Estimate	Category	Description of Works
Beverley Road	All	Wallasey	--	To complete scheme	£9,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Buxton Lane	Part	Wallasey	--	To complete scheme	£1,000	Surface Treatment to carriageway	
Longview Avenue	All	Wallasey	--	To complete scheme	£6,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Newport Road	All	Wallasey	--	F	£8,500	Structural Carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Walkers Croft	All	Wallasey	--	To complete scheme	£2,500	Surface Treatment to carriageway	
Gordon Road	All	New Brighton	83		£7,500	Structural Carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Westmorland Road	All	New Brighton	83	*	£8,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface carriageway
Elm Park Road	All	Wallasey	67	Petition *	£45,000	Structural footway & Carriageway	P/L Kerbs Construct flexible verge

							P/L + L/R flags Resurface carriageway
Chorlton Grove	All	Wallasey	66	*	£57,000	Structural footway & carriageway	P/L kerbs as required. Remove flags & construct flexible footway Reconstruct flexible footway Relay flags rear of verge. Resurface carriageway
Albion Street	Part	New Brighton	--	Carry over from 2004/2005 F	£86,000	Structural footway & carriageway	P/L kerbs as required. Remove flags & construct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Ash Grove Melling Road	All	New Brighton	--	To complete scheme	£7,500	Surface Treatment to carriageway	
Bellfield Crescent	All	New Brighton	--	*	£5,600	Structural footway	Reconstruct flexible footway
Molyneux Drive	Part	New Brighton	--	To complete scheme	£7,500	Structural Carriageway	Resurface carriageway

Pickering Road	All	New Brighton	--	To complete scheme	£7,500	Surface Treatment to carriageway	
Pleasant Street	All	New Brighton	--	To complete scheme	£2,500	Surface Treatment to carriageway	
Portland Street	Part	New Brighton	--	To complete scheme	£6,500	Structural Carriageway	Resurface carriageway

SCHEMES IDENTIFIED WITH AN F HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE AREA FORUM

SCHEMES IDENTIFIED WITH AN ASTERISK * HAVE BEEN ASSESSED FOR EARLY ATTENTION.

WIRRAL “STAR RATES” FOR A FAIR PRICE

At a glance...

- ❑ Social Services to introduce “Star Rating” system to help local residents make an informed choice about residential and nursing homes
- ❑ This unique star rating will stimulate investment to achieve higher standards in homes in Wirral
- ❑ The 155 homes operating in Wirral will be rated from No Stars to Four Stars

Wirral Council’s cabinet is this week expected to give the go ahead to a new star ratings system which will give potential residents and their families an indication of the quality of care offered in individual residential and nursing homes.

The system is unique and is the product of several months of negotiation and consultation with Homeowners and users. It was developed by Wirral’s Social Services Department to reward quality standards and investment in excellent care. Homes will be rated from No Star Homes to Four Star Homes, starting this year.

Director of Social Services, Kevin Miller, said: “The Fair Price of Care model will help local residents to make an informed choice about homes they want to live in and will also stimulate investment to achieve higher standards in the 155 homes currently operating in Wirral.”

Wirral’s flagship beaches will fly the flag again this year

At a glance...

- ❑ Wirral delighted at Rural Beach Awards announced today
- ❑ West Kirby and Wallasey bathing beaches will be ‘flying the flag’ all summer
- ❑ Tough ENCAMS standards ensure award is hard won and well deserved.

Bathers at Wirral’s two flagship beaches will have the ENCAMS blue and yellow flag fluttering over their heads for another year, it has been announced today.

The flag is the signal that the beach is clean and managed to a very high standard.

Explains Jo Hanik, one of the Council Rangers in charge of the coast: “We are totally committed to preserving and improving the environment and this award

is our reward for some very hard work. We never know when we are inspected – and the judges apply rigorous standards which we have to meet every day.

“West Kirby has been an excellent beach for a long time, but Wallasey bathing beach only won its blue and yellow flag for the first time last year. Each tide – particularly at the river mouth - brings in more debris, which we have to keep on top of to keep the beach up to the mark. We are thrilled that work has been recognised again. ”

WIRRAL lends a hand to residents

At a glance...

- ❑ Wirral Council’s Handyperson Scheme dramatically cuts waiting times for home safety improvements
- ❑ Service open to over 55s in the five renewal areas at a minimal charge to the individual
- ❑ Residents have peace of mind as a safe and reliable tradesperson does work in their home

WIRRAL Council's new Handyperson Scheme has already proved a huge success, cutting waiting times for minor home improvements from several months to a week.

The Scheme is funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and the Housing Market Renewal Initiative and charges just £3.50 for the first hour and £7 per hour after that. Most of the calls only take one to two hours with the payment going directly back into the service. The team also fit Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Smoke Detectors without charge.

Tony Watkin, Handyperson Supervisor, said: “The scheme was launched in February with three of us attending calls each day in the renewal areas of Birkenhead, Seacombe, Tranmere, Bidston and Liscard. The service is open to over 55s with a lot of people being referred by Social Services’ Occupational Therapy Team.”

Margaret Campbell, Occupational Therapy Assistant, added: “It’s a brilliant service. Grab rails could take months to be fixed up. Now our Handypersons do them and clients are getting their jobs done within a week of their assessment. ”

All the team are time served so customers are confident to have them in their homes and know the work will be to an excellent standard. Mrs Jacqueline Wilson used the service and was very impressed:

“I wanted some pictures and mirrors putting on the wall and couldn’t do it myself so the Social Services OT gave me a leaflet about the scheme. I was so pleased to have someone do the job who was trustworthy, reliable, friendly and caring. The fact that they were recommended by Social Services gave me extra peace of mind but I think the service is too cheap!”

If you are over 55, live in the eligible areas and have a job that the Handyperson Scheme can help with, please call Joanne on 691 8371.

ABC Together

ABC Together is in the process of setting up a scheme to recycle previously unrecycled cardboard from WBC into hypo-allergenic horse bedding. This bedding will be sold and then picked up when soiled and recycled into high quality compost. The Company is a social firm whose foremost goal will be to assist people with mental health problems reintegrate into mainstream employment. There are few therapeutic facilities for people with mental health problems extant on the Wirral and Merseyside at present especially those which lead to real job opportunities. We will be creating a vibrant social network and have several schemes we are hoping to set up in the first two years of our operation such as a therapeutic garden and a community kitchen. We have forged links with many other environmental and mental health action groups and have attracted substantial funding already from CRED and MSEI.. We intend to also provide an educational and information service to local schools and businesses to increase awareness of environmental and mental health issues. Initially we will be benefiting around 30 people but as we have just mentioned our project will eventually be of benefit to a much wider section of the community

ABC Together aim to create varied and therapeutic work opportunities for people who are presently excluded from society, especially those with mental

health problems. By integrating people into the mainstream we will be reconnecting people into society and enhancing their prospects of real recovery. By offering contact to carers, who also find themselves isolated, we aim to encourage active involvement and respite for this previously marginalised group. We aim to do this by creating an essentially crucial environmental project that will considerably improve existing recycling objectives on Wirral and Merseyside. Our project is being developed by current carers and service users with a committee including key members of relevant organisations. We have been working towards this aim for the last 3 years.

All aboard for Wirral's latest attraction!

At a glance...

- ❑ Over £500,000 EU funding tees up major new tourism package in Wirral
- ❑ Open-topped summer bus tour starts in July
- ❑ Other highlights include a major summer music festival and IT information kiosks]

Wirral's latest tourist attraction means visitors and residents can see the peninsula from a new angle this summer – aboard an open topped bus.

The bus tour is the latest new development to be announced as a result of a large cash injection from the EU. More announcements will be made in the near future, including the launch of a new summer music festival to join Folk on the Coast, and the jazz and guitar festivals.

The open top tour begins in July and runs all through the summer, taking in all of Wirral's major historic and tourist sites before returning to Seacombe Ferry. There it will link with Liverpool via the Mersey Ferry, and take trippers directly on to the City's own open top tour.

Stephen Maddox, Wirral Council's Chief Executive said: " This is great news. We have a great deal to offer, from fantastic golf to our beautiful coastline and from the mighty industrial heritage of Birkenhead, to the tranquil Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight. We have something to offer everyone, and now we have an ideal opportunity to show it off."

SECTION SIX
AREA FORUM MINUTES

Minutes - Area Forum (New Brighton and Wallasey) Meeting - 8 February 2005

Present	
Chair	PJ Hackett
Ward Councillors	WA Duffey , DJ Hunt , A Pritchard , Mrs LA Rennie
Community Representatives	Rita Fraser (New Brighton Community Partnership) , Mark Williams
Lead Officer	David Green (Director of Technical Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith - Area Co-ordinator
Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT	Iain Stewart
Merseyside Police	Inspector Phil Davies , Inspector John Hogan
Business Representative	Pat Revans
New Brighton Trade and Business Representative	Ron Jones (President, NBTABA)
Apologies	I Lewis , Councillor Mrs K Wood

Index to Minutes

- Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions
- Minute 2 - Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
- Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinator's Report
- Minute 4 - Community initiatives fund
- Minute 5 - Area Plans
- Minute 6 - Public question time
- Minute 7 - Community Safety update
- Minute 8 - Presentation on Championship Golf - Wallasey Golf Club by David Green, Director of Technical Services
- Minute 9 - Primary Care Trust update
- Minute 10 - Date of next meeting
- Minute 11 - Any other business

Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions

Chair welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the area forum, particularly the new representatives from Merseyside Police.

Minute 2 - Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed as read with the exception of a correction by Rita Fraser a member of the area forum to Minute 3 – Public Question Time on page 37. This item to read:

“A. Adam Hull – The new lake is about three quarters of the size of the existing lake.”

Chair requested that the minute be so amended. There were no matters arising.

Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinator's Report

A copy of the report has been distributed and no questions were raised.

Minute 4 - Community initiatives fund

The panel met on 10 January to go through the applications and these were to be referred to Cabinet on 16 February. The successful applicants would receive notification within 10 days of the Cabinet meeting and Tracey would report the results to the next Area Forum.

Minute 5 - Area Plans

This drawing up of the plan was proving to be difficult and Tracey promised that the Area Plan would be distributed by the end of February and discussed at the June meeting.

Minute 6 - Public question time

Councillor Rennie talked about the telephone masts, particularly the problems in New Brighton. The local Councillors have objected and so far they have been successful. However, the Government Planning Inspectors overturn these decisions. One particular problem at present is planning permission, which was granted after appeal for a First Generation Telephone mast.

Local residents have responded that they have evidence and they have been assured by the telephone company that the mast that has been erected is a Third Generation Telephone Mast. She referred to a TV broadcast on Tuesday, 7 February hosted by Trevor McDonald which reported on the effect of such masts.

Councillor Rennie asked David Green to investigate this matter and advise the residents how we can go forward on a legal basis. Mr Pugh, Jean Roberts and one other were concerned about the legal issues. All members of the forum supported this request. Councillor Rennie also reported that the Council have started a Working Party to look at the issue of telephone masts.

Q – One such telephone mast, which had the highest radiation output, is in the proximity of two children’s nurseries. Is there a

written policy on telecommunications.

A – David Green replied that he did not think there was such a written policy. It had been agreed to gather intelligence, put together a Working Group to develop a policy document. He will speak to his officers and the legal people who will be taking part in this exercise.

Q – Members of the public offered written evidence if this would assist. Also reference was made to a mast recently installed on St Andrews Church. Three white unmarked transit vans were used and the mast was shaped as a Cross in a token gesture to blend in.

A – David Green said there was a need to look into the impact on private properties, schools, churches, etc and he would be most interested in the offer to provide a telecommunications policy.

Minute 7 - Community Safety update

Chair referred to the report, which was attached to the Agenda papers.

Q – Why do the Police allow the Promenade to be used as a race track from Harrison Drive to New Brighton, and along Bayswater Road.

A – Inspector John Hogan replied that various initiatives have been tried and there had been some success. He said the problem seemed to be accentuated in the winter, but a member of the public disputed this. Inspector Hogan offered to have the area monitored over the next five weeks.

Q – Another member of the public mentioned that similar problems were being experienced in Egremont, and that the situation has worsened since the Council allowed cyclists to use the Promenade – this action encouraged motorcyclists.

Q – Ron Jones also raised the question of the fishermen who were also parking there. He felt that this group were being ignored by the police, and that if other people see that the fisherman are allowed to park then others will be encouraged to park.

A – Inspector Hogan said that when the fishermen had parked some distance away their vehicles had been broken into. He will arrange a meeting to discuss priorities on this matter.

Q – People are also using the small dip to park on and this is churning up the grass, and motorcyclists are also riding on this area.

A – Inspector Hogan said that all such incidents should be reported to the police and a log no. obtained in order that evidence could be gathered, this will enable him to arrange a monitoring and policing of the situation.

Q – It seems that some such reports by the public to the police are ignored.

A – Inspector Hogan said all calls were graded and the police had to prioritise their responses.

Q – Pat Revans asked if a camera could be installed.

A – Inspector Hogan responded that there was already a camera, that temporary cameras were not really an option. He would ask if another permanent camera could be introduced. He will also discuss with the Council's Community Safety Team to ensure that the cameras are working correctly.

Q – In Harrison Park there are numerous youths gathering, at least 100, particularly on a Friday night and asked if the park could be policed.

A – Inspector Phil Davies replied that he was aware of the problem and there had been a lot of correspondence about the situation regarding, noise, damage, etc. He was not satisfied with how the situation had been handled and that there were a number of initiatives that could be put in place. He had asked Constable Evans, the local policeman to look into this situation and assured the forum that any offences would be prosecuted. These youths were local to the area and he wanted to involve their parents with any action to be taken.

Inspector Hogan added that over the last two weekends they had observed the situation and there had been about 150 youths in the park. Three of the youths in the main were causing most of the trouble and they had been arrested, charged and one had been sent to prison for 2 years. One of the main concerns the police had was that if these youths were dispersed from the park then the problems may transfer to the streets.

Minute 8 - Presentation on Championship Golf - Wallasey Golf Club by David Green, Director of Technical Services

David Green, Director of Technical Services gave a presentation on the Return of the Open to the Wirral, and referred to a couple of implications for those people living in Wallasey.

David Green explained who the Council's partnering

arrangements and the impact this important event would have. We could expect about 200,000 people to attend the event; that a traffic management strategy would be in place for July 2006. The “eyes of the World” would be on the Wirral – 350m households will be watching, 1000 members of the world’s press in addition to TV and radio. The Open is the third largest sporting event in the world.

On the back of this event there was an opportunity for marketing, businesses and improvements to the area. The important thing was to encourage the return of the Open which is why this is such an important event for us.

He then referred to the affect on the Wallasey Area in particular. The Wallasey Golf Club will be hosting final Open qualifying rounds, they will be on 10/11 July 2006 (with a hold over date of 12 July) There will be 100+ players and about 1500 car parking provision to be made available.

The Wirral Show will also be staged around this time and discussions on this are now taking place.

There will be a need to use one of the ‘dips’ for car parking.

We will have to provide a Championship Standard Practice facility and the proposal is that we use Harrison Park. This may mean the closure of the park for a few days, and consultations have already taken place with users of the park such as the bowling clubs, etc.

The English Senior Open will take place in the third week in September 2005. Golfing consultants, Tonge International, will be organising this event – it will take place over about seven days – this Festival of Golf will attract about 7000 spectators.

He asked if the audience were happy with all these arrangements and they gave their unanimous agreement.

Minute 9 - Primary Care Trust update

Iain Stewart of the Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT reported that consultation regarding Wards 6 and 7 of the VCH had been completed with excellent feedback. Both PCT Boards have met and agreed to defer a decision on Wards 6 and 7 in order to gather the rationale.

PCT has to produce a 3 Year Plan and the focus of this plan (Birkenhead and Wallasey) will be around the management of chronic diseases. The care of such patients locally instead of having to send them to the Wirral Hospital Trust.

Following on the back of this consultation another consultation has started on a proposal to relocate the four Liscard Group practices, and a proposals booklet was available to explain in more detail. Iain Stewart explained to the forum that the present locations/buildings were inadequate and it is proposed to provide a building within the VCH for all four practices. The attendant specialist areas, such as phlebotomy will all be on hand in the one area and therefore more convenient for the patients.

Q – Has Mr Stewart a medical background?

A – He replied that his background had initially been in banking but that he had worked in the National Health now for some years, since 1996

Q – Had the long term care patients been consulted. Wards 6 & 7 involved and welcomed patients' family members.

A – He understood that these consultations had involved patient groups.

Q – She was thinking more of those patients having to go into respite care.

A – Iain Stewart promised to look into this aspect and report back. He felt that the reason for taking another look at this over the next three months was the reason.

Q – There was concern over the transport problems for the families of these patients.

A – Iain Stewart agreed to take all these concerns back to the executive of the PCT.

Q – Councillor Lesley Rennie pointed out that most people wanted to see VCH remain and she asked that Iain Stewart take back to both Boards the question that we had a problem with is that Wards 6 and 7 should remain open. She also asked how many people had responded to the question and what the result was.

A – Iain Stewart agreed to do this.

Q – Rita Fraser asked about the relocation of the four group practices and whether Wards 6 & 7 would be where the new facility would be housed.

A – Iain Stewart said that only the admin and Physiotherapy Block would be affected. The facility would be a three storey block which would house the four practices and other specialist areas such as physio, phlebotomy, etc.

Q – Pat Revans asked about the parking.

A – The architects had taken account of this and had provided 200 car parking spaces, with of course the agreement of the Council. Public transport would also be accommodated on the site.

Q – If Wards 6 and 7 are closed what would happen to the building.

A – So far there is no information available on this.

Q – Ron Jones had talked to staff at the VCH who are aware that the old people love the care and attention given to them by the staff, but felt that this care should be in another area and not in a hospital.

Minute 10 - Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 9 June 2005 and the venue will be the Hollins Hey Hotel.

Minute 11 - Any other business

Tracey Smith Area co-ordinator reported that Merseyfest was a Christian event being organised for the week commencing 14 August 2005, when a significant number of young people would be gathering at Croxteth Park in Liverpool. Leaflets about Merseyfest were available for those present.

Apart from spiritual activities, the intention of the initiative, which was being supported by all Merseyside local authorities, was to send groups of young people out to deliver a number of projects which have been submitted for inclusion within the week's programme.

The organisers and Church leaders were anxious for the Forums support and asked them to think about possible projects that might take place in their respective areas. If you have any ideas please pass them onto me at the end of the forum or contact me on 0151 691 8026. The types of projects that Merseyfest were looking to get involved in are environmental projects.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and closed it at 8.05 pm.