

New Brighton and Wallasey

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

Tuesday 28th February 2006

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Minutes - Area Forum (New Brighton and Wallasey) Meeting - 11 October 2005

Present

Chair	PJ Hackett
Ward Councillors	WA Duffey, DJ Hunt, Mrs LA Rennie, Mrs K Wood
Community Representatives	Rita Fraser (New Brighton Community Partnership), Major Roy Tipping (Faith Representative), Mark Williams
Lead Officer	Derwent Derbyshire (Deputy Director of Technical Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Michelle Gray
Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT	Jane Harvey (Director of Public Health, Bir. & Wall. PCT), Jane Lunt
Merseyside Police Council Officers	Constable Dennis Evans, Inspector Ian Hassall, Sgt M O'Callaghan Jan Evans, Chris Jones (Area Streetscene Manager), Bob Little (Community Safety Team)
In attendance:	Chris McGovern (Wirral Healthy Communities)
Apologies	Inspector John Hogan, Ron Jones (President, NBTABA), Cllr A Pritchard, Martin Revans

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Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions

Minute Text :

The Chair welcomed 14 members of the public and members of the area forum introduced themselves.

Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinators report

Minute Text :

Michelle Gray talked about the Area Co-ordinator's report and gave an overview of the contents.

The Area Plan Sub-group had met the previous evening and decided to concentrate on the Safer Communities Theme.

There is a link from the Youth Forums to the Area Forum and young people are encouraged to come along to the forums.

There are two issues that a member of the public has requested be brought up at the meeting, the skateboard park at Tower Ground and the play area in Vale Park and by Earlston Library.

Councillor Hackett was able to provide information about these issues:

Fair Shares money has been secured for Skateboard parks on Wirral. One of

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the sites identified is Tower Grounds. There are people for and against the project. If people have objections they need to make these at or before the planning committee that will consider the application.

Roger Calvert from Leisure Services has made an assurance that the play area near Earlston Library will be painted shortly.

The area co-ordinator will contact the person who raised the questions with this information.

Councillor Wood said that she had made several requests for Wallacre Park to be cleaned up. There is graffiti, broken glass etc and the areas need to be looked at on a regular basis. At present this area is unusable by people with children. It has had a lot of money spent on it by New Wallasey Regeneration.

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

Councillor Wood requested that the word 'permanently' be added to the minutes of the last meeting in paragraph 5 of section one, on the last line referring to the 'dips'. Other than this the minutes were agreed as a true record.

Councillor Wood expressed concern about the closure of wards 6 and 7. There is all party agreement in opposition to this. She requested that a letter be written on behalf of the area forum to express their dismay over the closure of the wards and their concern that the Birkenhead and Wallasey Primary Care Trust did not listen to the majority of Wallasey residents.

Councillor Rennie is liaising with the Director of Education and Cultural Services in relation to the water logging on the playing fields at Wallacre Park, which is making the pitches unplayable. She will keep the area forum up to date on the situation. A member of the public said he understood that topsoil was going to be put on the pitches.

Councillor Wood asked the Police what arrangements are being made to deal with retailers selling fireworks and people using fireworks irresponsibly?

Inspector Hassall said that this fell into the area of anti-social behaviour. The Police have powers in relation to people selling fireworks and can remove them from under 18's. There is a marketing campaign and the Police will visit shops in the neighbourhoods who sell fireworks. If anyone experiences problems they should contact Moreton Police Station for the West Wallasey area and Wallasey Police Station for the New Brighton area. Merseyside Police see anti social behaviour as a high priority, it is a matter of trying to balance needs of young people with the needs of the community.

Merseytravel had been contacted in relation to upgrading the station at Wallasey Village. A letter had been received stating that it is not prudent to offer a date for Wallasey Village station to go into programme at present due to limited funding. The chances of a lift at the station look remote at present.

Cllr Hackett reported that 'Pride in the Proms' have appointed a project co-ordinator. There are three priority projects, Vale Park is one of these. Work will take place with Vale Park Community Centre and the Friends of Vale Park.

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Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- i. the area co-ordinator to forward information on the skateboard park at Tower Ground and the play area in Vale Park and by Earlston Library to the member of the public that raised these;
- ii. the word 'permanently' be added to the minutes of the last meeting in paragraph 5 of section one, on the last line referring to the 'dips';
- iii. a letter be written on behalf of the area forum to express their dismay over the closure of the wards and their concern that the Birkenhead and Wallasey Primary Care Trust did not listen to the majority of Wallasey residents.

Minute 3 - Public question time

Minute Text :

Q. - Barbara Hardcastle - What can the Police do about the sale, in local shops and car boot sales, of drug paraphernalia i.e. bongos, papers, herbal cannabis? A local school held a car boot sale and items like these were on sale there. A local shop is selling a substance to young people, which they believe to be skunk.

A. - Inspector Hassall - The use and sale of cannabis is illegal, however, the selling of paraphernalia is not a criminal offence and the Police have no powers in this matter. If people have any knowledge of drugs being sold they should contact the Police.

Tony Edgar - raised the issue of the commercial selling of cars on roads. This is causing a nuisance and is quite widespread.

Councillor Rennie is dealing with it the issue. At present there is limited legislation to deal with this but this is about the change. The Director of Technical Services is having discussions with the Inland Revenue regarding some of the people responsible running businesses from home. A letter has been sent to Mark Reaney, the Borough Solicitor, in relation to this. Councillor Wood said she was disappointed by the lack of progress being made on this matter. Derwent Derbyshire said he is liaising with the Council's legal department over the options available to the Council.

Dave Hanlon - The issue of a poor local bus service has been mentioned at a number of meetings, in particular the 407, 409 and 433. He requested that a representative from Merseytravel and Arriva be asked to attend the next meeting.

Councillor Wood reassured him that the local Councillors have been chasing this up.

Q. Daniel Fish - Why have the Police been in the area of Mossland School a lot recently?

A. Inspector Hassall - There had been a number of complaints about graffiti, anti social behaviour and damage to cars. They are trying to find out who is responsible (local people have reported that it is pupils from Mosslands School) and have increased police activity to try to stop the incidents.

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Member of the public - The Highways Committee held in July considered residents parking schemes for around 500 streets, for which residents may have to pay a charge for putting these into place. Is Virginia Road still on the list for residents parking? Local residents have been trying to get something done for 10 years. Traffic calming measures have been introduced, which included planting shrubbery that is now in a neglected condition. She felt that consideration should be given to limiting the number of cars per household.

A. Derwent Derbyshire - It will still be on the list if it was on it before. Committee has been considering how to advance these issues, and have agreed to ask cabinet how they would fund these schemes.

Councillor Rennie said that people could check the agenda for Cabinet next week to see if the item is listed for discussion. It will probably be considered in the budget for next year.

Member of the public - Raised concern over problem of emergency access and was re-assured that if need be emergency vehicles will shunt other vehicles out of the way to get to an incident.

Inspector Hassall - The Police are working with the Community Safety Team, which includes a representative from the Fire Brigade. He asked the member of the public to give him the details of the area and he will ask the Fire Brigade to look into the emergency access.

Member of the public - There should be a bus service linking the leisure strip i.e. Victoria Road, Floral Pavilion with the station.

It was agreed that this will be discussed further when Merseytravel attend the meeting.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that:

- i. Representatives from Merseytravel and Arriva be asked to attend the next meeting;
- ii. Inspector Hassall to ask the Fire Brigade to look into the emergency access issue.

Minute 4 - Presentation: Working together for Wirral's Children and Young People - Children Services Development Team

Minute Text :

The Chair introduced Jane Lunt to give a presentation on the proposed changes in the way services for children will be organised in Wirral to comply with 'Every Child Matters' the new green paper set up following the death of Victoria Climbié, that forms part of the Children Act 2004. This instructs all services to work together to deliver the following five key outcomes for children in Wirral:

- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution

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- Achieve Economic Wellbeing

A new green paper 'Youth Matters' picks up these issues for 14-19 year olds.

The services must integrate services and processes and join this up into one strategy. Now we have one single plan for children and young people, which all agencies will work to and work together on. It has been agreed that from April 2006 there will be one department - Social Care and Education.

The Children and Young People's Plan will be available by the end of this month. It will work in partnership with universal services (such as teachers and GP's) and targeted/specialised services (such as Youth Offending workers, Paediatricians, etc.).

Multidisciplinary Children's Services Teams, of 11 areas and 4 districts in line with the area forums, are to be set up to add value to what we are doing and the delivery of our targeted and specialised services. The aim is to ensure that the specific needs of neighbourhoods are taken into consideration when supporting children, and we are seeking advice on who should be involved in these (it may be that representatives from the area forums will take part in these district management services).

Copies of a consultation paper are available at the meeting and we would welcome your comments on this. There is a form to fill in at the back of the consultation paper (it is also available online). It is important that people should be aware and provide feedback by 30/11/05 (the end date for the consultation).

The following questions were raised:

Q. Has the system been tested?

A. All evidence was there in the Victoria Climbié report. It has been tested in a number of areas, which were designated Children's Trust Pathfinders. The information coming through is that this is working.

Q. Will it give access to medical records to co-ordinate this?

A. Health workers already have access to the information they need. An information sharing protocol is being drawn-up which will deal with issues of confidentiality. It is not always necessary for everyone to know everything.

Q. Will this require new resources and new employees?

A. It is about enabling existing staff to work better together, there are not the resources for lots of new staff. For example Sure Start and the Children's Fund are examples of multi-disciplinary teams which have been successful, this type or way of working can be used to plan for the new service.

Q. Who will be accountable (when something goes wrong the accountability always seems to be passed down)?

A. The Director and Lead Member will have responsibility.

Q. How will problems be reported, will it be by a parent or teacher?

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A. This will vary according to the situation. Once we are aware of a problem the first port of call would be the parents. We would try to get the parents to work with us to resolve the problem.

Jane Lunt was thanked for her presentation.

Minute 5 - Presentation on how Wirral Healthy Communities as a part of Healthlinks works for the community - Christine McGovern, Community Health Worker

Minute Text :

The Chair welcomed Christine McGovern, a Community Health Worker from Wirral Healthy Communities who gave a presentation about the work they are doing locally.

Originally the Healthy Communities project was funded through the National Lottery and was the local healthy living centre.

It has now moved on and has been absorbed into the Primary Care Trusts, working from Healthlinks. The project can now operate Wirral wide and not just in pre-identified areas. Workers will go where people have expressed a need for health promoting activities. The activities can take place in community venues, in the workplace or within NHS establishments.

Over 35 activities are available, and community and voluntary groups have taken on a lot of these. The aim is to encourage lifestyle change by taking part in activities, encouraging people to be responsible and promoting prevention is better than cure. Lifestyle is related to a lot of chronic diseases. We are trying to pass skills onto people e.g. expert patient programme – learning how to self-manage – national initiative, food education, staff training. The project trains people to go into the community and teach healthy eating. Any groups that would like help with should get in touch.

Christine McGovern was thanked for her presentation.

The following questions and points were raised:

Member of the public – have had personal experience through a family member of the expert patient initiative and thought it was excellent.

Q. Member of the public - Are groups mixed or related to a condition?

A. At the moment we are in the process of building up specific groups.

Jane Harvey said that patients becoming more able to speak up is a good thing and means that GPs have to keep up to date with information on conditions.

Minute 6 - Community initiatives fund

Minute Text :

Michelle Gray gave an update on CIF. Area Co-ordinators will provide regular progress reports on organisations who have received funding.

There are three funding areas available through the area forum, Community

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Initiatives Fund, Community Safety Fund and Local Agenda 21 Fund. The money that has been carried forward will be re-advertised in November. People in attendance at the area forum were asked to publicise the funding to any local groups they are aware of.

Minute 7 - Primary Care Trust update

Minute Text :

The Chair welcomed Jane Harvey. She explained that the two PCTs (listed below) have been in existence for two years. However the Government wants to re-organise and re-align their boundary with the local authority boundary, involving a move back to one PCT, and the PCT Boards are currently preparing a strategy for the change. The Health Authority is the monitoring body and there will be one for the North West area.

-Bebington & West Wirral

-Birkenhead & Wallasey

Service users should not notice any difference to the ways services are delivered.

Jane Harvey drew attention to the Your Health, Your Care, Your Say consultation. Copies of survey were available at the meeting. The aim is to find out what people want from their local health and social care services. It can also be accessed on www.nhs.uk/yoursay

Jane Harvey was thanked for her update.

The following questions and points were raised:

Q. Councillor Wood - How we will ensure that representatives on the new boards are local people? It is important that there are local people to speak up for local issues.

Ian Lewis - This is particularly important in relation to what has happened with the closure of wards 6 and 7, where local views were ignored.

A. Jane Harvey - Don't know what the guidelines are, but will find out and let the area forum know. The new board will not come into existence until October 2006.

Ian Lewis – Will the new board have powers to review decisions made by the current board?

A. Jane Harvey – No it will not.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Jane Harvey to report back to forum on the guidelines for the board.

Minute 8 - Date of future meetings

Minute Text :

The next meeting will be on 28th February 2006 at 7pm.

Hollins Hey was suggested as a venue but it was felt that this might be too expensive. St James Church in New Brighton was suggested and agreed as the venue for the next meeting, subject to availability. The area co-ordinator

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will look into the cost for Hollins Hey as a potential venue.

A microphone is needed for the next meeting.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that the area co-ordinator to look into the availability of St James Church, to arrange for a microphone for the next meeting, and to find out the cost of hiring Hollins hey for future forum meetings.

Minute 9 - Any other business

Minute Text :

Bob Little from the Community Safety Team gave information on the Crime Disorder Reduction Strategy. If anyone would like to discuss anything then they can contact the Community Safety Team, and the team will be available to do a presentation if required.

Derwent Derbyshire said that the area forum's assistance is required in providing a list of roads and pavements that are in need of repair. People should provide these details by 22nd November.

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm

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LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

Wirral has been chosen as a pilot area for the next round of LAA's. The purpose is to build much stronger links between central government and local partners with outcomes, objectives and targets set for the next 3 years. Key priorities for Wirral have already been established within the Community Strategy and partners own plans and strategies such as the Council's Corporate Plan, and the task now is to draw these priorities together and establish if there are any gaps and include some new additions if necessary.

The aim is to bring together LAA's and Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs) to deliver local solutions to local issues. There is NO additional money with the LAA (apart from a reward grant for delivering 'stretch' on certain targets which replaces the previous LPSA regime) but this is an opportunity for Wirral to achieve more with given/current resources. Basically, the aim is to 'pool' or align current resources across partner organisations. Within the LAA, Government have identified four 'Blocks' as priority areas, and the Council – with their partners in the LSP – have identified key officers to lead on each one, they are:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • Safer and Stronger Communities | Alan Stennard |
| • Healthier Communities and Older People | John Webb |
| • Children and Young People | Chris Batman |
| • Economic Development and Enterprise | Kevin Adderley |

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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.*

- **Worklessness**



The Access to Learning & Employment Project

A4e have recently secured ESF Funding to provide training in the pathways areas – these include: NVQs in : Business Admin, Elderly Care, Retail, Customer Service, Horticulture, Warehousing & Distribution and Childcare. We also offer Health & Safety Training and IT Training. We offer practical work experience in numerous locations including private, public and voluntary sector.

The programme is aimed at any unemployed person aged between 16 and 63 whether or not they are in receipt of benefits: persons who are already volunteering could benefit from NVQ to prove their competence. Anyone who has been long term unemployed could build up their confidence and motivation by learning new skills and meeting people in a friendly relaxed atmosphere. They could be placed on work experience close to their home in the heart of the community. If successful in obtaining employment the training does not stop until they achieve their goals. This is a two year programme, purely voluntary and last a minimum of 6 hours and maximum of 15 hours .

We are able to pay expenses for travel and childcare if appropriate

For more information call the ESF Project Team on 0151 652 8373
(some eligibility restrictions may apply)

Wirralbiz - Open for Everyone

22 September 2005

BUDDING entrepreneurs throughout Wirral will gain a helping hand in setting up their own business as a new start-up service was officially opened on 20th September.

Wirralbiz developed from a Business Start programme last year by Wirral Waterfront, with funding from the Northwest Development Agency, has proved so successful that it has been extended throughout Wirral, after attracting further support from Merseyside's Objective One Programme and Wirral Council.

The wirralbiz programme is provided free-of-charge to anyone who wants to start their own business in Wirral, regardless of their employment status, age, sex, disability or ethnic origin, and will be delivered from the new wirralbiz centre at Egerton House in Tower Road, Birkenhead.

The service provides full support beginning with awareness events for those with no experience of running their own business. This is followed by informal workshops and

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one-to-one advice to build business skills.

Based on an individual's specific needs and the proposed location of the new business, grants of between £500 and £2000 are also available. After the business has started trading, further mentoring and monitoring is provided, to help it develop as planned for the first 18 months.

Wirral's Mayor, Councillor Chris Meaden, is looking forward to officially opening the service. She said: "Wirral has always been a hotbed of new business ideas, and wirralbiz is just what is needed to help our next generation of entrepreneurs onto the road to success. I am delighted to have been invited to open such an exciting initiative."

Mike Raworth, who will be leading the delivery of the wirralbiz programme, added: 'This is a great opportunity for anyone in Wirral with a business idea to turn their dream into reality.'

And Phil Smith, General Manager of Egerton House, described the new wirralbiz centre "as an exciting time for Egerton House to again be the centre for Wirral business development."

The office alterations and the opening event have been sponsored by Egerton House (Wirral) Limited.

For more information, telephone wirralbiz on 0845 456 1796 or call in to Egerton House.

Neighbourhood

Project Update

Introduction

The Chief Constable, Bernard Hogan Howe, has called for a review of Merseyside Police's current Neighbourhood Policing model in order that we develop it to meet the needs of the community, and ultimately become the best police force in the country.

In 2001 Merseyside first started to adopt a Neighbourhood model of policing with the aim of putting local, identifiable communities at the heart of our business. We now need to take this philosophy a step further. The review has been asked to pay particular attention to the following-

Project Objectives

- Deliver Neighbourhood Policing through values, citizen focus, standards and performance
- Rewrite the Force Crime and Anti Social Behaviour Strategy (Can Do) to encompass appropriate standards for service delivery
- Deliver on our calls for service through a clearer call grading policy and a Neighbourhood aligned response function
- Ensure every community of Merseyside has an identifiable officer who is contactable, locally knowledgeable and accountable

National Drivers

Nationally the Home Secretary Charles Clarke MP has stated that the country needs "a much more responsive police service with neighbourhood policing at the centre". Merseyside is committed to becoming a more responsive police force and already has Neighbourhood Policing at the heart of our business.

To improve our responsiveness to citizen and community needs the review will also involve Implementing the Home Offices Quality of Service commitment that sets out five key goals

1. Making it easy to contact the police
2. Providing a professional and high quality service
3. Dealing with initial enquiries from the public
4. Keeping people informed
5. Ensuring the public voice counts

Benefits to Public and Partners

Neighbourhood

Project Update

The current plans involve developing the following improvements to our service-

- Police Officers will be dedicated to each electoral ward of Merseyside. This will give the public and local partners a greater level of service and contact than at present.
- Greater number of officers dedicated to responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for service.
- A police service that is based on values, performance, communities and standards that is meaningful to the public because they help set them and hold us to account.
- The policing of Merseyside will centre on achieving a professional service that promotes and builds public confidence and satisfaction.

The review is currently consulting with groups across Merseyside in order that we capture opinion from all communities. We will update you in the near future about the findings of this consultation and go into greater detail about how Merseyside Police is changing to improve its service



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It's Your Call – More Power in the Wirral's Hands to Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour

A new, dedicated actionline was launched today by the Home Office and Wirral Council to help local residents tackle anti-social behaviour and create a safer community.

The area is one of 47 specially appointed action zones around the country to offer the It's Your Call actionline. The new service will make it easier for local people to report anti-social behaviour and aims to increase access to council services, tackling problems such as nuisance neighbours, vandalism or graffiti.

Wirral Council has made a commitment to step up its response to anti-social behaviour by taking part in the Home Office initiative.

Home Office Minister Hazel Blears said:

"What we're saying today is simple – It's Your Call. Pick up the phone and make a difference. Together we can tackle anti-social behaviour. We have made good progress in tackling the unacceptable behaviour of the minority of people and reclaiming our communities for the law-abiding majority. We have brought in whole range of tools that are aimed at improving and modifying anti-social behaviour from acceptable behaviour contracts to parenting orders - providing the means and the expertise for police and local agencies to improve our communities and the lives of the people in them".

"But there is still more to do. We need the people of the Wirral to play their part too and take some responsibility for where they live. Engaging local people is vital to create strong communities and tackle unacceptable behaviour which can destroy people's quality of life and ruin neighbourhoods.

"It's Your Call is a new drive to bring public services and local people closer together, putting power in the hands of local people to get things done. The Wirral has made a clear commitment to step up their response to anti-social behaviour and I want people in these areas to come forward and report what is bothering them, make a call that makes a difference, and help make our communities better places to live."

Steve Maddox, Chief Executive of Wirral Council, said:

"By being part of It's Your Call, we are bringing the services that we as a local authority offer and the people of the Wirral closer together in a bid to tackle anti-social behaviour. The actionline enables residents to play their part and have a greater say in how they are governed and policed, and we are very proud to be involved in the scheme."

Advertising promoting the actionline number – 0151 606 2020 – will be displayed throughout the Wirral and residents will receive flyers through their letterboxes. Follow-up cards that explain what action has been taken on specific issues will be delivered.

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• Cohesive and Sustainable Communities

'PlayLikeBrazil' is Wirral's first Brazillian Soccer School and Coaching Academy. The idea is the brainchild of two local Wirral businessmen, Allan Maldon and John MacCarfrae, who have devised an ingenious way to help develop the education, skills and talents of local youngsters. Along with their team of professionally qualified coaches and training team, they offer a soccer-themed educational programme designed to build strong and positive relationships and promote good citizenship in the local community.

The exciting and flamboyant Brazilian style of football is embodied in the art of Futebol de Salão and this forms the basis for their innovative, soccer-themed educational package that is designed to engage young people aged between 5 and 15. By taking part in a programme of activities, boys and girls not only have the opportunity to develop their soccer skills, but also to attain Key Stage & Key Skill units linked into the UK National Curriculum that can be delivered in curriculum or non-curriculum time.

'PlaylikeBrazil' are collaborating with local schools and community groups across Wirral to help build strong and positive relationships and promote a sense of belonging, including Wirral Wardens, Beechwood Community Centre and representatives from Wirral Borough Council, Community Sports Development Unit. For further information about the PLAYLIKEBRAZIL product offer, go to their website at www.playlikebrazil.com or contact Allan Maldon on 0151 630 2368 or John MacCarfrae on 07939 201206.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in the Wirral

Our activities in the Wirral are very wide reaching and include many productive partnerships. We are, of course, still responding very effectively as an emergency service through our response from six community fire stations, nine fire appliances and one aerial appliance. Birkenhead Community fire Station is one of two operational bases in MF&RS that holds and mobilises our specialist equipment.

The senior management team on the Wirral strive to apply the Fire Service strategy within the various objectives of Wirral Borough Council.

Of the four blocks within the new pilot of Wirral's Local Area Agreement we contribute at a strategic level not only to safer and stronger communities but healthier and older communities and we have activities which effect the remaining two blocks of children and young people and economic prosperity.

There are general partnerships that all stations on the Wirral participate in. Wirral Heartbeat is present in all Fire Stations (except West Kirby) and provides equipment for the gymnasiums. As a charitable organisation it provides keep fit facilities for cardiac recuperation. This is a very popular partnership on the Wirral and other districts in the Service wish to follow suit.

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All station managers attend neighbourhood action groups. The District Manager chairs the Joint Action Group and participates in many council working groups and the Crime and Disorder Governance group.

Birkenhead Community Fire Station:

Fire Support Network use the station as their HQ for the Wirral. They provide volunteers to support community safety activities.

We have developed links with the PCT who now use the station for lifestyle groups, Start Right and Expert Patient.

The police will soon be using the station for their outreach work for volume property crime.

And we have set up a partnership with Tranmere Alliance.

Upton Community Fire Station:

We have set up a partnership with Helping Hands and have done work with the Beechwood Estate, particularly the winter emergency for the elderly project.

A new community garden has opened at the station that is being used for meetings and events by both the Fire Service and the community.

Wallasey Community Fire Station:

Practice Managers from across Wallasey are using the fire station for their monthly meetings.

There is a healthy lifestyle group for young people meeting weekly at the fire station. An adult lifestyle group will be using the station in the near future and we will also be welcoming an expert patient group.

Bromborough Community Fire Station:

The fire station chairs, hosts and co-ordinates activities for the South Wirral Action Group, made up of councillors and other partners including the police and Wirral Youth and Community Services.

We also host and chair the Emergency Planning Group for local business leaders who meet and receive input and development on emergency issues.

We have three officers working for a joint agency community safety team for Arson Reduction, volume property crime and schools arson and liaison.

The senior management team are keen to not only present to each area forum but wish to hold a position on the board as we are committed to improving community safety and well being.

We will develop new partnerships and initiatives so watch this space.

- **A Quality Environment**



CSV Environment
St Peter's College
College Rd, Saltley
Birmingham, B8 3TE
T 0121 328 7455
F 0121 328 7455
E naseem@csvenvironment.org.uk
www.csv.org.uk

- ♦ **A Quality Environment**

Environment Agency Action Earth 2006

1st January – 30th June 2006

Dear Colleague / Supporter

Environment Agency Action Earth 2006

We have great pleasure in announcing that the Environment Agency will, for the 3rd year running, be sponsoring the Action Earth campaign in 2006. CSV Environment is looking forward to this continued partnership, which will help support hundreds of practical environmental projects in England and Wales.

This year, thanks to the generous support from the Environment Agency, our national environment campaign will run from 1st January 2006 until 30th June 2006.

Planning an Activity

If you are planning an environmental project (that will take place between 1st January 2006 and 30th June 2006) or think you can come up with a good project idea, then please take part in the campaign. Last year, over 15,000 volunteers were involved in tasks such as clearing woodland, litter picks, planting trees and bulbs, creating footpaths, building bird and bat boxes, recycling schemes and a whole range of other environmental activities. This year we are looking for 750 projects in England and Wales to join us and get involved in improving the environment.

We are particularly keen to encourage projects from socially disadvantaged groups in both urban and rural areas or projects that target volunteers from such communities.

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We offer

- Grants of up to £50
- Promotional material including posters, stickers, flyers, certificates for volunteers and protective tabards
- Media toolkit
- Advice & support

Make a Promise for World Environment Day

Last year, over 3,000 Action Earth volunteers made pledges for World Environment Day. They were joined by thousands of other supporters in England and Wales who together have made real environmental changes.

As well as registering for Environment Agency Action Earth, why not make a “promise” to do something practical for World Environment Day 2006. Held on 5th June each year, World Environment Day is a people’s event with global participation. All over the world the day is celebrated with activities including street rallies, recycling and clean-up campaigns, concerts and tree planting.

The Environment Agency will be asking businesses and individuals to make an environmental promise and they want your help. Details about how ‘you can promise the earth’ will be sent to you soon so please pass the message on and together we can make a difference!

So what are you waiting for?

Fill in your project registration form and return it as soon as possible. You will be notified if your application for a grant has been successful within 3 weeks of receiving your application. The aim is to provide grants to all Action Earth projects but if response is high, grants will be allocated on a first come first serve basis, so please register your project quickly. (This letter and Project Registration Form can be photocopied and passed onto another group). **Please ensure that the Project Registration Form is completed fully.**

If you do not get a response within 3 weeks of sending your registration form then please call 0121 328 7455. If you have any questions or wish to discuss project ideas then please contact me on 0121 328 7455.

Best wishes

Naseem Akhtar

Action Earth Co-ordinator, Environment Agency Action Earth

T: 0121 328 7455 E: naseem@cvenvironment.org.uk

Organised by
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

Supported by



METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
February 2006

Area Forum

Proposed Supplementary Planning Document
Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Operators

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) can provide advice on adopted planning policies in the Unitary Development Plan and the emerging Local Development Framework. Once adopted it would be a material consideration when determining planning applications.
- 1.2 Following initial consultation during November and December 2005, the Council is now in the process of preparing a draft Supplementary Planning Document to provide guidance on how policy for mobile phone masts and other telecommunications apparatus will be implemented.

2. The Proposed Supplementary Planning Document

- 2.1 It is intended that the draft SPD will be structured to provide advice under six main topics:
- Legal Background;
 - Policy Context & Objectives
 - Siting, Appearance & Design;
 - Health Issues;
 - Pre-Application Discussions & Consultation; and
 - Information to be submitted with Applications.

Section 2

Local Updates

- 2.2 The first two sections would identify the legal parameters, the policy context and local objectives that would be relevant for determining proposals by mobile phone operators.
- 2.3 The section on siting, appearance and design would provide advice on how the policy requirement for keeping the environmental impact to a minimum would be implemented.
- 2.4 National planning policy in relation to health issues is outlined. The Government's firm view is that the planning system is not the place for determining health safeguards. Nevertheless, applicants will be expected to certify that all new base stations would comply with guidelines set by the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection.
- 2.5 The SPD would also identify information that should be produced by operators for pre-application consultation and when an application is made.

3. Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report

- 3.1 This appraises the potential effects of introducing the proposed SPD on the social, economic and environmental objectives.

4. Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 4.1 A more intensive check on the environmental consequences that may arise from introducing the proposed SPD has been undertaken, in consultation with English Heritage, English Nature, the Environment Agency and the Countryside Agency.
- 4.2 Following advice from the Countryside Agency, the Council has determined that a full environmental report is required into the effect on the SPD on the Borough's Landscape.

5. Consultation Arrangements

- 5.1 When the draft SPD has been prepared, all addresses on the Council's Local Development Framework data base will be contacted, along with members of the Area Forums, local amenity societies and the telecommunications operators.

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- 5.2 There will be a local press advertisement and a six week period will be given for public comment in writing.
- 5.3 The results of the public consultation will be used to inform the process of preparing the final document and reported to the Council before adoption of the SPD is approved.

Section 2

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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.

Helplist - Assistance to elderly/disabled people who are unable to carry their full recycle bags? Streetscene do offer a service to register you need to contact Streetscene and ask to be put on the "help list" 0151 606 2004 or email streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

Collection Days - The following link provides an online database of collection days, simply enter the road name and it will give the option of paper, garden waste or refuse collection days. It will show a collection calendar for the particular service which can then be printed out by clicking the print button to the top right of the calendar. www.wirral.gov.uk/be/recycling or 0151 606 2004 or streetscene@wirral.gov.uk Cheshire Lines Building Canning Street, Birkenhead CH41 1ND

Wirral Council - has expanded its kerbside collection services over recent years with the introduction of the Garden Waste Collection Service and the Tranmere/Rock Ferry Box Scheme. In the next 12 months things are set to be further improved with the construction of a new integrated waste facility being developed by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority on the former incinerator site at Bidston. The facility is set to transform the way in which residents in the area dispose of their waste. The new integrated the facility will be the first of its kind for domestics waste on Merseyside and will comprise of the following:

Materials Recycling Facility - A new facility that will be able to sort and separate dry recyclable materials (paper, cardboard, plastics, cans, glass etc..) The separated streams of materials can then be further processed into recycled products.

In-vessel Composting Facility - In-vessel composting takes place in sealed vessels where the temperature and humidity are controlled to produce compost from garden waste. The vessels will also be able to process unwanted kitchen food waste.

Household Waste Recycling Centre - a new centre will provide the public with access to recycle a range of household items. This facility is already available to the public.

Visitor Centre - A centre that will provide educational and awareness programmes for local schools colleges and the local community. The new facility should allow Wirral Council to collect recyclable materials from Wirral residents 'co mingled' in one container. The materials that will be included for kerbside collections are likely to be glass, cans, paper, card and plastic.

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Update on recyclable waste-Provided by Derwent Derbyshire - The Bidston Material Recycling Facility (MRF) is on schedule to open fully in April 2006 for the reception of recyclable waste including plastic, cardboard, paper, glass and cans. The new Bidston household waste recycling centre is now open to the public 7 days per week including bank holidays 8am - 5pm.

The Bidston site is already accepting residual household waste through its new waste transfer station, from Wirral refuse collections for bulking and shipment to other waste facilities for disposal following the closure of Bromborough Dock Landfill Site.

In-Vessel Composting:

The completed site at Bidston will include an in vessel composting plant that can convert waste food into high quality garden compost. During March and April 2006, Wirral Council will be converting 20,000 households across the Borough from garden waste bags to the new organic waste bins. The new organic waste bins will be similar to existing wheeled bins and they will be for the disposal of garden waste and food waste together. Households will be supplied with a small lidded, kitchen caddy container to collect food waste prior to disposal into the organic bin. The mixed waste will be collected fortnightly and taken to Bidston where it will be mixed with wood waste and processed through the composting plant. The conversion process will take around two weeks and the plant has the capacity to process around 10,000 tonnes of waste per year. The finished product will be suitable for use in the horticultural industry and for landscaping and will be marketed as a growing medium and soil improver. This scheme has the potential to divert around half a tonne of waste per household per year away from landfill and to convert it into a useful product.

Garden Waste Collection:

This is set to continue through Autumn and Winter

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Wirral Independent Re-cycling Enterprise

Furnishing Lives...

WIRE - Wirral Independent Recycling Enterprise - based in Wallasey, is a new and exciting social enterprise which aims to use unwanted furniture for the benefit of people across Wirral.

How? WIRE works by collecting items of unwanted furniture, free of charge, from any residence in the Wirral. The items are then taken to the WIRE warehouse in Kelvinside where their condition is assessed and any items that need it are repaired or restored.

This work is undertaken by furniture restoration experts who are also qualified trainers. They lead a team of trainees – many of whom are long-term unemployed - who benefit by learning valuable, new skills and getting crucial work experience. Together, the team brings items up to a usable standard.

The furniture is then made available to individuals and families who are referred via Social Services, Sure Start, the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Catholic Children's Society, the Ark Homeless project, the Citizen's Advice Bureau and up to sixteen other agencies that are in touch with socially and economically excluded people right across Wirral.

Providing this furniture has a remarkable impact on the quality of life of Wirral residents who would not otherwise be able to acquire decent furniture. For them, it turns a flat, room or house into a real home.

Laurence McIver, Operations Manager for WIRE said: 'With WIRE everyone wins - Wirral residents who have no further use for their furniture but have limited options as to how to dispose of it, disadvantaged people who have similarly limited options for creating a comfortable home and those looking for a way back into work whose options are limited due to lack of experience, illness or disability. WIRE helps to tackle all these issues in one project – it is joined-up thinking in action!'

WIRE is aiming to become integrated with Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council's ERIC service, which is the Council's own Bulky Household Waste collection service, in order to help meet the recycling targets set by European and National directives. This integration will mean an estimated increase of up to 30% in the amount of bulky household waste being diverted away from landfill – making a significant improvement in the protection of our local environmental resources.

In order to help to raise funds, items of furniture are offered for sale to members of the public at a very reasonable cost, which aids families and individuals on low or fixed incomes but who are not eligible for support by Social Services or the charitable sector to gain access to quality furniture which would otherwise be out of their reach

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For more information regarding the activity of WIRE, then please contact WIRE on: 0151 638 6691. You can also e-mail: info@wire-ltd.com or visit the organisation at Units 12 – 14 Kelvinside, Wallasey CH44 7JY.

Letssalvageit.com

DON'T TRAVEL TO TIP – SURF TO SALVAGE!

November 9 2005

LETSSALVAGEIT.COM SAVES UNWANTED ITEMS FROM BECOMING UNNECESSARY LANDFILL

letssalvageit.com, a website which advertises unwanted items for free for others to pick up and re-use has proved a hit with the environmentally-conscious, just one week after its launch. So attractive is this alternative to paying the council for removal, taking the items to the municipal dump or trying to sell them for a minimal return that nearly 100 people registered on the site within two days of it going live. The first item was salvaged within an hour of it being added to the site's inventory.

Elaine Clark, founder and director of Letsdev Limited who set up the site, believes that letssalvageit.com provides a welcome solution to a common problem. "Whether as a result of moving house, fitting a new kitchen, clearing out the loft, buying new furniture or treating yourself to a new television, there are always items that become unwanted or unnecessary.

"At this time of year especially, with Christmas on the way, people often get new furniture delivered or need to clear some clutter to make space for all the presents that they and their family will receive.

"More often than not, all of these items still have life left in them, or would at least be good for parts. And more often than not, they end up as landfill – with their owners having paid the council to take them away.

"letssalvageit.com is a greener, cheaper and hassle-free solution – advertise items for free and let someone take them away, perhaps for re-use, perhaps for re-invention. And, of course, while people are visiting our site, they might find something they need or could put to good use."

In its first week the site was responsible for helping a disabled lady find a washing machine. Her machine had just broken down and, with a large family and Christmas coming, she just couldn't afford to buy another one.

Any item can be advertised on the site from toasters, kettles and curtains to white goods, brown goods and interiors, such as doors, windows and fire surrounds.

Because letssalvageit.com is internet based, its audience is national, providing for a wide variety of items and a massive amount of potential salvagers. The site is not an

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internet messageboard, and protects its users' privacy, ensuring that only the potential salvager contacts the advertiser.

Visit www.letssalvageit.com For further Information contact: Elaine Clark, Letsdev Limited, 07840 755258 or mail elaineclark@letsdev.com

New community police station opens in Wirral

A new mobile police station opening in Wirral aims to make a positive impact on areas suffering high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Wirral's Community Safety Team has launched a new Community Police Station to help cut crime and anti-social behaviour.

The aim of the unit is for the community to see and feel reassured about the reduction in crime and anti social behaviour in their neighbourhood when the community police station is present.

Funded by Wirral Council and staffed by Police Officers, Community Support Officers, Council Security Patrols - and soon to be the base of a Community Development Officer - the fully functional unit will be deployed into areas suffering high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The unit will be moved approximately 6 times during the year remaining in those communities long enough to make a significant impact on the quality of life of residents in the area.

The station is currently based in Highfield Road, Rock Ferry, following numerous complaints from residents about anti social behaviour in the area.

Acting Area Commander for Wirral, Superintendent John Young said: "We fully support this initiative, it ties into our style of neighbourhood policing in that we are able to move and site the community police station in areas we have identified through intelligence as being 'hotspots' for Anti-Social Behaviour. We want to reassure communities living in these areas that we are taking positive action to address local issues.

"Dedicated officers will work from the station, getting into the heart of the community to address and problem solve local quality of life concerns and issues. We want to encourage local residents to speak with the police officers and use the opportunity to communicate any concerns they have and pass on any information about those involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour activities."

The Community Police Station will bring the work of Wirral's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to the communities that need it most. Equipped with CCTV cameras producing high quality images, a public enquiry office and linked to networked computers, the alarmed unit has all the facilities of a modern office.

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Leaflets will inform local communities of the unit's opening hours for public enquiries but the Community Police Station can be open at any time for use by the patrols working in that area.

The work of the Community Development Worker will be to build up public awareness and confidence so residents know where and who to turn to if crime levels rise once the Community Police Station moves on to its next location

Wirral Council Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Councillor George Davies said: "We see this Police Station as another opportunity to bring the work of community safety into the heart of Wirral's communities and to tackle the local issues that are blighting our resident's quality of life."

• Access and Equity

Vital transport funding is announced for Wirral

VITAL funding has been secured by Wirral Council to support transport improvement schemes across the borough over the next 12 months.

More than £5m has been awarded to the local authority from central government following a successful bid from the Merseyside Local Transport Plan which covers the period from 2006 to 2011. The annual settlement pays for schemes aimed at improving transport and supporting the economic regeneration of Wirral.

A total of £3.215m will enable junction and traffic management improvements and enhanced facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. An additional £2.5m has also been allocated to Wirral for the resurfacing and upgrading of roads, pavements and bridges as part of the borough's annual structural maintenance programme for next year.

Last year's funding has already seen a number of key schemes, including the signalising of Arrowe Park roundabout, being given the go-ahead in the borough. In addition the completion of Saughall Massie Bypass and improvements to the junction of Thornton Common Road and Clatterbridge Road, were among recent work carried out by Council highway engineers.

Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council, David Green said:

"The Local Transport Plan is already bringing about improvements to our transport network. This money will now provide us with a guaranteed income to continue the good work over the next twelve months.

Major schemes under consideration for development over coming years include the electrification of the Bidston to Wrexham Borderlands railway line. A road safety

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scheme is also being drawn up for the introduction of a roundabout at Thurstaston crossroads.

Equally as important as these large schemes are the smaller projects. Future LTP projects in the region will put an even greater emphasis on helping people make everyday journeys more easily – whether by bus, train, car, bike or on foot. Work is also anticipated to start in 2006/07 to improve the management of traffic at the junction of Gorse Lane and Dock Road in Wallasey.”

Results from consultations carried out in 2005

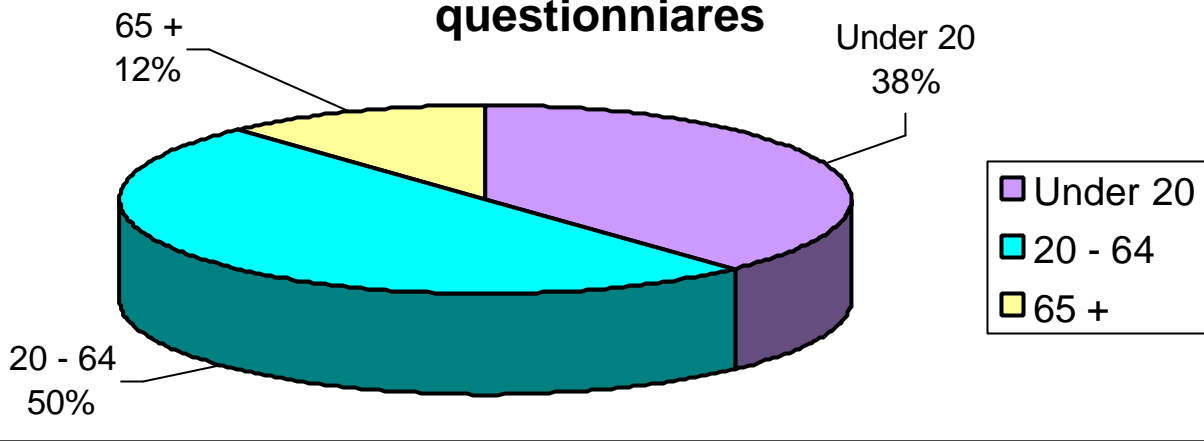
The Community Planning Team produced a questionnaire for the Tranmere Show, Wirral Show and the Wirral Voluntary & Community Sectors Network (WVCSN) Annual Conference held in 2005, to find out people’s views on the local area where they live, together with a questionnaire to find out the views of visitors to Wirral (for the Wirral Show).

We received 611 completed questionnaires, 116 from the Tranmere Show, 451 from the Wirral Show, and 44 from the WVCSN Conference. 36% of these were completed by Under 20’s, 53% were completed by 20-64 year olds and 11% were completed by over 64 year olds.

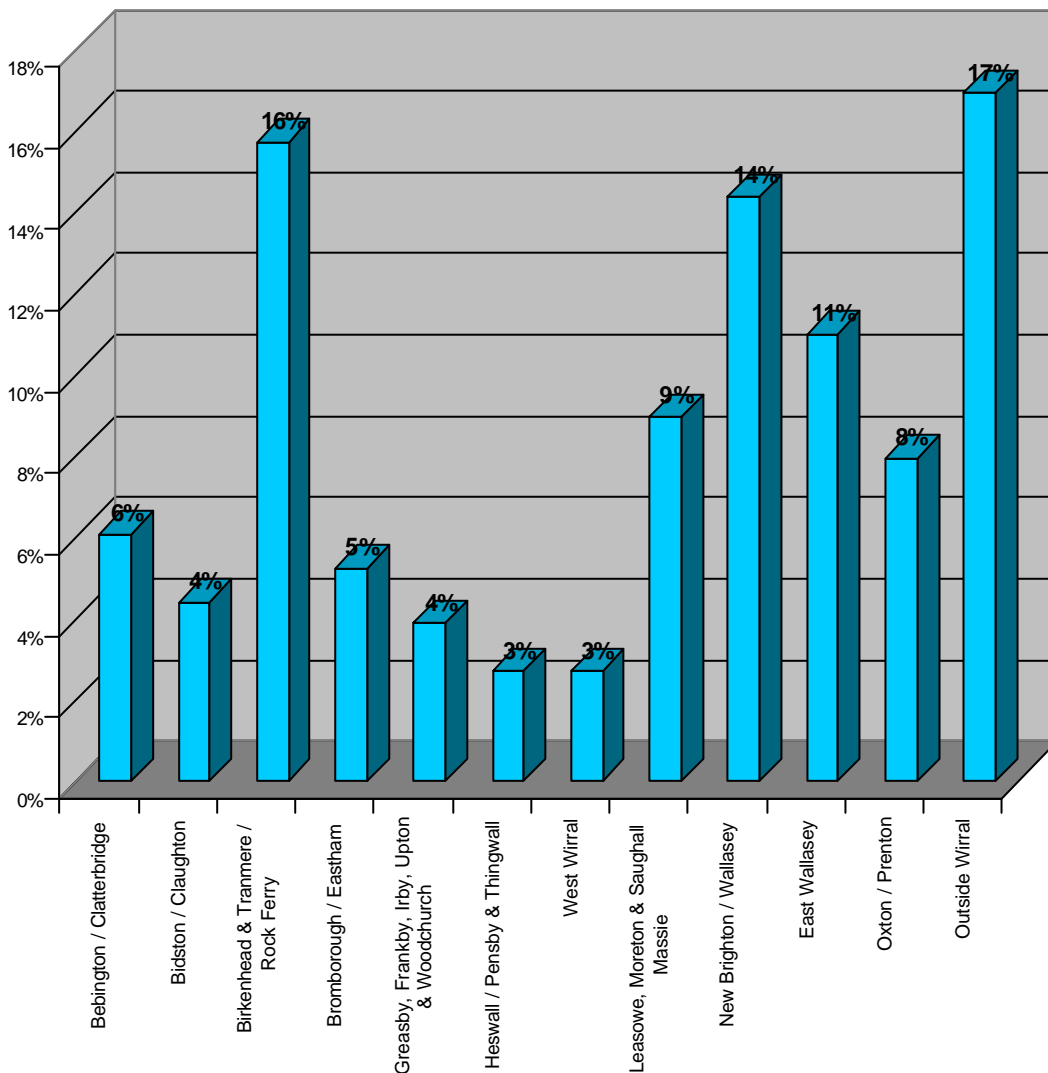
9% of those completing the questionnaires requested further information on community representatives, and 20% requested information on area forums.

The results from these questionnaires show that overall most people consider Wirral in a favourable light. Further detailed results are attached.

% of age groups completing questionnaires



% of questionnaires completed by the forum areas



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Local Updates

Results of questionnaires, for all age groups, to the following:

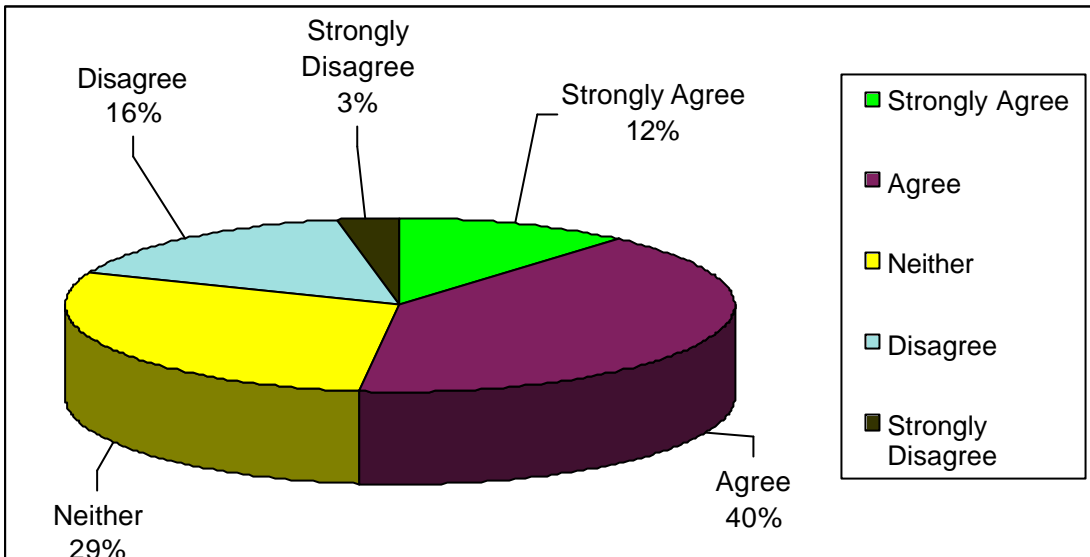
How well do you think the area where you live (within 10 minutes walk of your home) is for....

	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Transport (buses and trains etc.)?	39%	47%	5%	7%	2%
Local Services (shops, libraries, doctors etc.)?	36%	50%	8%	4%	1%
Jobs and Training (access to local jobs, variety of training courses available etc.)?	14%	39%	33%	12%	2%
The Environment (parks, open spaces, clean streets etc.)?	26%	43%	12%	15%	3%
Your Safety (crime levels, anti-social behaviour, road safety etc.)?	17%	42%	17%	17%	7%
Community Facilities (playschemes, youth clubs, luncheon clubs etc.)?	16%	37%	23%	16%	8%

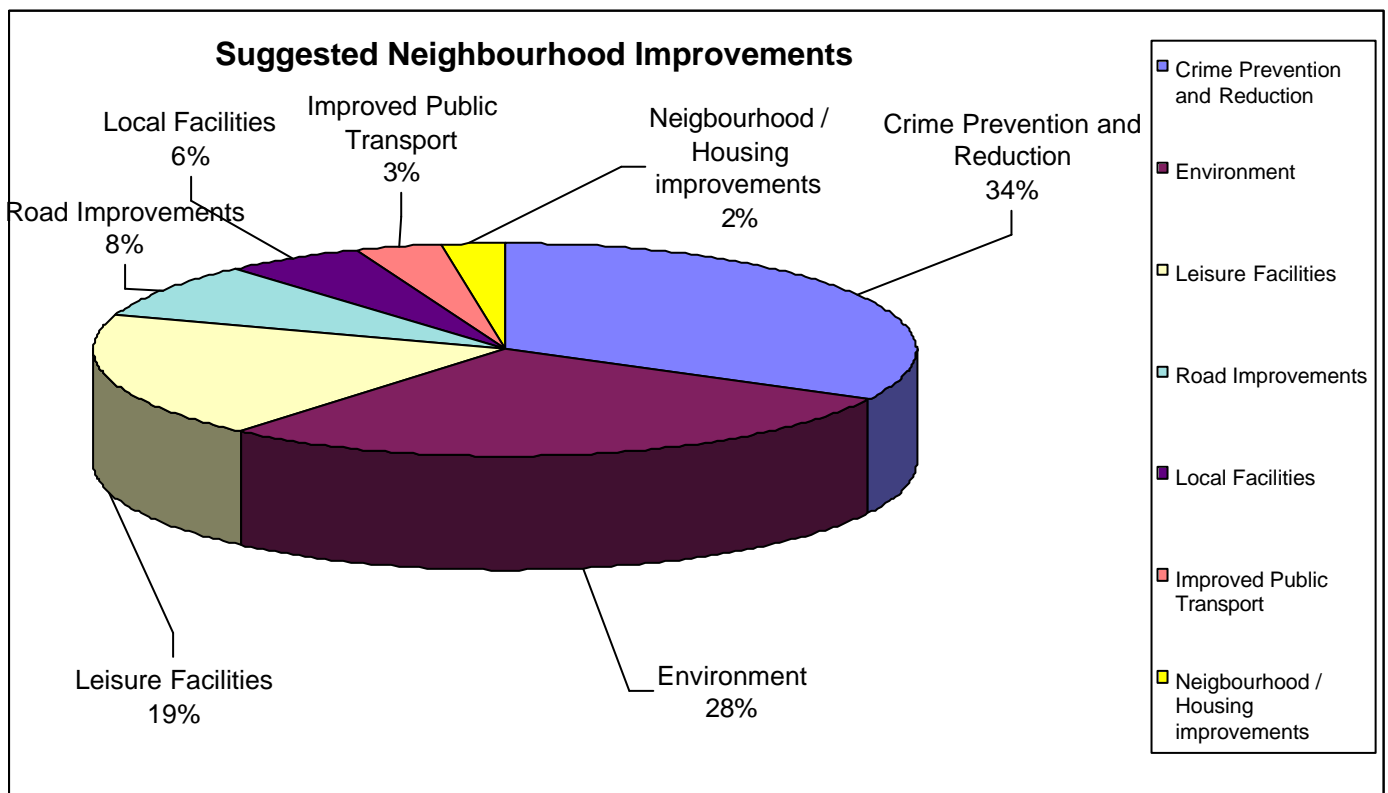
Section 2

Local Updates

Would you say that your neighbourhood has improved as a place to live over the past two years?



What do you think would be the best improvement to make your neighbourhood a better place to live?



Section 2

Local Updates

Results of questionnaires from the New Brighton / Wallasey Forum area to the following: How well do you think the area where you live (within 10 minutes walk of your home) is for....

<i>Under 20 year olds</i>	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Transport (buses and trains etc.)	50%	46%	4%	0%	0%
Local Services (shops, libraries, doctors etc.)	42%	50%	8%	0%	0%
Jobs and Training (access to local jobs, variety of training courses available etc.)	28%	24%	32%	12%	4%
The Environment (parks, open spaces, clean streets etc.)	27%	38%	23%	12%	0%
Your Safety (crime levels, anti-social behaviour, road safety etc.)	27%	31%	15%	15%	12%
Community Facilities (playschemes, youth clubs, luncheon clubs etc.)	15%	35%	19%	12%	19%

20 – 64 year olds	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Transport (buses and trains etc.)	47%	38%	11%	2%	2%
Local Services (shops, libraries, doctors etc.)	26%	51%	11%	11%	2%
Jobs and Training (access to local jobs, variety of training courses available etc.)	7%	38%	31%	21%	2%
The Environment (parks, open spaces, clean streets etc.)	27%	49%	9%	11%	4%
Your Safety (crime levels, anti-social behaviour, road safety etc.)	11%	49%	17%	21%	2%
Community Facilities (playschemes, youth clubs, luncheon clubs etc.)	7%	40%	36%	12%	5%

Over 64 year olds	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Transport (buses and trains etc.)	33%	50%	0%	17%	0%
Local Services (shops, libraries, doctors etc.)	25%	50%	0%	25%	0%
Jobs and Training (access to local jobs, variety of training courses available etc.)	0%	50%	38%	13%	0%
The Environment (parks, open spaces, clean streets etc.)	9%	64%	9%	18%	0%

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Your Safety (crime levels, anti-social behaviour, road safety etc.)	17%	25%	8%	33%	17%
Community Facilities (playschemes, youth clubs, luncheon clubs etc.)	14%	29%	43%	0%	14%

Section 3

Area Forum Funding

As the area forum will be aware there was some funding left over from the last round of Community Initiatives Fund (CIF)

- ◆ £11,018.33 in CIF
- ◆ £675.00 in Community Safety
- ◆ £1,000 in LA21

The Funding was advertised in December 2005 with a closing date of 11th January 2006. 31 bids were received.

The Panel met on Thursday 19th January 2006 to look at bids and allocate funding. The panel consisted of

Councillor Pat Hackett

Councillor Tony Pritchard

Councillor Leslie Rennie

Councillor Kate Wood

Councillor David Hunt

Rita Fraser - Community representative

Mark Williams - Community representative

Major Roy Tipping - Faith representative

Tracey Smith - Area Co-ordinator (advisory role)

The panel made recommendations and a report will go to cabinet on 2nd March 2006 for a final decision on the allocation of the funding. I will report back at the next area forum on the bids that were successful

Section 3

Area Forum Funding

New Brighton / Wallasey

Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
£1,000.00	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.	Report received from Bob Bird's Photographs - November 2005: Thanks to this funding we are now in the process of restoring / archiving Bob Birds pictures and have held a Miss New Brighton exhibition at Earlston Library and this has now moved to Birkenhead Central Library.
£300.00	Greenleas Junior Football Club	To purchase kit and training equipment and fund coaching costs in order to develop girls football in the	Report received from Greenleas Junior Football Club - September 2005: The funding was used to help set up two under 12 girls football teams, both of which will join our under 10's girls team in the newly formed Wallasey girls league due to start at Oxton Park in September. The funding was used to purchase kits and equipment.

Section 3

Area Forum Funding

£200.00	Wallasey Chess Club (incorporating Wallasey Junior Chess Club)	To improve the facilities and services of both Wallasey Chess Club and Wallasey Junior Chess Club.	Report received from Wallasey Chess Club (incorporating Wallasey Junior Chess Club) - September 2005: We are purchasing three chess clocks, donating funding towards club's membership booklet and hosting Wallasey Junior Chess Championships in April 2006.
£978.00	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	Report received from Wallasey Manor Tennis Club - October 2005: The purchase of the equipment has enabled us to run a full junior tennis programme and over 70 children from the local area have been involved in this.

13 December 2005

Section 4

Local Area Plan

New Brighton/Wallasey Area Plan Sub Group Meeting 5th October 2005

Present:

Inspector John Hogan, Inspector Ian Hassall, Sergeant Mike O'Callaghan, Cllr Bill Duffey, Major Roy Tipping, Sally Kew (Endeavour) and Tracey Smith area co-ordinator.

After a brief introduction from Tracey Smith who explained the relevance of the area plan sub-group. The group looked at the 'Safer Communities' part of the area plan, which was agreed at the previous area forum meeting.

Install more CCTV cameras and better lighting

It costs around £25,000 for each CCTV camera, they can take up to 6 months to install. People may feel safer if they are installed however as the area forum only has the CIF it would not be feasible to install CCTV cameras and the group talked about other ways of making people feel safe by installing better lighting etc. A suggestion was made to invite Victim Support along to one of the area plan meetings as they have funding and we may be able to tap into it

Introduce more neighbourhood watch schemes

Get information on it and advertise through the area forum that volunteers are needed. If people are aware of the Neighbourhood engagement schemes they might want to get involved and this will help towards a safer feeling in the community.

Re-introduce dedicated park wardens, particularly during the evenings in all parks in the areas.

There is a manager of Central Park but does not patrol it, Community patrol do go into the park but can feel intimidated if there are large groups of youths around. Invite someone from Community Safety team along to next meeting to talk about engaging with young people who hang around in the park and see if there is any kind of programme to engage young people.

Alleygating

Get the programme for alleygating from Mike Walker, crime figures are taken into consideration when installing alleygates so this needs to be taken into consideration if residents are asking for them. Only one person needs to dispute the need for them and they won't be installed. Some residents are leaving the alleygates open as there is only one key so this is defeating the object.

Section 4

Local Area Plan

Alcohol Free Zones/Pub Watch schemes and a code of practice for landlords and off licences.

There is a local bylaw, which needs looking at again next year for the installation of alcohol free zones there is a lot of paperwork involved and the local neighbourhood inspectors need to complete this. There are alcohol free zones in New Brighton already.

Pub watch scheme has been extended to New Brighton, more details are needed on this.

Deal with anti-social behaviour. Issue anti-social behaviour orders.

Provide more opportunities for young people to meet and reduce exclusion and possible crime or Anti Social behaviour

Police are working in partnership with the anti-social behaviour team. It takes a long time for anti-social behaviour order to be issued however most people when issued with one, the problem is resolved before they get to the prosecution stage. Members of the community should be encouraged to report anti-social behaviour and to complete a diary etc but must bear in mind that it can take a long time, sometimes there is an unrealistic expectation just because something has been reported it will be done immediately.

Get young people involved with other activities by contacting outreach youth workers and community safety team.

Introduce extra police resources in certain areas between April and September

Depending on funding there will be more Community Support Officers allocated to this area along with more neighbourhood police. From January 2006 a new model of neighbourhood policing will be rolled out. There will be 3 Police officers per ward who will deal specifically with issues within that area.

Next meeting to be arranged in March 2006. Also to invite Streetscene, Fire safety and young person engagement reps from community safety.

Section 5

Youth Update

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CRIME:

VICTIM INCLUSION PROJECT

Are you a parent of or do you work with children / young people that have been affected by crime aged 8-13? If so the VIP may be able to offer support. This is a voluntary project, that has been set up to support young people affected by anti social behaviour, crime, domestic violence & bullying among other issues. Any one involved with the young person who feels they would benefit from this service can refer to us.

If the service is accepted the young person will be allocated a Victim Inclusion Worker. The young person will receive one on one support, with an individual programme designed to meet their needs.

If you would like more information or a referral form please contact Eddie Patterson on 929 7756

This service is offered through Wirral Youth Offending Service and the Children's Fund.

Youth Inclusion Support Project

Are you a parent of or do you work with children / young people that may get involved with crime or anti social behaviour aged 5-13? If so YISP may be able to offer some support.

This is a voluntary project, set up with Wirral YOS and the Children's Fund. It has been set up to prevent young people getting involved in crime / anti social behaviour. Anyone living or working with a child / young person who feels this service would benefit them can make a referral.

If the service is accepted by the family / young person, they will be allocated a YISP key Worker who will see the young person once a fortnight, and offer support. The young person will have an individual programme designed for individual needs. The support on offer is time scaled to fit their needs.

If you would like any more information or a referral form please contact Eddie Patterson on 929 7756

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Arrowe Park roundabout scheme

Reasons behind the scheme

- An independent traffic study carried out in 1999 identified concerns about the capacity of Arrowe Park Roundabout.
- The location has experienced significant peak hour traffic congestion.
- This has had a detrimental effect on emergency vehicles going to and from Arrowe Park Hospital.
- Pedestrians, particularly the elderly and those with limited mobility, have had difficulty crossing nearby roads.
- The Council has received many requests for controlled crossing facilities in this area.
- The scheme will be completed before The Open golf championship comes to Hoylake in July 2006. However it must be stressed that this event is not the justification for the scheme. It is being introduced in the interests of road safety and reducing congestion.

Why does the roundabout need to be replaced?

- This scheme has not been considered in isolation. It will also address road safety and traffic congestion issues at the nearby Landican cemetery entrance, the Cherry Orchard and Arrowe Park Hospital.
- Accident records show there have been 23 incidents in which people have been injured within the last three years. Studies show 14 of these might have been prevented if traffic signals were in place at the roundabout.
- Improvements to the existing roundabout were ruled out because it would increase the speed of traffic through the junction and worsen pedestrian access.
- Signalising the existing roundabout is not possible as there is insufficient land to accommodate a safe and reasonable design.

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Benefits of a signal controlled junction

- A signal-controlled junction improves traffic flow and offers enhanced facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and buses.
- Timings of the traffic signals can be controlled and adjusted from a computer system to meet the demands of the traffic.
- This is the most cost-effective means of reducing peak time traffic congestion.
- There are no issues regarding the purchasing of land.

Landscaping

- We appreciate that members of the public remain concerned about the removal of the roundabout and the perceived loss of what is considered to be an attractive local feature. However the proposed scheme does include larger areas for potential landscaping, in excess of those currently present. We aim to make the best use of these areas to compensate for the loss of the existing planted roundabout feature.
- Wirral Council has consulted widely on these plans throughout June and July. This consultation included extensive coverage in regional and local press, a mobile 'roadshow' visited by more than 600 people, presentations at community meetings including Area Forums, a letter drop to over 200 community representatives in the immediate area and displays within the hospital.
- Plans were well received during the consultation period. Just 26 comment forms and two letters were returned – 17 of these expressed support for the scheme, four requesting more information and five objecting.
- The proposed scheme was approved by the Council's Environment and Transport Select Committee on August 1, 2005 and Cabinet on September 22, 2005.

Traffic management

- The road and roundabout will remain open to traffic at all times during the work. There will be some disruption, but traffic management plans have been put in place to advise motorists about alternative routes. Access to and from the motorway network is recommended either via Clatterbridge or Moreton Spur whenever possible.

Scheme costs

- The Arrowe Park Roundabout improvement scheme will cost an estimated £1.1m. The project is being financed from central Government funding allocated as part of Wirral's Local Transport Plan settlement.

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New powers to tackle street trading

Enforcement officers have announced new plans to stop goods being sold illegally at the roadside.

The Council is seeking powers that could see all roads designated as needing consent from the local authority for street trading. Certain areas in central Birkenhead are already designated prohibited streets, from legislation approved back in the 1980s. Enforcement officers now hope to extend these powers to cover all streets across the borough under Schedule 4 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982.

Street trading covers a variety of activities – including cars for sale at the roadside, the sale of cooked food and drinks from mobile catering units the sale of meat, dairy products, household goods, flowers, plants, Christmas trees, etc. from vehicles parked on the road.

These problems are ones that the Council has been trying to address for a number of years. If approved, the new system will see the introduction of a street trading policy and businesses operating in a road without Council consent will face enforcement action and be liable to a fine up to £1,000.

The move comes after a review into the enforcement service, carried out by highway officers and Council solicitors. Proposals are now due to be considered by Members at the next meeting of the Environmental and Transportation Select Committee.

Shaun Brady from Highway Maintenance is currently working on a wider enforcement strategy for the Council. He said: “We share the concerns of Wirral residents over cars for sale on the road and other street trading activities. We have a responsibility to keep our roads clean, safe and well maintained – and cars for sale have proved an environmental nuisance that we are not prepared to tolerate.

“Previously the Council has been limited in its powers to take action against offending car owners. We have looked long and hard at the legislation we already have in place. The authority is within its rights to prohibit the sale of any goods on the public highway without Council consent.”

‘Zero tolerance’ approach to litter dropping

Wirral Council has issued approximately £13,700 in fines for 274 litter dropping offences within the last 12 months.

A further £1,850 in fines have been handed out by the courts for a combination of fly-tipping offences and failing to pay the Fixed Penalty Notices for litter dropping.

The latest fines to be handed out by the courts were issued on October 13. George Booth from Harrowby Road, Birkenhead was fined £500 plus £150 costs at a hearing before Birkenhead Magistrates. The court heard how Mr Booth had been caught on CCTV fly-tipping at Old Gorsey Lane in Wallasey last January 31, 2005. Natalie

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Hyland from Bedford Road in Rock Ferry was also fined £100 plus costs, after leaving a box of rubbish in an entry by Corinthian Street and Bedford Road on June 7 this year.

Director David Green said: 'We have adopted a 'zero tolerance' approach to litter louts and have a team of enforcement officers patrolling the borough's streets in a bid to catch and fine those responsible for such behaviour.

'Our officers will use the full weight of the law to stop people dumping rubbish, and would-be perpetrators should be warned that we have a variety of tools at our disposal to stop the culprits, including surveillance equipment in known hotspots for litter louts and illegal dumping. Anyone who has dropped or dumped rubbish in the past should think very carefully about doing it again. It will only be a matter of time before they are caught out by our enforcement officers,' he added.

The Council is considering plans to further expand its enforcement team, giving more of its patrol staff powers to issue FPNs.

Cycle network expands

More commuters can cycle to work thanks to the launch of two new cycle routes in Wirral.

The new signed routes run between Wirral International Business Park in Bromborough and the Merseyrail stations at Eastham Rake and Port Sunlight. Primarily designed to link commuters with their places of work, they will also link in with routes to Eastham Country Park for leisure use. A third route running from Bromborough Rake station is also nearing completion.

Dave Green said: "These routes are another step towards integrated transport on Wirral, helping to provide real alternatives to the car and improve safety for cyclists." The new routes have been welcomed by the Wirral branch of Merseyside Cycling Campaign, which has congratulated the council on the new signage in particular. Engineers worked in consultation with Eastham Village Conservation Trust, using cast iron finger posts signs to fit in with the historical local character. Recycled materials were used for parts of the route.

For more information about this, or other cycle routes in the borough, please contact Wirral Council's cycling officer Cathy McNulty on 606 2368.

Plans to remove footbridges

WIRRAL Council is starting work on a £1m package of environmental improvements for the A41 corridor, including major schemes in the Eastham and New Ferry areas.

The project includes proposals to remove two steel footbridges in Mill Road, Bromborough and Carlett Park, Eastham. Built in the 1960s, the Council faces costs of up to £70,000 to repair the two structures.

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Officers have been monitoring the two bridges and have determined that both now have low pedestrian usage. A recent traffic study has shown nearby pedestrian crossing facilities are being used in preference to the footbridges. The structures are also perceived by some people to be unsightly and may have the potential for attracting anti-social behaviour.

Vital funding is secured for transport schemes

Vital funding has been secured by Wirral Council to support transport improvement schemes across the borough over the next 12 months.

More than £5m has been awarded to the local authority from central government following a successful bid from the Merseyside Local Transport Plan which covers the period from 2006 to 2011. The annual settlement pays for schemes aimed at improving transport and supporting the economic regeneration of Wirral.

A total of £3.215m will enable junction and traffic management improvements and enhanced facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. An additional £2.5m has also been allocated to Wirral for the resurfacing and upgrading of roads, pavements and bridges as part of the borough's annual structural maintenance programme for next year.

Last year's funding has already seen a number of key schemes, including the signalling of Arrowe Park roundabout, being given the go-ahead in the borough. In addition the completion of Saughall Massie Bypass and improvements to the junction of Thornton Common Road and Clatterbridge Road, were among recent work carried out by Council highway engineers.

Director David Green said: "The Local Transport Plan is already bringing about improvements to our transport network. This money will now provide us with a guaranteed income to continue the good work over the next twelve months.

"Major schemes under consideration for development over coming years include the electrification of the Borderlands Bidston to Wrexham railway line. A road safety scheme is also being drawn up for the introduction of a roundabout at Thurstaston crossroads.

"Equally as important as these large schemes are the smaller projects. Future LTP projects in the region will put an even greater emphasis on helping people make everyday journeys more easily – whether by bus, train, car, bike or on foot. Work is also anticipated to start in 2006/07 on improvements to the junction of Gorse Lane and Dock Road in Wallasey."

Having a say on Rights of Way in Wirral...

TECHNICAL Services is encouraging more residents to 'have a say' about the Rights of Way network in the borough.

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Walkers have access to more than 70 miles of public footpath in Wirral. A Merseyside-wide forum has now been established to help make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable. The Local Access Forum meets every three months and includes representatives from the local authority, land managers and user groups.

Jim Donaldson from Highway Maintenance division explained: "Together, with land owners, the Council shares a joint responsibility to look after Wirral's Rights of Way network.

"We already have good contacts with the Ramblers Association and the British Horse Society - and through this new Forum we hope to reach wider audiences and encourage more people to make use of the many countryside footpaths we have here in Wirral. We welcome feedback from members of the public to register concerns over surface conditions, overhanging trees and hedges, mud and water problems, blocked ditches or obstructions. This helps our Rights of Way officer to identify if we need to take enforcement action or include a maintenance scheme in our improvement plan."