

New Brighton and Wallasey

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

11th October 2005

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Minutes - Area Forum (New Brighton and Wallasey) Meeting - 9 June 2005

Present	
Chair	WA Duffey
Ward Councillors	DJ Hunt , A Pritchard , Mrs LA Rennie , Mrs K Wood
Community Representatives	Mrs R Fraser , Ron Jones (President, NBTABA) , I Lewis , Mark Owen
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith - Area Services Co-ordinator
Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT	Jane Harvey (Director of Public Health, Bir. & Wall. PCT)
Merseyside Police	Inspector Phil Davies , Inspector John Hogan , Sergeant Ewan Turner
Council Officers	Chris Jones (Area Streetscene Manager) , Cathy McNulty (Cycling Officer)
In attendance:	Iain Taylor (Mersey Basin Trust)
Apologies	David Green (Director of Technical Services) , Cllr Pat Hackett , Pat Revans (Business Representative) , Major Roy Tipping (Faith Representative)

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Minute 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Bill Duffy, gave Councillor Pat Hackett's apologies, he was unable to Chair tonight's meeting.

The Chair then welcomed members and the public to the Area Forum for New Brighton and Wallasey, being held at the Hollins Hey Hotel, New Brighton.

Area Forums were set up to consider the needs and priorities of the local community and the agenda included presentations from three speakers with opportunities for questions.

75 members of the public attended this meeting.

Councillor Kate Wood referred to page 43 of the papers attached to the agenda, on the item referring to the congregation of youths in Harrison Park. Inspector Phil Davies, Inspector for Moreton and West Wallasey responded and clarified the situation referring to a large number of youths who had been causing problems. He reported that

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this matter had now been addressed successfully and a subsequent survey of local residents had indicated that the Park is now being used again by local residents. He did add a comment that the problem may have been moved from this area to another, but he believed that the feedback from the public was positive.

Councillor Kate Wood also referred to page 44 and the necessity to use one of the 'Dips' for car parking during the Wirral Show and stated that this should be a 'one off' and not be assumed this area could be used for similar purposes.

Chair agreed to take this matter up and ensure that it would not be regarded as a precedent.

Councillor Rennie referred to page 45 and commented that the forum had expressed concern about closure of Ward 6/7 and had requested a meeting with Ian Stewart. She also referred to an article in the Wirral Globe and requested that a further request be sent to the PCT about the closure of these wards.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that - the Chair take up the matter re: the use of one of the 'Dips' for car parking.

Minute 2 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Tracey Smith referred to her report, which had been distributed to the meeting and referred to:

Section 1 – Community Initiative Fund – a total of £18,640 is available for the current financial year.

Section 2 – Local Area Plan

Section 3 – Youth Update

Section 4 – Streetscene Update

Section 5 – Local Update

Councillor Kate Wood referred to page 23 of the papers (Access to stations for people with disabilities and parents with prams) and asked the Forum to take some action in this matter.

Chair responded and said he would take this matter further.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that - the Chair take forward matter on access to stations.

Minute 3 - AREA PLANS

Tracey Smith, Area Co-ordinator, informed the meeting that development of the area plans has been going on for 18 months and asked the forum to approve the Area Plan for New Brighton and Wallasey.

Tracey suggested that a sub-group be formed to look at particular issues, which are included in the plan, for example, safety issues and communications. Further consultation will be carried out in order to refresh the plan, which is due for publication later this year.

It was agreed to form a sub-group and Chair asked for volunteers.

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Minute Decision :

Resolved – that an area plan sub-group be set up.

Minute 4 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following questions / issues were raised by members of the public:

Q - Young people using scrambler bikes on Bidston Golf Club. What is being done to prevent this?

A – the Police are aware of the problem and some new legislation will enable action to be taken. Merseyside Police has invested in two scrambler bikes and is currently identifying “hot spots”. If locations of problem areas are provided they will be added to our lists to target.

Q – Request for residents parking scheme and traffic calming in Sandfield Road. Street Lighting was poor, pavements were uneven with potholes.

A – Chris Jones, Area Streetscene Manager, will deal with these comments and will respond.

Q – A member of the forum raised concern about racism, and referred to threats which had been made to residents. These had been reported, however, local traders were not reporting acts of racism.

A – The police representatives suggested they discuss these matters in detail at the end of the meeting.

Q – Stanley Pub in Rake Lane had applied for an extension to their premises with the proposal of a beer garden. This would cause problems to local residents, as the noise from the beer garden would be heard in their gardens.

A – Chair reported that planning permission had to be sought and there would have been a chance for people to give their objections to the extension and advised that he would look into the matter.

Q – The promenade is being used by motorcycles, scooters and cars. A Community Car patrol had been in the area recently when this had been happening but had done nothing.

A – This is a regular problem and the Traffic Wardens will be asked to give these areas some extra attention. The Council had been asked to block off one end of the promenade and that a request for use of the CCTV footage had been made and this matter is being investigated.

Q – Fisherman on Seacombe Promenade to beyond the Guinea Gap baths and Vale Park are driving on to the promenade and leaving rubbish, fish hooks, lines, plastic bags etc. A member of the forum had had to take his dog to the vet to have a fish hook removed.

A – PCN's had been issued to car owners and this has improved the situation. Permits have to be issued by the Council to fisherman and Chair said he would look into how the permits were checked.

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Confiscation of motorcycles will be discussed at a forthcoming police meeting.

Q – Could bollards be erected to prevent the fisherman accessing the promenade?

A – Councillor Tony Pritchard said he would forward this request to the appropriate department.

Q – Could something be done to help the local footballers that use Wallacre Park, which is under water?

A – Councillor Rennie said she will take details later and ask Jim Lester to look into this matter.

Minute Decision :
Resolved – that

i. Chris Jones to look into residents parking scheme, traffic calming, street lighting and pavements in Sandfield Road and report back on this.

ii. the Chair to look into situation re: planning permission for extension to the Stanley Pub in Rake Lane and report back on this.

iii. Councillor Tony Pritchard forward request Re: erection of bollards on the promenade to the appropriate department.

iv. Councillor Rennie to take details of waterlogging problems at Wallacre Park and ask Jim Lester to look into this matter.

Minute 5 - PRESENTATION ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - MERSEYSIDE POLICE

Sergeant Ewan Turner, Merseyside Police, gave a presentation on how the Police/Health/Council are currently tackling this problem.

A measured approach is being formulated across Merseyside to tackle this effectively through co-ordinated activity. Tried and tested methods will be used as well as looking at new ideas. Merseyside Chief Constable earlier this year had announced concerted action plans to tackle this problem. Proposals have been formulated for short-term and long-term action. Statistics were showing that improvements had been made. Neighbourhood officers and Response Officers were co-ordinating matters, but it must be recognised that this is everyone's problem.

A number of themes had been put forward which would be focused upon:

- Alcohol/car safety/anti social behaviour/shoplifting
- Dealing with broken windows , graffiti , tidying up areas quickly (Streetscene/Wirral Council had been fantastic in dealing quickly with such matters)
- Support for young people regarding the effects of alcohol.
- Prolific offenders were being dealt with by ASBO's
- Prevention of sales of alcohol to under-age children

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Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- Visits to areas where young people were known to congregate
- Schools visited to increase awareness of effects and problems associated with alcohol.

Other campaigns in the pipeline are tackling problems with vehicles/car safety campaign. Sergeant Turner explained how these are being tackled, how it is a co-ordinated operation with various other organisations working together, such as partner agencies, education departments, youth outreach teams, and streetscene.

These are not one-off initiatives there is a real dedication to roll-on such initiatives and investigate new ways of dealing with these problems.

Minute 6 - PRIDE IN OUR PROMENADES - IAIN TAYLOR, MERSEY BASIN

Iain Taylor of Mersey Basin gave a presentation. He outlined how the project was started, its purpose - which was to re-energise the area of the Promenade. Mersey Basin is working with the local authority to make the area better and they are looking at what can be done with the minimum amount of money available. They are also working with other local authorities on Merseyside.

After consultation the first areas are Egremont/Vale Park and Otterspool. Mersey Waterfront has been approached for funding. Mersey Basin is developing consultations with local residents, associations and school children to find out exactly what people want and Wirral Borough Council has been involved. A public meeting had been held and a panel formed. The panel is producing ideas of what is wanted, and an outline of ideas has been produced.

Iain Taylor urged everyone to get involved by coming up with ideas of how they would like to improve Vale Park.

Minute 7 - DEVELOPMENT OF CYCLE NETWORKS - CATHY MCNULTY -CYCLING OFFICER - TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Cathy McNulty, Cycling Officer, Wirral Borough Council gave a presentation on how the Council are developing cycle networks throughout the borough, covering the following items:

- The role of cyclists
- Improvements in sales of bicycles
- Less dangerous to cycle than to walk
- Improving facilities for cyclists – joined up routes
- Routes to shops, doctors, schools, train stations, etc.,
- Setting up good habits for the future with children
- Currently collecting information to indicate which areas to begin working in
- Cycle training – National Standards
- Cycle events
- Maps showing where we can cycle
- How to buy a bike, maintain it, wet weather conditions
- Analysing the data, will include this in a matrix to select areas on which to concentrate
- Consultation work

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Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- Final implementation

Minute 8 - COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND

The area co-ordinator informed the forum that there is £11,000 in the Community Initiatives Fund, £3,000 available from the Community Safety Fund – ring fenced for Community Safety projects, and £1,500.00 available from the Local Agenda 21 Fund ring fenced for Environmental projects.

The funding will be advertised in July and the closing date will be set at 15 August 2005.

It was agreed to keep the same priorities of youth provision and older people. Request for projects that covered Wirral Wide would not be considered unless they could specifically state the benefits to the Wallasey and New Brighton Wards.

Minute 9 - PRIMARY CARE TRUST UPDATE

Jane Harvey, Director of PCT for Birkenhead and Wallasey, gave an update on "The National NHS PCT Patient Survey"

A survey had been carried out last year and again this year and as a result of the latest survey a few points of particular interest had emerged:

Patients Survey

- National annual survey
- Just one of the many methods we use to gain feedback on our services
- Random sample of 850 patients

Access

- 47% seen on same working day (32% UK) – improvement in same day appointments since 2004 (41%)
- 85% seen 'as soon as they thought necessary' (75% UK and improvement from 60% last year). Only 3% feeling they should have been seen a lot sooner than they were.
- 40% said surgery did not allow appointments 3 or more days in advance (23% UK)

Experience of visiting the practice

- 70% said receptionist courtesy excellent/very good (60% UK). Only 1% said poor.
- 1 in 6 felt uncomfortable about the lack of privacy when speaking to receptionists
- 70% seen within 15 mins of appt time (with 8% waiting over half an hour)
- 80% felt that they had enough time with the GP
- 95% treated with respect and dignity by the GP
- 73% who wanted to discuss emotional issues were able to do so. This dropped to 65% for those who wanted to discuss family/living situation

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Dental services

- 65% registered on list as NHS patient (57% UK)
- 13% registered as non-NHS patient
- 18% (20% UK) not on any dentist's list

Jane Harvey asked the forum to let the PCT know of what experiences they had had in making appointments. She will bring a copy of this presentation to the next meeting of the Forum.

This National survey can be accessed on www.bkwpct.nhs.uk.

Minute Decision :

Resolved – that Jane Harvey provide copies of the presentation at the next forum meeting.

Minute 10 - DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next forum would be held on 11 October 2005 and the venue will be St. George's School.

Minute 11 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Rita Fraser - New Brighton Community representative raised an issue relating to a community initiative fund bid from the Friends of Vale Park relating to a community notice board in Vale Park. Rita was informed at a meeting on 10th January 2005 by the CIF panel that they believed there would be some funding available for Vale Park from other sources and therefore the bid was not considered.

Rita asked if the area forum could re-consider the application form in the next round of CIF as there was still £3,114.33 left over from 2004/2005.

Tracey Smith replied that she would look into the protocols of re-considering the bid and if applicable it would be included in the next CIF panel meeting.

The Chair, Councillor Bill Duffy thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Minute Decision :

Resolved – that Tracey to look into protocols of re-considering the CIF application made by the Friends of Vale Park.

Section Two

Local Updates

Section 2

Local Updates

Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership (a partnership of key members from the council, police, health, private and voluntary and community sectors) has a lead role to play in supporting the delivery of the themes listed below and in planning existing services better to deliver their vision for the people of Wirral.

They have undertaken a lot of work over the last 12 months to ensure that they are focusing on those areas that matter most to local people. They have updated their first community strategy to keep it in line with the views and priorities of local people, focusing on those issues that you have said will make Wirral a better place both now and in the future.

Wirral's second community strategy "*Getting Better Together 2005 - 2008*", sets out all that they will be doing over the next three years to make Wirral a better place where people will want to live, work, visit and invest.

Based on your views they have agreed to focus on the following four main themes, and these will be adopted by the area forums to enable them to link into the community strategy:

- ◆ **Worklessness** – *We want all residents of Wirral to have access to well paid jobs. We want to ensure a range of opportunities and training are open to all of our communities, supporting work as an option and the development of an enterprise culture where local businesses are supported and entrepreneurship is encouraged.*
- ◆ **Cohesive and Sustainable Communities** – *We want to make Wirral a place that people are proud of, where all of our communities are safe and supported and where our young people are given the best possible start in life to achieve their potential and secure their futures.*
- ◆ **A Quality Environment** – *We want to make Wirral a clean, green, attractive borough, and through working with, and supporting our local communities, we will protect and improve the built environment, ensuring Wirral is a place where people want to live, work and visit.*
- ◆ **Access and Equity** – *We want to make Wirral a place where all people can easily access services and local facilities such as shops and healthcare. We want our communities to be empowered and involved in local decisions affecting local services and where all people in all areas have similar life chances.*

- **Cohesive and Sustainable Communities**



WIRRAL PATIENT & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORUMS

Have you got an interest in local health services? Would you like to join the **Extraordinary Voice** on the Wirral? Wirral Patient and Public Involvement Forums are helping to re-shape health services on Wirral for the better and have the power to influence change.

Forum Members are ordinary people with an **Extraordinary Voice** and are all volunteers who care deeply for the National Health Service but are completely independent of it.

Join one of the 4 Wirral Patient and Public Involvement Forums who work with:

Birkenhead & Wallasey Primary Care Trust

Bebington & West Wirral Primary Care Trust

Clatterbridge Centre of Oncology NHS Trust

Wirral Hospital Trust

By joining a Forum:-

- You can gain the satisfaction of knowing you are shaping and influencing the way local health services are delivered.
- Create a great impact by giving just a few hours per week of your time.
- Receive free training relevant to the role of Forum Member.
- Receive out of pocket expenses including carer/childcare costs which will be reimbursed for all Forum business and meetings.

FOR AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION AND FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:

LYNDA DENMAN OR KAREN PRIOR

AT THE FORUM SUPPORT ORGANISATION: WIRED

ON 0151 670 1500/Email: senppico_ord@btconnect.com

• Cohesive and Sustainable Communities

ASBO Campaign Turns Heads

WIRRAL Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team has launched its second awareness campaign focusing on the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.

The first phase of the campaign uses local buses and pay & display parking tickets to get the message across to the public. The campaign features 'mug shots' of a male and female, entitled "Get a life, not an ASBO".

Caroline Laing, Manager of Wirral's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, explains that: ASBO's are used to place restrictions on the behaviour of people who have engaged in conduct that has caused harassment, alarm or distress to other residents. "The purpose of the campaign is to make clear the impact that an Anti-Social Behaviour Order can have on a person's life, in the hope that in some cases this will act as a deterrent to behaving anti-socially."

The campaign poses key questions. Did you know that:

An ASBO could ban you from swearing or shouting in public, from being aggressive or intimidating?

An ASBO could ban you from visiting certain areas, such as a particular road, shopping centre or town?

An ASBO could ban you from leaving your home after a certain time at night?

An ASBO could ban you from associating with your friends?

If you breach an ASBO you could be arrested?

Breach of an ASBO can result in up to 2 years' detention for a person under 18 and up to 5 years' imprisonment for an adult?

The campaign runs on from an earlier campaign in November 2004, which won the Team a national award, presented by Viacom Outdoor, part of the largest media and entertainment group in the world. Local resident, Mr Edwards from Greasby, said, "The posters are very eye catching, I did a double take when one went past me and I saw the two large faces looking at me. Hopefully they will have the desired effect."

Mrs Brown of Moreton, said, " Anti-social behaviour is a terrible worry and I hope people think twice about what will happen to them if they do not change their behaviour. The posters are very striking and I am sure they will get the message across." The second phase of the campaign will be extended into local secondary schools during the new school term, spearheaded by Youth Enforcement Officer, Lucy Pritchard, who has responsibility for dealing specifically with anti-social behaviour perpetrated by gangs of youths. Caroline Laing, added: "The second phase of this campaign recognises that most young people are decent members of our community. The campaign is aimed at the minority who do not behave in a way that our communities expect."

- **Cohesive and Sustainable Communities**



Older people invited to shape future of local services

Older people in Wirral are being invited to share their views of today's society at Wirral's 5th Annual Older Persons Conference.

The one day event, "New for Old", is being held at Hulme Hall in Port Sunlight, and will bring together local older people and local professionals from across all sectors, including Social Services, local Health organisations, and Wirral Borough Council, to consider new developments and new ways of working that will affect the independence and well-being of older people living in Wirral.

BBC Radio Merseyside presenter, Roger Phillips will host a "Question Time" style debate with a guest panel, including senior representatives from Wirral Borough Council, Wirral NHS Hospital Trust, the local Primary Care Trusts and a local MP.

Myrtle Lacey, Chief Executive of Age Concern Wirral says: "It will be a great opportunity for local older people to make a contribution to service development and to make their voices heard on the issues affecting older people here on Wirral."

The Conference is being held on Thursday 13th October from 9.30 to 4.30pm. Anyone wishing to attend this conference, should ring 0151 666 2220 to request a conference booking form. Entry will be by ticket only.

Delegates will take part in workshops to shape proposed services, such as the Bereavement and Loss service and also comment on the formation of the anticipated Wirral Pensioners Parliament. An electronic voting system will be used to enable local policy makers and service providers to consult conference delegates on current issues and future plans for the area.

Throughout the day, presentations will be delivered to inform delegates about local new service provision, as well as there being lots of displays and exhibitions to visit.

For more information about this conference, or about Age Concern Wirral, please contact:

Jamie Anderson, Senior Manager, Support Services, Age Concern Wirral.
t: 0151 666 2220 email: jamieanderson@ageconcernwirral.org

• A Quality Environment

WIRRAL IS SPEAKING YOUR LANGUAGE

At a glance...

- ❑ Interpreting service offers up to 150 languages for easier access to Council services
- ❑ Interpreters accurately and securely relay information between the operator and caller

Wirral Council's One Stop Shops and main Call Centre can now offer its customers an interpreting service covering 150 languages by using the telephone interpreting and document translation facilities of National Interpreting Service.

With this new on-demand capability, Wirral Council can now communicate with its customers swiftly and easily in their own language through the use of highly skilled professional interpreters.

Through a three way telephone conversation, interpreters accurately and securely relay information between the limited English speaker and the One Stop Shop / Call Centre member of staff.

Contact Wirral Council on:

All departments and general enquiries: 0151-606 2000

Housing Benefits or Council Tax: 0151-606 2002

Streetscene (roads & pavements, refuse collection, street lighting): 0151-606 2004

Social Services, (information and advice): 0151-606 2006

Section 2

Local Updates

• A Quality Environment

At a glance...

Electoral Register

- A newly revised electoral register will be in force from 1st Dec 2005
- Return your registration form for your chance to have a say in local, national and European elections.
- Just turned 18? Moved house? New voter? Sign up now!

WIRRAL Council is urging residents to return their voting registration forms to ensure that no one misses out on their right to vote in forthcoming elections.

New electoral registration forms will soon be arriving on doorsteps throughout Wirral in order to update the list and ensure it is accurate. Everyone should fill in or amend the registration form whether they are regular voters or not, as in order to have the opportunity to vote, your name must be on the new list.

Lesley Hales, Senior Electoral Registration Officer states: "People who have recently moved house, young people who will soon be 18, and new voters should all sign up to the new list to enable them to have their say in future national, local and EU elections.

"Having your name on the new register is also useful as banks and finance companies check this when deciding on approving or disproving financial applications."

If you have not received a new registration form by the 14 September or if you have any queries telephone the Helpline on (0151) 691 8046.

For more information on the revised electoral list, please go to www.wirral.gov.uk

Section 2

Local Updates

• A Quality Environment

All Change for Cash Payers - Wirral Council is set to make major changes to cash payment facilities involving the closure of six of the seven cash offices and replacing them with the Paypoint and Post office network.

The changes will greatly enhance the service on offer to customers, as they will be able to pay cash for their council services at 171 locations in Wirral as opposed to the current seven.

The Paypoint sites are located at convenience stores, newsagents and petrol stations. Many of these facilities offer extended opening times and some offer 24 hr, 7 days a week access. Payments by cash and cheque will also be possible at your local Post Office. Ian Coleman, Director of Finance, said: "Residents will be able to pay their bills when they want to rather than when we are at work. Getting the Post Offices on board with this is of major significance as many of our customers, particularly the elderly, feel very comfortable with using their local Post Office and will be able to collect their pension and pay their bills all in one trip from now on."

If you wish to pay by either of these methods in the future you will need to order a new bill with a converted bar-code on it. All bills issued after 15th August 2005 will have the correct bar-code.

Six cash offices based in the One-Stop Shops at Bebington, Moreton, Rock Ferry, Seacombe, Heswall and West Kirby will close from 14th October 2005. However, the main cash office based in Birkenhead at the Conway Centre will remain open. All of the One-stop shops will remain open for other business. The cash offices based in the Housing Offices in Liscard, North Birkenhead and Woodchurch (now managed by Wirral Partnership Homes) will also remain open for customers who need to pay rent only.

As well as enhancing the cash payment facilities, Wirral Council have also introduced credit and debit card payment facilities via One-stop shops, the Call Centre, the Internet and an automated telephone payment facility for some services. Customers will be notified on their bill of the types of payments that are available.

Payments via Paypoint and Post Offices will be available from 5th September, initially for the following services: -

- Council Tax/Housing Benefit overpayments/Miscellaneous income invoices/Social Services – Domiciliary care (only via swipe card) More services will follow and customers will be notified on their bills when this happens.

Why are we making these changes?

Over recent years, Wirral Council has noticed a steady reduction in the use of cash offices as customers move to more convenient ways to pay such as Direct Debit. Also, by moving to the Paypoint and Post Office network the Council can significantly reduce the charges incurred for collecting cash. This means that more of the money paid to the Council will go towards improving services and less on cash processing charges.

So what do you need to do next?

If you don't pay by cash these changes will not affect you. If you currently pay by cash but wish to switch to another method of payment such as Direct Debit you can visit your local One-stop shop who will help you to change over. If you wish to continue paying cash you can do so by either:- Continuing to pay at the Conway Centre.

If the Conway Centre is inconvenient for you and you would rather pay your Council Tax at your nearest Paypoint facility or Post Office, you will need to order a new bill with a bar-code on it.

You can do this by phoning 0151 606 2002 or by visiting your nearest One-stop shop.

• A Quality Environment

Children's Parliament on the Environment

SCHOOLCHILDREN across Wirral have had their say at the Children's Parliament on the Environment.

The debate-style event considered the proposal: 'The Open Golf Tournament in Hoylake in July 2006 will bring a unique opportunity for Wirral people to improve their environment'.

Pairs of Yr6 and Yr7 schoolchildren from 18 schools brought up a range of issues both for and against the borough hosting the internationally important tournament. Short-term impacts were balanced against improvements to the infrastructure in support of the golf.

Everyone also recognised the potential for tourism to help the sustainable development of Wirral. Ultimately they voted in favour of the event being of positive value to the borough.

Steve Maddox, Chief Executive of Wirral Council said: "The Children's Parliament is a fantastically successful annual event and I learn a great deal from the comments the youngsters make.

Environmental issues are one of Wirral's main priorities and the impacts of the golf tournament on environment, transport, wildlife and residents are vitally important to the organisers."

In two hard-fought contests, winners of the individual debates in the Primary School category, were New Brighton Primary and, in the Secondary School category Wirral Grammar School for Girls.

One of the judges, John Turner, Captain of Royal Liverpool Golf Club, said: "It was an immensely high standard of debating.

The Open is very exciting for us, and important for long term economic benefits for the region, bringing more money and jobs in the longer term. It is a matter of balance"

Section Three

Community Initiative Funding

Section 3

Community Initiative Funding

Progress Report on projects that have previously received funding from the New Brighton / Wallasey Area Forum through the Community Initiatives Fund – September 2005

Wallasey Philatelic Society	To purchase equipment for the group, the vast majority of whom are over pensionable age.	Report received from Wallasey Philatelic Society - August 2005: The members of the club are very appreciative of the equipment this funding has enabled us to purchase.
Wallasey District Scout Centre	To restore the scout hut to enable it to be used for the community as well scouting.	Report received from Wallasey District Scout Centre - August 2005: The outside lights have now been installed and have improved the safety of people visiting the centre in the evenings. We are hoping to have the tarmacking completed in September 2005.
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.	Report received from Bob Bird's Photographs - August 2005: Thanks to this funding we are now in the process of restoring / archiving Bob Birds pictures and preparing for a major exhibition of nostalgic New Brighton images, focusing on the history of Miss new Brighton 1949-98 at Earlston Library for two weeks starting October 24th.
Wallasey Sea Cadets	To buy office screens to create four additional classrooms	Report received from Wallasey Sea Cadets - September 2005: Thanks to this and other funding we have been able to fit out the mobile classrooms.

Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) Update

The area forum had £14,114.33 in the CIF, £3,000.00 from the Community Safety fund and £1,500.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.

The CIF panel met on 31st August, 2005, the panel consisted of Cllr Bill Duffey, Cllr Kate Wood, Ron Jones business representative, Major Roy Tipping faith representative, Mark Williams community representative, Rita Fraser community representative and Tracey Smith (advisory role).

The total amount spent on

- **CIF** £3,096.00 leaving a balance of £11,018.33
- **Community Safety** £2,325.00 leaving a balance of £675.00
- **LA21** £500.00 leaving a balance of £1,000.00

Details of the recommendations of the panel are attached. A report went to Cabinet on 22nd September 2005 for final approval. Cheques will be issued to successful applicants at the beginning of October after the 10-day call in period.

Section 3

Community Initiative Funding

ID	Bid No	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Comments of Panel	Community Initiatives Fund	Community Safety Fund	Local Agenda 21 Fund
Budget							£14,114.33	£3,000.00	£1,500.00
726	1	£500.00	£500.00	273 (Wallasey) Air Training Corp	To purchase display boards and white boards to use in the recruitment of teenagers into the unit and promote courses and activities.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00
727	2	£5,800.00	£1,000.00	Wallasey G.H. Peers Club	To install a watering system at the bowling green.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund towards the watering system.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
Mrs R Fraser declared an interest in the above application and took no part in the decision.									
566	3	£100.00	£0.00	Wirral Family Friends	To purchase a laptop and TV/Video/DVD player.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as the organisation has already received funding from other forums for the equipment in previous years.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

742	4	£1,000.00	£0.00	Wirral Tuesday Club	To help cover costs associated with running the club, including transport costs, hall hire, presents, trips and providing / updating music.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it is not area specific and information on who would be helped within the forum area was not included.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
693	5	£470.00	£470.00	The Friends of Vale Park	To contribute towards siting a community notice board in Vale Park.	Panel reconsidered this application and agreed to award £470.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£470.00	£0.00	£0.00
759	6	£4,666.87	£2,000.00	Wallasey Sea Cadets	To erect security fencing to the front of the unit headquarters.	Panel considered this to be a good project, and agreed to contribute £2,000.00 towards the security fencing from the Community Safety Fund.	£0.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
769	7	£150.00	£150.00	Wirral Pathfinders	To help with the cost of providing the help and support for people in the community who suffer with mental health problems and their families.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £150.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£150.00	£0.00	£0.00

Section 3

Community Initiative Funding

786	8	£1,000.00	£0.00	Neptune Swimming Club	To provide private swimming sessions principally for senior citizens.	This was considered by the East Wallasey area forum (as the club meets within this forum area). The panel requested that alternative financial assistance be looked into for the club. The area co-ordinator contacted the Guinea Gap Baths and was informed that the club members could receive a concession, which will cover the amount requested from the forum, and the applicant has been informed of this.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
847	9	£676.00	£676.00	Age Concern Wirral	To purchase equipment for Keep Fit and Chair-Based Exercise Classes.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £676.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£676.00	£0.00	£0.00

Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

848	10	£2,000.00	£0.00	Bob Bird's Photographs	To purchase an A3 photo printer for exhibition quality images and funding for a book or DVD about New Brighton based on Bob Bird's photographs.	Panel considered this to be a good project but require further information from the applicant with regard to the ownership of the book/DVD, how and where it will be distributed and what will happen to any proceeds/profits from this. Application deferred to the next round of applications for further consideration once all above information has been received.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
849	11	£2,000.00	£0.00	Wallasey Amateur Boxing Club	To fund the recladding of the external façade.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as do not feel that this is a long term solution to the problem.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
850	12	£500.00	£500.00	Wirral Local Agenda 21 Forum	To run a community exchange day.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £500.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund on condition that the event is held within the New Brighton / Wallasey wards.	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00

Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

851	13	£100.00	£0.00	Wirral Cultural Diversity Group (WCDG) - part of Partnership for Racial Equality	To produce leaflets and posters to encourage the Black and Racial Minority population in Wirral to report racial incidents to the Police, Local Authority and other agencies.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as the Community Safety Team have a specific poster campaign running at present.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
852	14	£600.00	£0.00	Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability (WIRED)	To purchase one new heavyweight scooter for Liscard shopmobility to meet the need of an expanding membership.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as the organisation has received funding from other area forums.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
853	15	£300.00	£300.00	Wallasey Conservative Association New Brighton Branch	To place a flag and pole at the New Brighton War Memorial site.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £300.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund. The funding is to be passed to the Salvation Army with a request that they place a flag and pole at the New Brighton War Memorial Site.	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00

Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

919	16	£11,000.00	£0.00	Ashville Football Club	To engage young people and older people in training and re-training and to refurbish clubhouse to enable it to be open to more groups within the community.	Panel agreed to consider this application despite it being received after the closing date, but did not fund this as the forum has limited funding and aims to distribute this to as many local groups as possible. The amount requested is over half the annual budget for the three funds combined and would therefore not leave sufficient funding to help other local organisations.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
928	17	£325.00	£325.00	Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	To train all victim support staff and volunteers, and to cover travel expenses for volunteers, to conduct home visits to support victims of domestic violence.	Panel agreed to consider this application despite it being received after the closing date, and agreed to award £325.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	£0.00	£325.00	£0.00
Total Spend							£3,096.00	£2,325.00	£500.00
Total Carried Forward							£11,018.33	£675.00	£1,000.00

Section Four

Local Area Plan

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 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.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be members of the area plan sub-group. Members of the sub-group are

- Tracey Smith Area Co-ordinator
- Cllr Leslie Rennie
- Cllr Bill Duffey
- Rita Fraser Community representative
- Ron Jones Business representative
- Major Tipping faith representative

A meeting is arranged for 5th October 2005 at 5.30 PM, Town Hall, Wallasey. The purpose of the meeting is to look at the area plan and to through all issues under the ‘**Safer Communities**’ theme that was agreed at the last area forum. The sub-group will look at how we can address the issues raised, what partners we need to help us achieve this and will feed back to the area forum on any decision that are made.

Section Five

Youth Update

Section 5

Youth Update

Over the past 6 months the participation work on Wirral has involved the following:

UKYP:

the support of the current Members of Youth Parliament (MYP's) for Wirral. This work has included enabling MYP's to attend a regional conference in Hawkshead and a national conference in Leicester. As part of these conferences MYP's have to sign up to one of 7 constitutional issues. The Wirral MYP's have signed up to the teen pregnancy strategy and are in the process of applying for places on a teen pregnancy conference in Brussels. As well as this they are meeting with Brook Advisory to look at the educational material available for young people in Wirral. This information will then be shared at a regional meeting in Oct with a view to producing some material for the region. The MYP's are currently organising a Democracy Dinner as part of a national initiative to consult on issues around voting. The Dinner will be hosted on Sept 28th for a group of ten young people. The MYP's are currently involved in planning this years UKYP election.

Area Youth Forums:

the area youth forums have recently been involved in consultation on the Charter of Participation, their results have been fed back to the planning group. The forums are beginning to look at more local issues. Birkenhead forum is concerned with safety for young people and lighting in sports cages. West Wirral are concerned with lack of facilities in a local park. South Wirral would like to look at facilities for young people particularly the Youth Engagement Scheme and Wallasey are concerned with skateboard parks.

Young people from the youth forums have recently completed training to be Youth Evaluators, which will enable them to assist in monitoring the youth service. We have now joined British Youth Council and this will enable us to access national training and opportunities.

Next meeting of youth forums

- ◆ Wallasey Forum on Tuesday 27th September 2005 at Wallasey YMCA, Manor Road Wallasey.
- ◆ Birkenhead Forum on Thursday 29th September 2005 at Shaftesbury Youth Club, Mendip Road, Prenton.
- ◆ West Wirral Forum on Tuesday 4th October 2005 at Kylemore Community Centre, Kylemore Drive, Pensby.
- ◆ South Wirral Forum on Thursday 6th October 2005 at Bromborough Youth Club, Acre Lane, Bromborough.

Other initiatives: As well as the above participation work has also included:

- The development of a pack to skill up young people to be involved in club forums, management committees etc.
- Raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities of young people
- Provide resources to increase participation
- Plan the youth conference
- Plan the UKYP elections
- Involvement in a range of initiatives including hear by rights strategy, Beacon Status bid, Children's Plan consultation and regional and a national participation networks.

WIRRAL'S ANTI LITTER CAMPAIGNING SHORT-LISTED

At a glance...

- ❑ Council short-listed for national Association of Public Service Excellence award.
- ❑ Work with anti-litter campaigning to teenagers receives recognition.
- ❑ Ceremony to take place in Glasgow on Thursday, September 9.

WIRRAL COUNCIL has been shortlisted for a prestigious national 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. Last year all were involved in 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 campaign has been deemed so impressive that it has been shortlisted for the annual Association of Public Service Excellence awards taking place in Glasgow on Thursday, September 9.

Director of Technical Services David Green: "Wirral Council recognises that there is a problem with litter in the borough. This is a national issue, which our officers are keen to tackle locally. We have been working hard with local schools and the regional station Radio City (96.7fm) to come up with this innovative and effective way of educating young people not to drop rubbish and to take more pride in their local environment.

"Run-of-the-mill educational posters, leaflets and presentations aren't always effective when dealing with teenagers. By using radio, the web and live events we are more able to successfully communicate anti-litter messages to secondary school children.

"We were overjoyed that this campaign has received so much recognition – at both a regional and national level and look forward to attending the APSE awards ceremony."

The association organises the awards to highlight best practice among local authorities. Officers within Technical Services environmental team will be keeping their fingers crossed to see if they win the category for Best Sustainability initiative.

Wirral's anti litter campaigning has already received regional and national - recognition – winning the category for Innovation and Technology at the Merseyside 21 Awards and being short-listed for the national ENCAMS environmental awards.

Section Six

Streetscene update

Section 6

Streetscene Update

Streetscene;

The last co-ordinators report for this forum detailed the Councils preparation for the Open golf championship in 2006.

Whilst Hoylake will become the centre of interest, it is important not to forget the remainder of the borough, as no doubt many visitors will take the opportunity to explore the area.

A key factor when forming a view on an area can be the condition of the footpaths and roads.

The Government has set local authorities the target of ensuring there are no roads left, requiring structural maintenance by the year 2010.

A challenging target. However not one we are going to shirk, whilst most of you will be aware that reporting simple highway faults can be carried out through the Streetscene call centre (606 2004), it may of some interest to describe the detail behind the structural maintenance programme.

This is the method through which we plan and carry out our pro-active maintenance programmes for footway and carriageway renewal.

Each year external consultant's tender to carry out a highway condition survey. The successful contractor utilises the United Kingdom Pavement System (UKPMS). This allows the existing highway condition to be ascertained using either machine or visual inspection methods. These results are then analysed with the appropriate computer software which produces a list of roads and their condition, the worst being first.

At this point suggestions from the Area Forums, Members and officers are integrated where possible into the programme. The finished list is then presented to Members for approval.

To give an indication of the size of the programme, this year will see 49 footways reconstructed and a further 35 tarmac footways given a sealing coat to extend the working life. This will cost in the region of £1.6m.

For carriageways, 65 schemes will be completed; with 51 other sites receiving a sealing coat. The cost of the work is expected to be £2.1m.