

New Brighton and Wallasey

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

6th June 2006

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Section One

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes - Area Forum (New Brighton and Wallasey) Meeting - 28 February 2006

Present

Chair	PJ Hackett
Ward Councillors	WA Duffey, DJ Hunt, Mrs LA Rennie, Mrs K Wood
Community Representatives	Rita Fraser (New Brighton Community Partnership), I Lewis , Major Roy Tipping (Faith Representative), Mark Williams
Business Representative	Martin Revans
Lead Officer	Mark Camborne (Corporate Health, Safety and Hazards Manager)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Andrew Brannan
Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT	Jane Harvey (Director of Public Health, Bir. & Wall. PCT), Dr Shymal Mukherjee, Medical Director, Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT
Merseyside Police	Inspector John Hogan, Sergeant Mike Smith
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Ken Ross
Merseytravel	Billy Bradshaw
Council Officers	Eddie Fleming, Senior Planning Officer, Forward Planning, Chris Jones (Area Streetscene Manager), Bob Little (Community Safety Team)
Apologies	Derwent Derbyshire - Deputy Director of Technical Services, Cllr A Pritchard

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Arrangements in Wirral'

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Minute 8 - Any other business

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Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions

The Chair, Councillor P J Hackett, welcomed Area Forum members and 47 members of the public to the Area Forum meeting in New Brighton. He introduced and welcomed Ken Ross, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, to his first meeting of the Area Forum.

The Chair introduced Andy Brannan, new Area Co-ordinator for the New Brighton and Wallasey Area Forum.

Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinators report, including minutes of previous meetings and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of 11 October 2005 had been incorporated into the Area Co-ordinator's report.

Matters arising from previous minutes:

The Section 30 Order in Wallasey Village and surrounding area [minute 3]: In response to a query from Councillor Wood, Sgt. Mike Smith explained that a Section 30 Dispersal Order had applied for the past two weeks in the area surrounding the Mosslands School. The Order prohibited youths from congregating in the area in groups of more than two. Police Officers and CSOs were enforcing the Order and so far the area had remained reasonably quiet in the evenings.

Commercial selling of cars on roads [minute 3]: Councillor Rennie reported that the Council was about to introduce local legislation that would prohibit roads being used for any commercial purposes.

Lack of public transport provision [minute 3]: Councillor Wood referred to the poor local bus service in several areas of Wallasey. She expressed disappointment that a representative from the bus company, Arriva, had not responded to the invitation to attend the Area Forum meeting.

Request for Microphones [minute 5]: Councillor Wood reiterated the requests made at previous meetings that a microphone or amplifying system be made available at all meetings of the Area Forum.

The Area Co-ordinator presented his report under the sections local updates, area forum funding, local area plan, youth update and streetscene.

The Area Forum received updates under the headings:-

Consultation on Mobile Phone Masts:

Eddie Fleming, Senior Planning Officer, explained that the Council was currently reviewing its policies and procedures for dealing with applications from mobile phone operators for mobile phone masts and other telecommunications

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apparatus. The initial consultation period had ended on 31 December 2005, and the feedback received was being used to formulate a draft Supplementary Planning Document that would give guidance for dealing with applications at a national, regional and local level. The document would identify the legal parameters and offer advice on the siting, appearance and design of the telecommunication equipment in order to minimise the environmental impact. It would also contain advice on health issues as outlined in national planning policy and on the information that operators should produce for pre-application consultation.

All addressees on the Council's Local Development Framework database, members of the Area Forums, local amenity societies and the telecommunications operators were being consulted on the draft Supplementary Planning Document. The outcome of the consultation would inform the preparation of the final document which would be presented to the Council in March 2006. Information on the consultation arrangements had been given on pages 22/24 of the Area Co-ordinator's report.

Community Initiatives' Fund:

The Panel's recommendations for the allocation of the remaining funding from 2005/06 would be submitted to Cabinet in March 2006. Successful bids would be reported to the next Area Forum meeting.

Local Area Plan:

The Area Co-ordinator's report included the minutes of the Area Plan Sub Group meeting of 5 October 2005. The next meeting, to refresh the plan and ensure it meets the needs of the area, would be held in March 2006.

Questionnaire - Equal Opportunities:

The Area Co-ordinator invited members of the public to complete the questionnaire, Promoting Equal Opportunities at Area Forums. The responses would help the Council to ensure that Area Forums continue to be representative of all local residents.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- i. the minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 11 October 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.
- ii. Eddie Fleming be thanked for the presentation on mobile phone masts.
- iii. the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for his report.

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Minute 3 - Public question time

Issues raised by members of the public: -

Wallasey Village Community Partnership - Newsletter:

The newsletter, 'Spotlight' was excellent, and thanks were due to those who produced it, but asked why a contribution from the Conservative Party had been included, as believed the Partnership to be a non-political organisation.

Ian Lewis expressed similar concerns about the publication which, he understood, was part-funded by the Local Authority and contained information on behalf of one political party.

Another member of the public stated that he was involved in the production of the newsletter. He explained that the inclusion of the article had been an oversight, which had been brought to attention after publication. He apologised for any offence this may have caused and gave an assurance that no such articles will be included in future editions of the Newsletter.

Egremont Promenade - vehicles:

Concerns were raised about joy Riding / unauthorised vehicle traffic on the promenade between Seacombe and New Brighton and about parking around the access streets. These problems could be solved by installing automatic rising bollards along access points to the promenade and putting yellow lines in the parking areas.

Inspector Hogan - Police Officers would be instructed to target the Promenade this coming weekend. Motorists using the Promenade illegally would be stopped and issued with penalty notices. He added tickets had already been issued and, under new powers, vehicles without insurance had been seized. The local angling clubs had been contacted and advised of the situation. Rising bollards needed to be installed in order to address the issue permanently.

Chris Jones (Streetscene Manager) advised the Forum that the Technical Services Department was currently working on a number of traffic schemes to prevent unauthorised access to the Promenade. Mark Camborne added that rising bollards for all access points to the promenade would not be the only alternative and other measures may be far more suitable and cost a lot less to both install and maintain. Mark agreed to report back to Technical Service's to seek an up to date response on the issue.

Egremont Promenade - Lifebuoys:

The ropes were missing from many lifebuoys – children removed the ropes to make tree swings.

Tony Jones, as a member of the public, replied that the joint partnership initiative, Safer Wirral, had introduced a whole range of strategies to address vandalism

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along the Promenade, with considerable success. A publicity campaign would be launched before Easter.

Various roads in the Harwood Drive area have turning areas, but these areas, which are unmarked, are used as parking areas.

Football facilities:

Recent drainage and sewerage work on Wallacre Road recreation area had worsened the situation, with water draining from one pitch on to the next and forming puddles, resulting in two of the pitches being out of use for the whole of the season. The situation was totally unacceptable to local football teams and their opponents. The gullies in School Lane were choked and needed clearing.

Mark Cambourne - Jim Lester, Cultural Services Department, would be asked for an update on the matter.

Parking on pavements:

Many cars are parked on pavements, causing pavement flags to sink and crack. A 40-ton juggernaut lorry had been parked overnight on the pavement in Harrison Drive.

Inspector Hogan - The Police will log such incidents when reported and take action if the vehicle is causing an obstruction. The Local Authority is in the process of implementing a bye-law that enables action to be taken whether vehicles parked on pavements are causing an obstruction or not.

Chris Jones - The Local Authority has limited powers under the Highways Act to trace the vehicle owners and to re-charge the cost of reinstatement work to the pavement. Incidents of inappropriate street parking should be reported to the Streetscene contact centre. (0151 606 2004)

Parking Survey:

Two years ago, neighbourhood representatives petitioned for measures to resolve parking problems, pavement parking and the lack of parking provision. There had been no outcome to the very expensive survey which had been undertaken. A request was made for a resolution to the situation, particularly in relation to child safety and pavement parking.

Chair - Flower beds had been installed about 15 years ago to narrow the roads in the area and deter speeding vehicles and motorcyclists. The removal of the flowerbeds would be very expensive, and needed careful consideration.

Dedicated car spaces:

Victoria Upper Parade has dedicated car spaces, but the lower one has not.

The Chair reminded members of the public that the inquiry into the development of New Brighton was ongoing, and that the public still had the opportunity to ask

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questions or make their views known.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that:

- i. Inspector Hogan to arrange for the Promenade to be targeted by Police Officers this coming weekend.
- ii. Mark Camborne to request updates from Jim Lester (Cultural Services Department) on football facilities and from Technical Service on driving / parking at the Promenade.
- iii. The Area Co-ordinator to refer issues re parking survey/ parking problems and dedicated car spaces to the Technical Services Department.

Minute 4 - Merseytravel / Arriva question and answer session

The Chair welcomed a deputation of residents from Wallasey Village to the meeting.

Members of the public raised a series of questions relating to Arriva's intention to re-route and withdraw some bus services in Wallasey.

C Thomas, a resident of Warren Drive requested that her concern, and those of other residents in the area, about the lack of a bus service along Harrison Drive be minuted. A new bus stop had been installed in Warren Drive at great expense but was not being used because the bus service was non-existent.

Billy Bradshaw explained that Merseytravel was operating a rolling programme for the installation of high quality bus shelters on all major bus corridors in Merseyside.

Councillor Rennie expressed extreme disappointment that the bus operator, Arriva, had not responded to the invitation to be represented at the meeting. Residents on the Kings Park Estate in particular had been misled by the consultation arrangements, but had received reassurance that a representative from Arriva would be present this evening. On behalf of the Area Forum, she expressed general dissatisfaction with the level of consultation on the proposed changes to the transport system.

The Area Co-ordinator stated that Arriva had indicated that 'bus surgeries' had been held, that they had been satisfied with the level of turnout and that a representative was not available to attend this evening's meeting. Details of the customer hotline number would be circulated at the end of the meeting.

Billy Bradshaw (Merseytravel) indicated that he was unable to answer specific questions on the service operated by Arriva, but would feed back people's concerns to the organisation at the very earliest opportunity. Merseytravel operate advisory panels, which are attended by the various bus operators.

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Merseytravel cannot provide or fund services in direct competition with the bus operators. It can provide a 'socially necessary' service, eg. during early mornings or evenings, when bus operators consider a service is not financially viable. The limits on funding inevitably meant that some areas would be excluded from public transport provision.

Councillor Wood was aware that some areas of Merseyside received a subsidised transport service. She made a special plea for the subsidy to be extended to areas of Wallasey where the public transport service was being curtailed or withdrawn.

Councillor Rennie offered to receive the petitions from residents in Harrison Drive, Mockbeggar Drive and Wallasey Village, and arrange for these to be presented publicly at the Council meeting on 1 March, and forwarded to ARRIVA.

Billy Bradshaw continued that as part of the second phase of the local transport plan Merseytravel was lobbying the Government to allow access to quality bus contracts. Under this arrangement, Merseytravel would own the bus corridors and operators would tender to operate strictly in accordance with Merseytravel's terms and specifications.

Why is glass used in bus shelters even though they are constantly smashed?

Billy Bradshaw explained that glass was the most commonly used material for the shelters for reasons of people's personal safety, to enable people to be visibly seen and to enable them to see out of shelters. Polycarbonate was used only as a last resort when the glass had been broken three times.

In bringing a lengthy discussion to a conclusion, the Chair proposed that a special meeting of the Area Forum be arranged on a date when both ARRIVA and Merseytravel can guarantee that their representatives will be available to answer the questions raised this evening.

Billy Bradshaw offered to facilitate attendance at the meeting by providing transport to the venue for members of the public if needed.

The deputation of residents left the meeting.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- i. Billy Bradshaw to take the issues raised this evening to the Merseytravel Advisory Panel in an endeavour to obtain suitable responses from the bus operator, and to provide transport for the public to special meeting if required.
- ii. Councillor Rennie to ensure that petitions received be presented publicly at the Council meeting on 1 March, and forwarded to ARRIVA.
- iii. That the Area Co-ordinator:

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- write to ARRIVA expressing the Area Forum's disappointment that the company was not represented at the meeting on 28 February, and to seek positive assurance that a representative from ARRIVA would attend the special meeting of the area forum, to be held at Harrison Hall on a date within the next two weeks, and answer questions;
- ensure that all local residents who have given their names and addresses are advised of the arrangements and invited to attend the special meeting.

Minute 5 - Presentation on Wirral's Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy

Bob Little (Community Safety Team) talked to the Area Forum about the Crime and Disorder report for the period April to December 2005. The report included a statistical analysis, broken down into Forum areas, of incidents of anti-social behaviour and youths causing annoyance. He offered to include any information on crime statistics requested by the Area Forum in future reports.

He explained that the Wirral Joint Community Safety Team operated under the banner Safer Wirral and represented a partnership arrangement between Wirral Borough Council, the Police, Fire & Rescue Service, and the Primary Care Trusts. The aims of the team of 40/50 people were to -

- provide a central point of contact for all crime reduction agencies;
- co-ordinate the crime reduction activities of all the agencies involved in crime reduction;
- undertake a crime and disorder audit which informs the crime and disorder strategy.

Bob Little responded to questions from members of the public on the availability, capability, monitoring and location of CCTV cameras in Wirral, and on their effectiveness in reducing episodes of vandalism and crime.

Inspector Hogan gave specific examples to illustrate when the public should dial '999', or when they should telephone Crime Stoppers, to report incidents of crime. He responded to a question on the number of Police Officers deployed to New Brighton, especially during evenings and weekends.

Councillor Wood added that the Chief Constable of Merseyside had submitted a scheme to introduce an additional 180 Police Officers on Merseyside. The Police Authority had authorised the Chief Constable to recruit additional Police Officers in three tranches of 60, as and when compensatory savings could be identified within the set budget.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That Bob Little be thanked for the presentation.

Minute 6 - Primary Care Trust - 'Consultation on New Primary Care Trust Arrangements in Wirral'

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Jane Harvey announced that Dr Shyamal Mukherjee, Medical Director and a GP in Wallasey, will be representing the PCT at the Forums for the foreseeable future.

Dr Mukherjee thanked the Area Forum for the opportunity to talk about proposed changes to the structures of the NHS and how they would affect local communities in Wirral. In July 2005, the Government had announced a change in the role of Primary Care Trusts [PCTs]. There are two PCTs in Wirral - one for Birkenhead and Wallasey and one for Bebington and West Wirral. In response to a recent Government White Paper, there was a proposal to reduce the number of PCTs in Cheshire and Merseyside from 15 to 7.

The relevant Boards had considered four options and the preferred option for Wirral would be to create a new single PCT for the whole of Wirral to correspond with the Borough's boundaries and with the area previously covered by the former Wirral Health Authority.

The Strategic Health Authorities [SHAs] are accountable for the performance of NHS Trusts and the PCTs in their area. The Cheshire and Merseyside SHA is one of three SHAs in the north west. There was a proposal to create a single SHA for the north west by merging Cheshire and Merseyside, Cumbria and Lancashire and Greater Manchester SHAs.

Currently, there are four NHS Ambulance Trusts serving the north west. The proposal was to merge the four Trusts to create a single Ambulance Service NHS Trust for the north west.

Local people were being asked for their views on all the proposals. Comments could be submitted by email or by Freephone.

At the conclusion of the presentation, a member of the public queried whether the level of specialist staff and equipment required to provide a full range of services at a local level would be available.

Dr Mukherjee offered to provide information on the level of services already available in Wallasey practices at a future meeting of the Area Forum.

Councillor Rennie asked if the savings would be re-invested in local services? Dr Mukherjee confirmed that the savings, accruing from the reduction in management and administrative costs of operating the two current PCTs, would be reinvested at a local level to improve health care provision.

Councillor Wood enquired about the composition of the Board of the proposed single PCT. It is essential to ensure that Board members include people who live in Wallasey. Equally, the Chair of the new PCT should live in Wirral.

Jane Harvey undertook to convey the views expressed back to the NHS as part of the consultation.

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Minute Decision :
Resolved that:

- i. Dr Mukherjee be thanked for the presentation.
- ii. Dr Mukherjee to provide information on the level of services already available in Wallasey practices at a future meeting of the Area Forum.
- iii. Jane Harvey to convey the views expressed at the meeting back to the NHS as part of the consultation.

Minute 7 - Date of future meetings / presentations

The next meeting of the Area Forum will be held on Tuesday, 6 June 2006 at 7 pm. at a venue to be notified.

Minute 8 - Any other business

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

Matters Arising

Page 9:

-Inspector Hogan to arrange for the Promenade to be targeted by Police Officers this coming weekend:

A campaign targeting unauthorised vehicles driving along the promenade between New Brighton and Seacombe was carried out. Police responded positively to complaints made and now, no motor vehicles except emergency vehicles are allowed to drive on the promenade.

The exemptions stretches along the entire length of the promenade from New Brighton to Seacombe. During a recent campaign a large number of prosecutions has been made against drivers who have ignored the exemption which is clearly signposted. A great deal of positive feedback has been given to police officers from the promenade's pedestrian users

-Mark Camborne to request updates from Jim Lester (Cultural Services Department) on football facilities and from Technical Service on driving / parking at the Promenade:

Work has taken place on the football pitches to improve the drainage and playing surface. The improvements should make the pitches more reliable and ensure that more games can be played next season.

Some investigatory work has been undertaken by the Technical Services department looking at access in general to the promenade and about a range of options available to address the situation.

-The Area Co-ordinator to refer issues re parking survey/ parking problems and dedicated car spaces to the Technical Services Department.

The issue of car parking around Victoria Parade is being investigated by Technical Services Department. Although this issue was raised about an articulated lorry parking there, it is an issue that effects all the residents. Once Technical Services have looked at the issue, information will be circulated at the next Forum.

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-Billy Bradshaw to take the issues raised this evening to the Merseytravel Advisory Panel in an endeavour to obtain suitable responses from the bus operator, and to provide transport for the public to special meeting if required.

Billy attended the Merseyside Advisory Panel meeting. A number of the people who attended the Forum also attended the meeting who feedback the questions raised to the Arriva Representative.

-Councillor Rennie to ensure that petitions received be presented publicly at the Council meeting on 1 March, and forwarded to ARRIVA:

The petition was presented at the Full Council Meeting on the 1st March following the Area Forum.

-Write to ARRIVA expressing the Area Forum's disappointment that the company was not represented at the meeting on 28 February, and to seek positive assurance that a

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representative from ARRIVA would attend the special meeting of the area forum, to be held at Harrison Hall on a date within the next two weeks, and answer questions;

Ensure that all local residents who have given their names and addresses are advised of the arrangements and invited to attend the special meeting:

The Area Co-ordinator emailed Arriva to get their assurance that they would attend a special meeting regarding the changes to the bus service. Arriva responded indicating that they would not attend any public meeting, as they didn't feel it would bring any productive results.

A meeting with Arriva, the Area Forum Co-ordinator and Councillors was organised to discuss the issues raised at the Forum. Following this meeting Arriva decided to reinstate the 106 bus service.

Councillor Rennie informed all the residents who came along to the Forum of the good news about the bus service in writing.

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-Dr Mukherjee to provide information on the level of services already available in Wallasey practices at a future meeting of the Area Forum.

Usual medical services and nursing services, and:-

- Counselling Service
- Citizens Advice Bureau Link Worker
- Minor Surgery Service
- Lifestyle and Weight Management Clinics
- Confidential Advice Service (12+ children/teenagers)
- All fired up (Lifestyle and Weight Management for children)
- Palliative Care Social Worker
- Phlebotomy Service
- Warfarin Monitoring
- Rheumatology (near patient testing)
- Primary Care Mental Health Team
- Community Matrons
- Wallasey Heart Centre

- Jane Harvey to convey the views expressed at the meeting back to the NHS as part of the consultation:

Jane Harvey reported back to the Board of the Birkenhead and Wallasey Primary Care Trust to feedback all the views expressed in the consultation period. This included all views expressed at the Area Forum

Future meetings

The date of the next area forum is Monday 9th October 2006.

Section Two

Local Updates

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 |

SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES

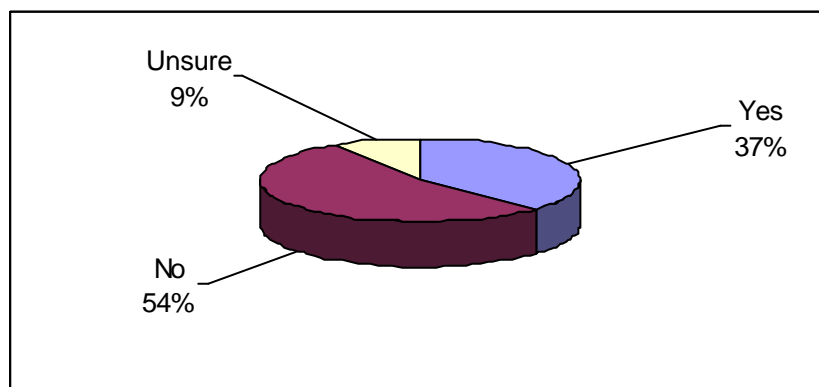
Results of Citizens Panel Consultation Questionnaire on the Area Forums and Community Initiatives Fund

Wirral Citizens Panel is a consultation vehicle that enables the Council and its partners to seek the views of a cross section of Wirral people. The Panel was established in October 1999, and currently has around 2400 members from across Wirral. It is funded by the Council, Health (Primary Care Trusts) and Police, is steered by Wirral's multidisciplinary Research Group and administered by Mott MacDonald Merseyside Information Service.

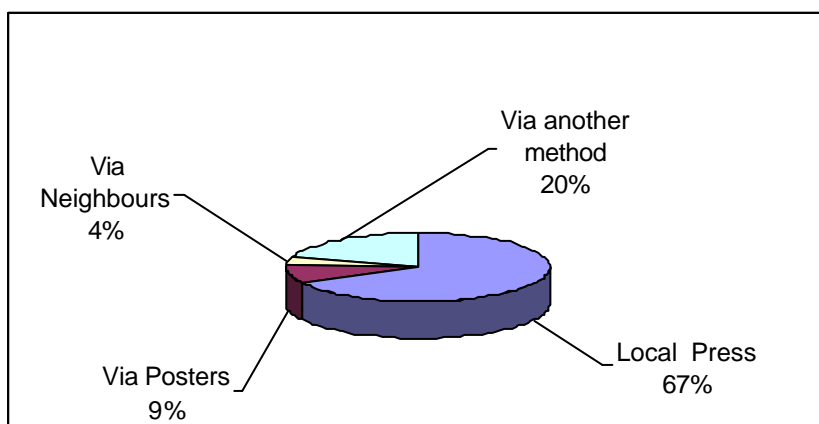
A questionnaire was sent to the panel members in October 2005 that included a number of questions relating to the Area Forums and the Community Initiatives Fund. Overall, 1155 questionnaires were returned from the Wirral Panel members, of the 2074 questionnaires sent out, giving a response rate of 55.7%. Some of the results from this are shown below:

Area Forums – General

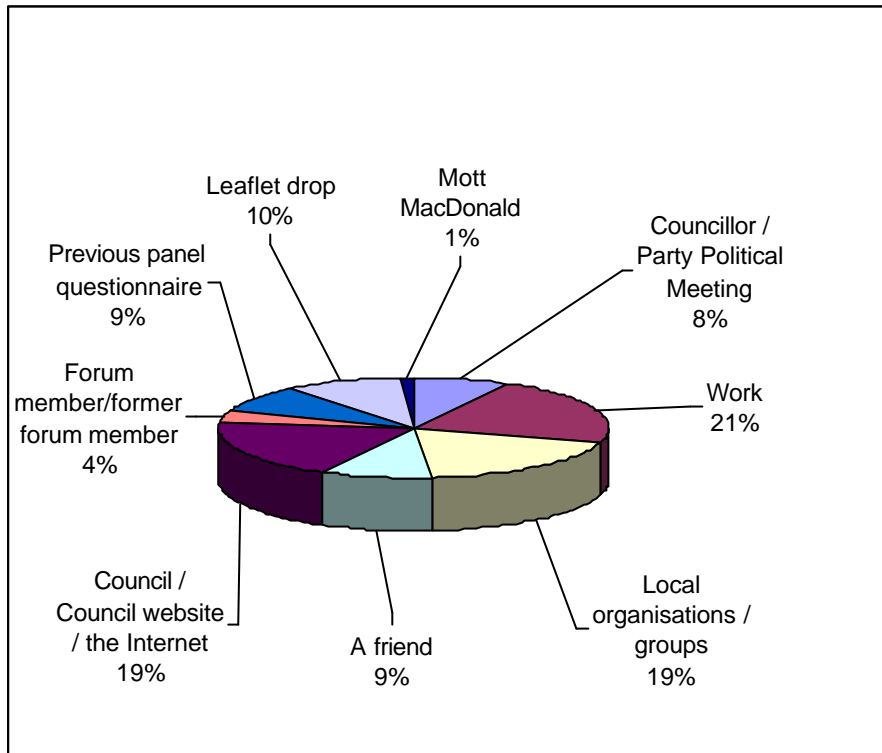
Had you heard about the Council's Area Forums before receiving this questionnaire?



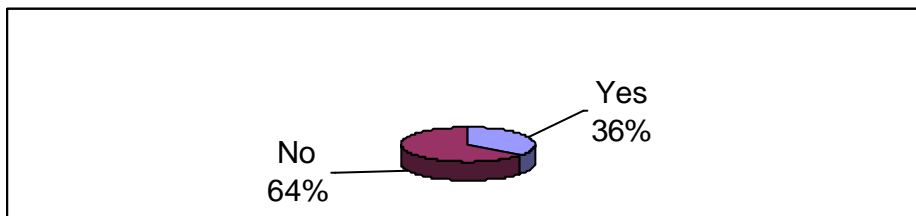
How did you hear about the Area forums?



How else did you hear about the Area Forums?

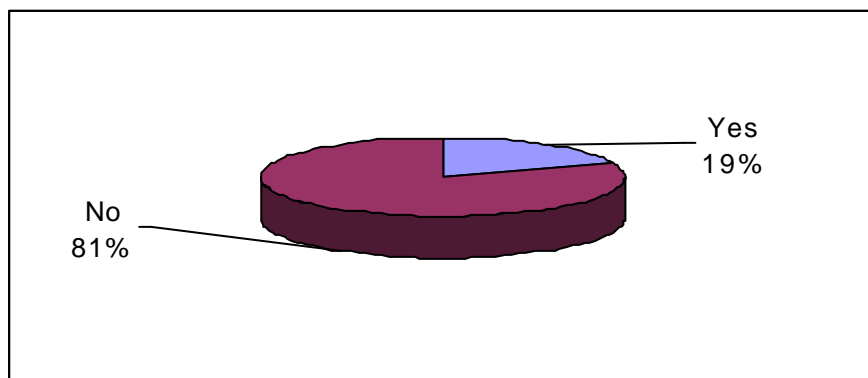


Are you interested in getting involved in decision making in your local area through Area Forums?



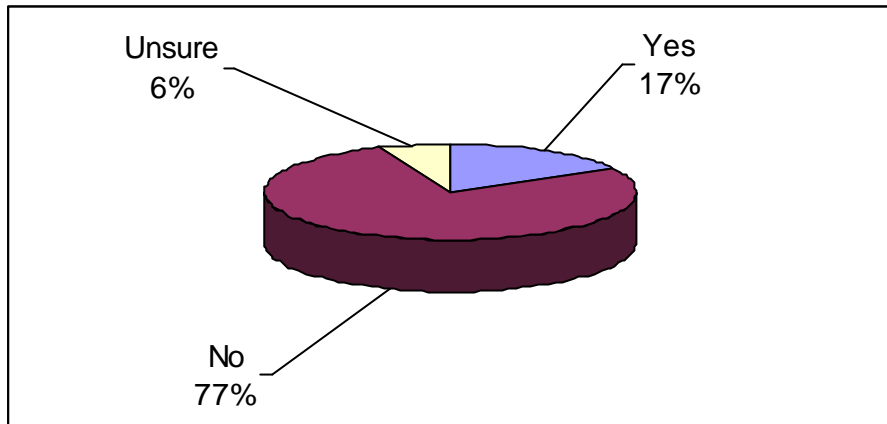
Area Forum – Specific

Are you interested in the New Brighton and Wallasey Area Forum?

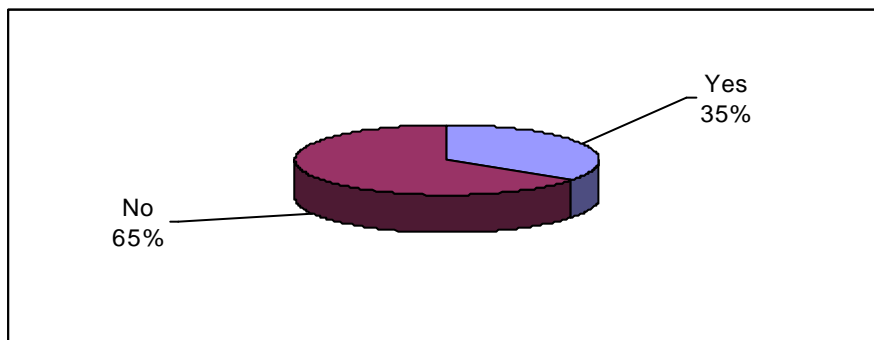


Community Initiatives Fund - General

Had you heard of the Community Initiatives Fund before receiving this questionnaire?

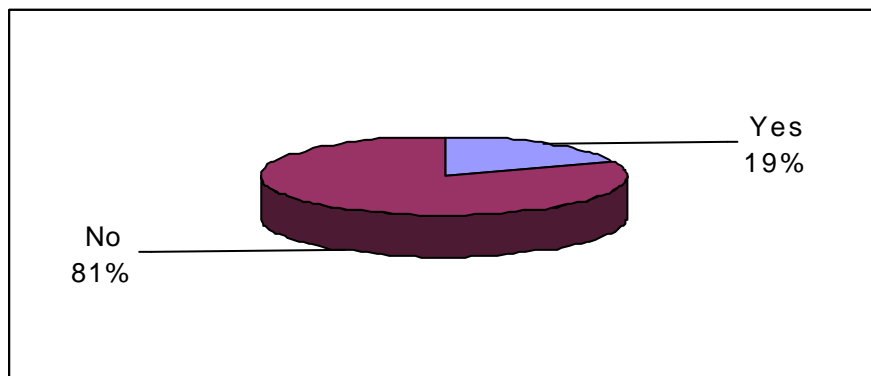


Are you interested in getting information on the Community initiatives Fund?



Community Initiatives Fund - Specific

Would you like to receive information about the Community Initiatives Fund for New Brighton and Wallasey?



New community police station opens in Wirral

Press release - 30 January 2006

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.

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."

Food and garden waste recycling collection coming to Wirral

Press Release - 10 March 2006

The first large scale combined food and garden waste collection in Merseyside will begin this April for 20,000 homes in Wirral.

Residents will receive a brand new brown wheelie bin for both food and garden waste, to replace the white garden bag. A handy kitchen caddy, small enough to sit on a work-top or under the sink, will also provide a useful container to transport kitchen scraps to the wheelie bin.

The initial scheme, which will eventually be rolled out to other residents, will involve homes in Heswall, Gayton, Pensby, Spital, Bebington, Higher Bebington, Prenton, Oxtton, Caldy, West Kirby, Thingwall and Irby, and is aimed at boosting recycling rates across Wirral.

Residents taking part in the scheme will receive a brown wheelie bin to take food scraps and all the garden waste that was previously placed in the white garden waste bag. The new bin is more durable, easy to move and will hold much more. Over 22% of the average contents of a bin are made up of kitchen scraps and the new service will reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill and help the environment.

David Green, Director of Technical Services said, "This improved service will pave the way for us to really start boosting our recycling rates and reach that national target of 30% in 2010.

"It's essential for us to think more carefully about what we're throwing away and how it impacts on the environment. We're trying in Wirral but still have a long way to go as last year we only recycled 10%."

Carl Beer, Director of Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) said, "Wirral's food and garden collection will be sent to the Authority's In-Vessel Composting Facility at Bidston. The In-Vessel Composter is part of the newly developed Bidston Integrated Waste Management Facility, and is just part of our investment with Districts on

Merseyside to provide new facilities to improve recycling rates."

Not only is the Council introducing the food and garden waste recycling but officers are also working on a dry recyclable collection too. This includes plastics, glass, cardboard, paper and cans. Changes to waste services will be introduced over time from August 2006. The Council will make sure residents receive all the help and information they need to get recycling.

Initially the food and garden waste wheelie bin will be given to areas which have a high recycling rate from the existing white garden bags. All those homes will get information in March and be invited to attend a special recycling roadshow in their areas. The new bin and kitchen caddy will be delivered during April with an easy to follow 'how to' guide, explaining exactly what to do.

In the meantime any members of the public with recycling queries can call the Streetscene team on 0151 606 2004 or email us on streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

Wirral's Mayor unveils report on accessibility of services for disabled people in the Borough

A report and DVD into the challenges faced by disabled people in Wirral will be launched on April 21 at the Lauries Centre in Birkenhead. The event is being jointly organised by the DARE Foundation, a registered charity whose aims are to work with disabled people to promote social inclusion for disabled people, and Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services.

The report and DVD will be launched officially by Wirral's Mayor, Cllr Chris Meaden, and will feature presentations by six teams of disabled people and service providers who worked together

for six months. The presentations focus on how disabled people can overcome challenges and make services more accessible.

Cllr Meaden has followed the work closely since it started in April of last year: "Since I became a councillor in Wirral, I have come into contact with many disabled constituents. I am acutely aware of the challenges they face when trying to use services the rest of us take for granted. I have every confidence that this partnership will lead to significant improvements in services for disabled people in the Borough".

The six teams comprised disabled people and representatives from health and social care providers. Their brief was to explore the challenges around six issues and activities:

- Making a film about access to public amenities entitled "A Great Day Out! (NOT)!"
- Exploring issues around people's perceptions of risk, and how this can limit disabled people's choices and independence.
- Exploring accessible toilets in the Wirral area.

Producing a package to raise awareness of disability among primary school children.

- Assessing local venues, looking at access and attitudes.
- Focussing on "the words we use", which relate to disability issues.

DARE's Chief Executive, Jill Fardell, said: "What these projects clearly demonstrate is that disabled people in Wirral are prepared to tackle head-on issues of concern.

"They've created a solid foundation for working from now on, and I'm confident that their projects will be used widely throughout Wirral".

Jill continued: "DARE has developed and used this model of working across the UK for the past 6 years, but this is the first time a Social Services Department has initiated and collaborated fully in a programme – and what a difference that has made".

Once the Mayor has unveiled the report, there will be an opportunity for people in the audience to put questions to a panel including John Webb, Wirral's Head of Services for Older People and People with Physical and Sensory Disabilities, Chris Smith, the Occupational Team Manager, Roz Davison who facilitated the work of one of the teams and two disabled service-users.

Kathy Byrne is a service-user who has made extensive use of various services in Wirral and has played an active role in this event: "I have been able to teach others directly from my personal experiences.

"As a disabled person, I have been denied opportunities and quality in my life but now feel that society is changing. It is exciting to know that my life has already changed through the DARE Foundation approach. I feel that people are beginning to take an interest in disabled people". And one positive change in Kathy's life is the DARE Foundation's Step up to Learning Course.

The course is accredited by the Open College Network and aims to get disabled people back into education or employment.

Kathy completed the course in March of this year and feels that she has benefited from the opportunity.



Churches Together in Wirral

Representing christian opinion across the borough

Survey of Faith Community Activity in Wirral:

Welcome to the Churches Together in Wirral web site - where you can search our database of religious activity in the Wirral. www.churcheswirral.co.uk

Churches Together in Wirral seeks to unite its members in response to Jesus' prayer that His followers may be one, and to fulfil Saint Paul's vision of the Church as the Body of Christ in the world.

Believing that service to the community is a prime opportunity to put into practice the values of the Kingdom of Heaven which Jesus preached, Churches Together in Wirral is a partnership of different branches of the Christian Church which aims to encourage and facilitate co-operation between the churches themselves and between church and community at every level.

In pursuing these aims, Churches Together in Wirral seeks to represent its member-churches in relations with the Local Authority and other statutory bodies, with voluntary and community organisations and with other faith communities.

The purpose of this website is to enable faith communities on Wirral to work together, and with other statutory bodies and with the voluntary sector.

Via this website you can find [PLACES OF WORSHIP](#), [FAITH ORGANISATIONS](#) and [FAITH ACTIVITIES](#) in Wirral.

(Survey of Faith Community Activity in Wirral: - This survey was undertaken on behalf of Churches Together in Wirral by the Theology and Religious Services Department of the University of Chester. Funded by WVCSN and the Neighbourhood Community Chest the survey covers all faiths and provides a snapshot of religious activity in Wirral.)

Further information and comments can be directed to Norman Polden at office@churcheswirral.co.uk or by telephone on 0151 6780435

This survey was undertaken on behalf of Churches Together in Wirral by the Theology and Religious Services Department of the University of Chester. Funded by WVCSN and the Neighbourhood Community Chest the survey covers all faiths and provides a snapshot of religious activity in Wirral.

One outcome of the study is a web based database www.churcheswirral.co.uk to enable faith communities on Wirral to work together, and with other statutory bodies and the voluntary sector. The website provides information and contact details about places of worship and activities available at each place of worship, faith organisations and faith activities.

Making the Prom a safer place!

Residents are being reminded about the importance of lifesaving equipment through a new awareness campaign.

Stickers are being placed on all lifebelts and rope ladders along the Promenade in Wallasey, as part of a joint initiative between Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, the Beach Patrol, Wirral Council and the RNLI.

It follows a spate of vandalism last year that saw more than £20,000 of damage caused when equipment was tampered with or stolen.

Group Manager for the Wirral district, Daryl Oprey, from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, said: "This lifesaving equipment is there for a reason and damaging it could have really serious implications – it could cost someone's life. I would urge these people to think about what they are doing, don't risk the safety of others for a moment of high jinx."



Chief Lifeguard Tony Jones said: "This is the first of many new initiatives we plan to undertake with partners to try to eradicate the theft and vandalism of public rescue equipment."

Alongside the sticker campaign, local young people will be sprucing up the area with a clean-up campaign, organised by Wirral Youth Service

Wirral Trading Standards join forces with residents to tackle cold calling.



What is it?

A 'No Cold Calling Zone' is an area or street where the residents have got together to stop uninvited salespeople and warn rogue traders that they are not welcome, by having the confidence to say no.

The scheme is being introduced to reduce doorstep crime. This is crime arising from doorstep callers, bogus workmen, high-pressure salespeople, bogus officials and distraction burglary. The scheme is being backed by key partners including Trading Standards, Police, Local Councillors, Community Safety Partnership and Neighbourhood Watch.

Selecting an area?

Ideally the area should be relatively small (20-40 properties) and easily defined by its boundary. A street, cul-de-sac, small estate or neighbourhood watch area are types of areas that can benefit from the scheme.

Wickham Close in Wallasey is one of the first areas in Wirral who will be operating a No Cold Call Zone after the residents decided to get together to tackle the issues they are facing.

Anyone interested in introducing a No Cold Call Zone in their area should contact Steve Brown at Wirral Trading Standards on 0151 691 8369 to find out more.

Wirral Trader Scheme

Are you looking for a business that cares about its customers?

Do you need ;

- a roofer
- an electrician
- a builder
- an accountant
- double glazing ?

Are you looking for a trader you can trust to come into your home?

The Wirral Trader Scheme is a Wirral Council initiative managed by the Wirral Trading Standards Service, aiming to create a trading environment where consumers can buy goods and services with confidence from Wirral traders.

Traders must have permanent business premises within Wirral Borough and satisfy strict assessment criteria and vetting by Trading Standards.

They must be reputable, demonstrate a commitment to trade fairly, honestly and deal efficiently and effectively with any dissatisfaction. If however, you are unhappy with any aspect of the goods or services you buy from a member, you must first address this with them.

If this cannot be resolved then Trading Standards will take up your dispute with them and where you have a justified complaint this will be rectified by the trader. A warning will be given to the trader and advice to ensure that any failure remains an isolated case. Further breakdowns will result in the trader being removed from the Scheme.

How to find a Trader!

Some of the accredited businesses are advertised here on this folder and there may be a list of the rest inside your information pack, otherwise;

Visit the Trading Standards website at www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/wirral and click on our logo

You can see the Code of Practice that governs members of the Scheme in the business section of the website.

You can also telephone us to check the up to date membership of the Scheme. **Contact Trading Standards on 0151 691 8639 or 0151 691 8535.**

Visit Wirral Council One-Stop Shops or Libraries, Age Concern (Wirral) or local Citizens Advice Bureaux for details of Traders.

Can you recommend a trader to us? If so, you could be helping in our mission to leave the rogues out of work!

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE

£280,000 cash boost for older people's swimming in Wirral

WIRRAL'S older people are set to benefit from a funding boost of £280,000 as part of the Everyday Swim initiative.

It will fund activities over the next two years for older people to access the borough's six swimming pools. Wirral is one of only seven areas picked by the Amateur Swimming Association to take on the pioneering new scheme.

The scheme, which has been funded by both the Council and Sport England, aims to look at the barriers to swimming and provide best practice examples to affect a culture change across the country. Wirral will now lead the way in encouraging older people into the pool for leisure, fitness and fun.

The Council's Head of Cultural Services Jim Lester said: "We are delighted to have been chosen as the pilot for the Everyday Swim campaign.

"Our Everyday Swim project will focus on increasing the percentage of older people swimming and swimming regularly in Wirral. We will seek to widen access for the increasing older population of Wirral through the introduction of targeted free sessions at each of our six swimming pools."

The seven successful authorities were whittled down from a list of more than 30 applicants and each pilot will focus on a different potential audience who could benefit from regular swimming – including obese adults and children, disabled people and, as in Wirral's case, older people. Wirral's pilot will be further developed over the coming weeks.

Everyday Swim ambassador and Olympic gold medalist Duncan Goodhew believes the chosen pilots have real potential for making a difference:

"The pilot areas have embraced the concept of a culture change in swimming and I am really excited about seeing the ideas on paper come to life over the coming months."

Stephen Baddeley, Interim Chief Executive of Sport England, said: "Swimming has such great health benefits and we are delighted to be supporting Everyday Swim as part of our drive to get the nation more active through sport."

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Life Education Centres (Wirral)

The Wirral Life Education Centre provides children between the ages of 3 to 11 years with a valuable learning experience that has been designed to provide them with the necessary information and skills to make healthy choices. It provides a mobile classroom which is available to all children in Wirral. It contains a number of valuable teaching aids that have been designed to make a positive impact on the way children make decisions about their own health.

Children attending the unit learn how special their body is and how it should be looked after. They are taught the impact of unhealthy choices on their body so that they will be enabled to make informed choices. They need to know about their own bodies and how they work before they can understand the effects of unhealthy eating and the use of drugs on their bodies.

Children attending the unit find out about medicines, alcohol, and nicotine. The older children discuss which drugs are legal and illegal and what effect they can have on their bodies and life style. An important part of the experience allows them to think about relationships and how to build successful friendships.

Whilst in the unit they take part in role-play centred upon their relationships with others and ways in which bullying can be dealt with. They gain the confidence to approach adults for help and advice. In addition they are equipped with the skill to say "no" to their friends and therefore avoid peer pressure that could lead to unhealthy choices.

The whole learning experience is enhanced by the design of the unit. A life-size doll enables them to learn about the working of their bodies and the way in which alcohol, nicotine and food can affect it.

Harold, a giraffe puppet, is used to help the younger children think about how adults can help them to use medicines safely. Harold also has an amazing effect upon the children that enables them to think about their friends and how they should be treated.

Interactive video presentations allow the children to discuss the impact of drugs on their bodies and develop their understanding of relationships and how to say no!

During the school year which started in September 2003 the mobile classroom has visited over 40 schools and provided a valuable learning experience to nearly 10,000 Wirral children. In addition many parents have attended the unit and can offer enhanced assistance to their children. The value of the service we provide can be measured by the fact that schools have requested return visits for this current year. We are hoping to reach even more children this year.

Wirral youngsters rewarded

WIRRAL youngsters at risk of becoming drug and alcohol abusers and teen parents have been rewarded for taking part in an awareness-raising initiative.

Staff from Wirral Youth Service's Outreach Team, Wirral Response, and Wirral Brook Advisory Centre targeted more than 100 at-risk young people in Seacombe and Tranmere using the borough's Kontaktabus.

Team members approached youngsters in public places over a six month period and offered them advice on the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse and underage intercourse. They involved young people, including looked-after children, in project work in residential homes, workshops, and activities including ice skating, ten pin bowling and theatre trips as an alternative to risk-taking behaviour.

Those who took part in the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund - backed Streetwork Project received certificates of achievement at a gala ceremony at the Grosvenor Ballroom, Wallasey.

Pauline Miller, Head of Wirral Council Outreach Team, said:

"The response from young people to the scheme has been outstanding. It is so encouraging to see these young people embracing the opportunity to learn about alternatives to risk-taking behaviour and we are delighted to reward all their hard work."

Skaters set to benefit.

The Council's Parks and Countryside Service are proposing to build three skate parks this year.

Funded through the Big Lottery Transforming Your Space Programme, they will be located at Tower Grounds – New Brighton, Gayton Park - Heswall, and Lingham Park - Moreton.

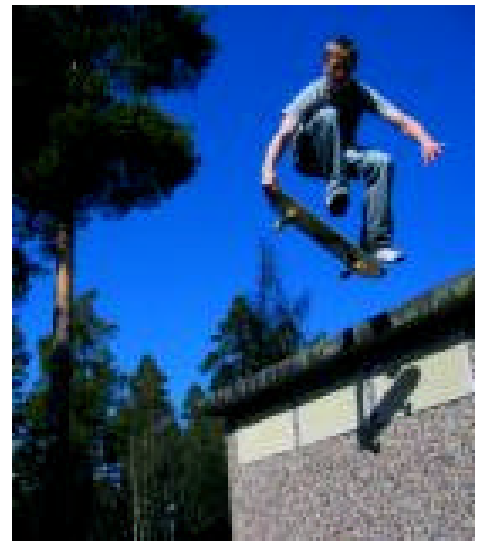
Planning permission has been granted for Heswall and it is hoped to start construction end of May

The Parks and Countryside Service have been working with local skaters and residents around these areas to design a park that is both challenging and safe for a wide age range and will provide an opportunity for young people to engage in a healthy activity.

Planning applications for Tower Grounds and Lingham Park have been submitted to the planning department and are awaiting approval.

Once the planning application is approved we would aim to get on site to start construction as soon as possible. It is aimed to complete all three parks by the end of September 2006

For more information contact the Parks and Countryside Service on 666 4726



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE

Tourism partners announce plans for The Open Championship 2006

The Open Championship returns to the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake, in July this year for the first time since 1967. The Championship is expected to deliver a major boost to the local and regional economy.

A report recently issued by the R & A revealed that The Open Championship held at St Andrews was worth £72 million to Scotland last year.

Wirral Council today, Thursday 9th February, announced a range of activities designed to maximise the benefits of The Open Championship for tourism businesses in Wirral, Merseyside and across the Northwest region. These activities are the result of a partnership between the Council, The Mersey Partnership and the Northwest Regional Development Agency and include work with the national and international media, new signage both on and off the course, a guide for visitors and inward investment activity.



The Guide to The Open Championship will provide tourism information for the 200,000 expected visitors to visit Wirral in July. Available from April, it will provide restaurant, attraction and hotel listings, and travel information.

Martin King, Director of Tourism for The Mersey Partnership explains:

“We are pleased to be working in partnership with Wirral Council and the NWDA on the projects announced today. In excess of 200,000 visitors will arrive in July and this guide will ensure that they have a fantastic experience during their stay. Even more importantly we want to encourage as many of those visitors as possible to return after the Championship.”

Global television coverage of The Open Championship is a key opportunity for the region. 174 hours of images of St Andrews, Fife and Scotland were shown on television screens in over 194 territories, equivalent to £40 million of media value.

Emma Degg, Head of Tourism and Marketing for Wirral Council, said:

“Over 300 journalists will be here in Wirral to cover The Open, some of whom will be visiting in advance of the Championship. They will all receive all the information they need including facts on the local area, our great golfing history and importantly, where they can go to get a drink and a great meal. We are also already working with the R & A and the broadcasters of The Open Championship to ensure television viewers across the world see the best possible images of Wirral, Merseyside and the wider Northwest.”

The Open Championship also represents an opportunity to showcase the area to potential inward investors. 11.5% of visitors come from overseas, 44% of overseas visitors from the United States. Activity will also be focussed upon bringing new investors to The Open Championship to experience at first hand what Wirral and the wider Northwest has to offer.

Peter Mearns, Director of Marketing for the Northwest Regional Development Agency explained the significance of the Championship to the whole of the Northwest:

“This fantastic event provides us with a great opportunity to place the whole region in the spotlight. The NWDA is proud to support this unique campaign that will ensure England’s Northwest benefits from the lasting legacy of The Open Championship, further showcasing the region as a leading destination for major sporting events.

“Along with our partners, the NWDA is now delivering a Major Events Strategy to capitalise on the substantial economic benefits of hosting great events such as this. Developing sport is an excellent way of improving the image, economy and tourism potential of the region. “

CROSS CUTTING

Wirral projects recognised in environmental 'Oscars'

Community clean-ups, school eco councils, scarecrows and giraffes – just some of the Wirral projects recognised Merseyside's annual environmental 'Oscars.'

Wirral-based schools, community groups and businesses were winners or runners up in eight of the 16 categories of the Merseyside 21 Awards. Organised annually by Groundwork on Merseyside, the awards recognise organisations that are working to improve local health and environment in sustainable ways.

In the community category Bidston & North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group (BNBEAG) won both the Changing Lives award and the overall award of Community Project of the Year for changing a severely deprived area through involving youngsters in litter picks, clean ups, fun days, and environmental awareness days.

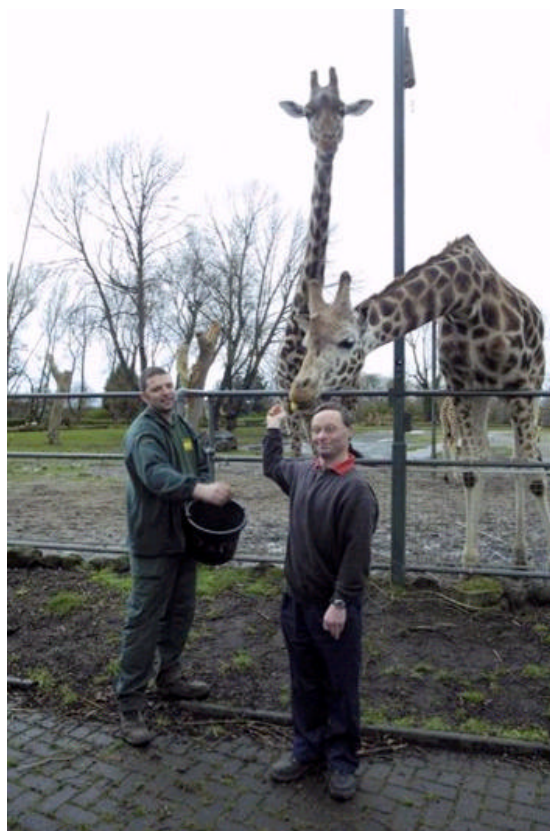
Chief Executive of Wirral Council, Steve Maddox said: "It is tremendously encouraging to see schools, communities and businesses in Wirral taking positive action in their local areas. Grove Street is a glowing example of a school that engages and inspires everyone to take responsibility for their environment, and BNBEAG have shown what is possible when a community gets together to bring about change.

I would like to congratulate the winners, and to thank those who are also working to protect and improve Wirral's environment."

Grove Street school won the Sustainable Schools Award while runners up included the Local Agenda 21 Forum for their Fairtrade in Wirral campaign, and Thornton Hough Village Trust for environmental improvements linked to the Scarecrow Festival.

In the Business Awards, Wirral Independent Recycling Enterprise (WIRE) won in the community stewardship category for recycling furniture. Several Wirral Council projects were recognised with runners up awards going to the Warm Homes and Cosy Homes projects, the Council's road safety section for its work with children. Runner up in the prestigious Environmental Innovation & Technology Award was Hoylake based company called OmniQ who make an innovative refillable 'Airpac' gas capsules.

One of the most unusual projects to be honoured was the Royden Park Project – a partnership between Wirral Council's Social Services, Friends of Royden Park and Chester Zoo which provides gourmet meals for giraffes as part of a woodland management plan!



Local Agenda 21 Awards - Wirral Winners **February 2006**

Wirral had some success yesterday at the LA21 Awards, notably in the community category where the Bidston & North Birkenhead Environmental Action Group (BNBEAG) won the Changing Lives award and the overall award of Community Project of the Year.

Grove Street School won the sustainable schools award while runners up in the daytime ceremonies included the Local Agenda 21 Forum for their FairTrade in Wirral campaign, and Thornton Hough Village Trust for the Scarecrow Festival.

Wirral Independent Recycling Enterprise (WIRE) were winners in the community stewardship for business category, while runners up in the business categories were Wirral Warm Homes and Cosy Homes projects (both Regeneration), Technical Services road safety section, the Royden Park project and a Hoylake based company called OmniQ who make an innovative replacement for gas capsules.

Shortlisted projects over all categories were:

Surestart Birkenhead North - Brassey Gardens
Dee Estuary Voluntary Wardens - Wild Birds on West Kirby Beach
Wirral LA21 Forum - Wirral Opposes Waste event
Woodlands Primary School - school grounds development
Wallasey School/Acacia Horticultural - Compass Point Gardening Club
Greasby Infant School - the Greasby Growers
West Kirby Grammar School - Outreach Sustainability
Upton Hall School - FairTrade Action Group
Friends of Hilbre Island - Hilbre Island Website
MBW/Maritime Housing - Environmental Wardens
Regeneration - Wirral Landlord Accreditation Scheme
Parks & Open Spaces - Hilbre Island Wind Turbine
Recoplas- new business granulating post consumer plastics
Technical Services - Hoylake Park & Ride scheme
Parks & Open Spaces - Wirral Way Restoration
Peel Hey Country Guest House- green tourism
The Learning Lighthouse - The Wirral Green Machine

Unfortunately we didn't manage to retain the overall Merseyside 21 Award - that was won this year by St Helens.

If anyone would like any information about any of the projects, please contact me.

Thank you

Sue Weldon

Local Agenda 21 Co-ordinator/Metropolitan Borough of Wirral

Sueweldon@wirral.gov.uk/tel: 0151 606 2364



Community Project Grants

Details will shortly be announced about new grants and support available for community and voluntary groups, schools, youth groups, sports and social clubs as part of a new borough-wide campaign running from May to September.

'Wirral – open to all' aims to encourage all sectors of the community to take a pride in Wirral and get involved in improving the environment. Small grants of up to £250 will be available to projects which address the project's aims.

Aims:

- encourage agencies, businesses and – most importantly – local people to take a pride in Wirral
- get people involved in improving the environment
- present the best possible image of Wirral to visitors to the Open Championship
- have a lasting impact on the borough

There'll be a wide range of activities as part of the campaign from council departments, agencies, businesses and community groups - from operational improvements, clean-ups, and awareness-raising campaigns, to arts and environmental projects and celebrations.

Partners include Merseyside Police, Merseytravel, Wirral Local Agenda 21 Network, Wirral Partnership Homes, Wirral Investment Network and local churches

There will also be a special **Wirral Environment Week** from 24th June - 1st July.

How to get involved:

- Organise an event or activity during the campaign, or especially during Wirral Environment Week, in keeping with the aims
- Use the **Wirral – open to all** branding for relevant activities
- Help to raise awareness about the campaign and its aims

For more information about the 'Wirral – open to all' campaign, including grant applications and resource packs (available from the end of April) contact Clare Naylor on 691 8255 or clarenaylor@wirral.gov.uk

Wirral beach of England's best

A WIRRAL beach has been named one of the country's cleanest and safest - for a third successive year. Wallasey Beach, Harrison Drive, has been named one of two Merseyside recipients of the ENCAMS Rural Seaside Award.

The annual award recognises beaches which are well-managed, clean, and safe.

Josef Hanik, Wirral Senior Ranger, said: "We have once again demonstrated our commitment to managing areas of Wirral foreshore as amenity beaches where several departments within the local authority are working together to provide clean, safe areas for people to enjoy our wonderful coastline".

The criteria for maintaining the award includes regular cleaning of the beach throughout the summer, cleaning adjacent access points including the embankment and slipways and providing basic facilities including toilets and site information boards.

The Wirral Lifeguard Service continues to provide increased staffing during the summer months along the coast.

Josef added: "Next year sees a new award scheme introduced by ENCAMS 'the Quality Coast Awards', and we will be entering more beaches into this scheme recognising the importance of our coast as a valuable local and tourist asset "

Wallasey Beach will retain its Rural Seaside Award for 12 months.

£9.4m boost for Wirral homes

Wirral will see nearly £10m spent on affordable housing across the borough following a major cash-boost.



Around £9.4m will be invested in 173 new and refurbished low-cost units across Tranmere, Rock Ferry, central Birkenhead, and Moreton.

10 schemes to be undertaken by Registered Social Landlords (Housing Associations) will provide low-cost homes: properties for rent, and shared ownership - with a proportion for supported housing for more vulnerable client groups.

Wirral Council will work closely with service providers, including Registered Social Landlords, to deliver the schemes over the next two years.

Alan Stennard, Wirral Council Director of Regeneration, said: "This welcome new investment will provide us with further resources to tackle the shortage of social housing and assist in housing market renewal. It will also allow us to increase the number of low-cost homes and assist more people to access owner-occupancy opportunities."

The cash-injection has come from the Housing Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme, and will be used to meet both Wirral and regional housing priorities.

Section Three

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							£11,018.33	£675.00	£1,000.00
848	1	£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 accepted the withdrawal of this application and agreed to consider new application (Ref 11) submitted.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
944	2	£1,500.00	£0.00	Wirral Local Agenda 21 Network	To run a community re>paint scheme on Wirral.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it is not area specific.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
956	3	£676.50	£0.00	Fire Support Network	To provide an after-fire care service in Wirral.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it is not area specific.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
959	4	£360.00	£360.00	Harrison Park Bowling Club	To replace the water boiler in the pavilion.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £360.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£360.00	£0.00	£0.00

968	5	£0.00	£1,000.00	Wallasey Lions Club	To set up a message in a bottle scheme.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
972	6	£3,400.00	£0.00	Olympic JFC	To contribute towards the running costs of and equipment for the club.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it is not area specific and was not applied to the forum ward area.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
980	7	£2,500.00	£300.00	Wirral Holistic Care Services	To replace patio area and provide wheelchair access and handrails.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £300.00 towards this from the Local Agenda 21 / Community Initiatives Fund.	£127.33	£0.00	£172.67
992	8	£1,135.66	£1,000.00	Wallasey Sea Cadets	To purchase cooking equipment and tableware.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,000.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
1009	9	£2,500.00	£0.00	Manor Childcare Centre	To contribute towards the salary of an outreach playworker for a stay and play scheme targeting single parent families for mums and toddlers from birth to three years.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it is not area specific and the Council is opening a childcare centre in Mount Road Primary School that will offer similar services.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

1010	10	£1,500.00	£0.00	Imperial Avenue Area Neighbourhood Watch Group	To establish a local community newsletter to provide advice and increase membership.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as neighbourhood watch is funded from the home Office. The Panel suggested that the applicant contacts the Home Watch Co-ordinator, advertise in the Walrus magazine and contact the Local Ward Councillors.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1011	11	£775.00	£0.00	Bob Bird Photography	To put on a series of photographic exhibitions that will appeal to people of all ages.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as have funded the organisation have previously been funded and due to the small amount of funding available.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1036	12	£1,000.00	£0.00	Wirral Life Education Centres	To contribute towards the costs of providing a mobile classroom at local primary schools.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it is not area specific and falls under Education Department.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1037	13	£7,350.00	£0.00	PlayLikeBrazil Soccer School and Coaching Academy	A. To run Soccer Schools during the school holidays. B. To offer a three day structured coaching programme of learning, mentoring and skills development for 16-18 year olds.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it is not area specific and do not fund private companies.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

1063	14	£700.33	£400.00	Wallasey District Explorers	To provide up-to-date maps and equipment for use on expeditions.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £400.00 towards this from the Community Safety Fund.	£0.00	£400.00	£0.00
1064	15	£958.80	£500.00	Wallasey District Scout Centre	To insulate the loft area of the scout centre.	Panel considered this to be a good project, on condition that the applicant get a lower priced quote for the insulation. Panel agreed to award a maximum of £500.00, on receipt of the quotes, from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00
1065	16	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	Wallasey Village Community Partnership	To provide christmas lights throughout the length of Wallasey Village in December 2006.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,500.00	£0.00	£0.00
Councillors L Rennie, D Hunt and K Wood declared an interest in the above application, as members of the partnership, and took no part in the decision making process.									
1066	17	£2,500.00	£1,000.00	Wallasey Cricket Club	To install a two lane cricket net facility with appropriate security railings.	Panel considered this to be a good project for young people and agreed to contribute £1,000.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
1067	18	£2,500.00	£0.00	Earlston Road Surgery	To promote the Care in the Community Initiative to at risk groups.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as believe this should be funded by the Primary Care Trust.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

1068	19	£1,257.81	£0.00	PSS - Impact	To purchase a computer and accessories for use by young people attending the Impact project.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it is not area specific.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1069	20	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	New Brighton Trade and Business Association	To supply Christmas lights to New Brighton shopping areas.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund. Panel suggested that the applicant looks at resurrecting and re-using the lights from New Wallasey (stored in the outhouse at Vale House).	£1,500.00	£0.00	£0.00
Councillor T Pritchard declared an interest in the above application and took no part in the decision making process.									
1070	21	£2,000.00	£1,000.00	New Brighton Cricket and Bowling Club	To renovate the tea room kitchen area to enable the setting up of a community after school project for 6-16 year olds.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,000.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
1071	22	£898.00	£500.00	Wallasey G.H. Peers Club	To cover four large windows with a thick plastic sheeting.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Safety / Community Initiatives Fund.	£225.00	£275.00	£0.00
1072	23	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	The Friends of Vale Park	To contribute towards band concerts within the Park.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00

1073	24	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	New Brighton Community Partnership	To contribute towards the production and delivery of the Walrus Newsletter and the promotion of New Brighton.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
Councillor T Pritchard and R Fraser declared an interest in the above application and took no part in the decision making process.									
1074	25	£500.00	£0.00	Residents Fund - Aynsley Nursing Home	To plant shrubs, plants, flowers to attract wildlife and birds.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as consider this to be of limited benefit to people of the area and do not fund private companies.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1075	26	£1,000.00	£500.00	Wallasey Chess Club (incorporating Wallasey Junior Chess Club)	To launch an advertising campaign and to purchase additional chess boards and clocks.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00
1076	27	£2,326.00	£806.00	The Dragon Club at St Georges School	To organise eight outings, one per week, during the Easter and Summer holidays.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this, for the purchase of tennis, cricket, football equipment and storage trolleys, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£806.00	£0.00	£0.00
1077	28	£1,000.00	£0.00	Dawn Promotions	To put on a two-day festival of live folk music in Vale Park in September 2006.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as are already supporting the promotion of Vale Park and do not fund private companies.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

1078	29	£500.00	£0.00	Wirral Lions Junior Football Club	To purchase training equipment for the club.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it is not area specific.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1079	30	£1,031.51	£0.00	Tower Action Group	To raise awareness about levels of microwave radiation and offer advice on precautions to reduce exposure to these.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as waiting for Policy on telephone masts to be published.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1056	31	£11,018.00	£0.00	Tall Ships Youth Trust - Merseyside and Deeside Branch	To contribute towards the cost of sending over 100 young people from Merseyside (aged 16-25) annually on voyages.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it is not area specific.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1089	32	£1,000.00	£0.00	Vale Kids Out of School Club	To purchase equipment and games for the club.	As the application was received after the closing date the Panel agreed to defer the application and consider this with the next round of applications, as all the funding was allocated on the applications received by the closing date.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Spend							£11,018.33	£675.00	£672.67
Total Carried Forward							£0.00	£0.00	£327.33

CIF Progress Report

**Amount
Awarded**

Received From

Bid Details

Progress Report

£150.00 Wirral Pathfinders To help with the cost of providing the

Report received from Wirral Pathfinders - April

help and support for people in the community who suffer with mental health problems and their families.

2006: The funding has greatly helped us provide the help and support needed by people and their families that have mental health problems. We have been able to provide more information, a 24 hour helpline and run social events which help our members to improve confidence and self esteem.

£400.00	The Society for Dogs in Distress	To contribute towards veterinary and kennelling costs associated with providing help to dogs and people in Wirral.	Report received from The Society for Dogs in Distress - December 2005: So far we have made one donation to a lady in Leasowe, to help with her vets bill for her dog.
£300.00	Wallasey Conservative Association New Brighton Branch	To place a flag and pole at the New Brighton War Memorial site.	Report received from Wallasey Conservative Association New Brighton Branch - March 2006: The flag and halyard were in place for last years Remembrance Service at New Brighton.
£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.	Report received from Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside - April 2006: The grant has helped towards providing 28 training days covering the support skills required for handling domestic violence cases. Over a five month period we supported 169 domestic violence cases with over 700 contacts by letter, telephone, office or home visit.

Section Four

Local Area Plan

The Area Plan for the New Brighton and Wallasey Area Forum is near completion after consultation with Area Forum Members on the issues that should be prioritised for attention by Wirral Borough Council and its key partners.

The Area Plan adopts the themes as set out in the Council's Local Area Agreement and focuses on issues that the Area Forum can have a positive effect on.

The four main themes in the Area Plan are:

- Safer and Stronger Communities.
- Children and Young People.
- Economic Development and Enterprise.
- Healthier Communities and Older People.
- Cross cutting themes to benefit the whole of Wirral.

By working with Area Forum Members and key partners including Community Representatives, Police and Local Councillors, the most important issues in the New Brighton and Wallasey area are being identified and addressed.

Some of the key issues raised in the plan are:

- A safe environment for all members of the community.
- Improved opportunities for young people.
- To improve Streetscene.
- Assist with the provision of effective services for children and young people.
- Support the sustainable growth and reduce the unnecessary failure of locally owned business.
- To ensure older people are able to exercise independence.
- To ensure older people do not feel isolated.

When the plans are completed they will be distributed at the Area Forum. It is also important to know that the Area Plans are working documents, which will constantly be monitored and updated to ensure that the issues included are still relevant for the area and that they are as up to date as possible.

The Area Plans will be distributed to all interested parties at the end of June 2006.

Section Five

Youth Update

Wallasey Young People's Project

This is an outreach project that serves the whole of the area. Youth workers meet with young people on the streets in places where they gather. In the last couple of months the work of the project has included:

On the 22nd April, young people from Seacombe and New Brighton worked with ASDA and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service raising money for charity with a sponsored car wash.

New Brighton, Vale Park, Quarry Park and Earlston Park: Group work addressing youth causing annoyance (YCA) and RRTB.

Skate Park development: Over the last three years, groups of skateboarders and BMX riders have worked in partnership with Parks and Open Spaces. These young people continue to participate in this development.

Youth clubs in the area include:

St Marys School – the club operates four evenings a week and has a thriving Duke of Edinburgh Award night.

The Belvidere Centre - a youth club for young people with disabilities and their friends. Recent activities undertaken are: Senior Member Training, Youth Achievement Awards, International Youth Exchange to Ireland, Swallows and Amazons weekend at Bala, visit to Chester Zoo, Ten Pin Bowling, Disability Awareness Weekend.

Response Agency has carried out workshops on substance misuse in St Marys College and Oldershaw School and a workshop on preventing homelessness at Weatherhead.

Young people from this area also access advice and support from Response Agency.

Wirral Youth Theatre

Offers various participatory arts workshops and projects to young people Monday to Thursday evenings 6-9 pm. Young people gain access to a range of activities and opportunities including drama, dance, performance opportunities, music, new media, Technical theatre set building, sound and lighting skills etc. Also on offer are peer education opportunities and training where young people can gain a BTEC qualification in Peer Education.

Wirral Youth Theatre also works in schools in the area.

Young people from this area access opportunities at Wirral Youth Theatre.

As well as the above small grants are available to youth groups and are awarded by the local youth forum.

Section Six

Streetscene update

Review of disc zone parking

WIRRAL Council has carried out a major consultation exercise with residents and businesses in Birkenhead – over plans to scrap disc zone parking regulations.

Increased traffic, evolving Government policies and changes to the commercial, retail and residential elements within Birkenhead have prompted the review.

Phil Black from Parking Services said: “The present scheme confuses motorists from outside the area who are unfamiliar with the regulations and it is extremely difficult to enforce. We want to encourage motorists to make more use of alternative modes of transport, and think twice before taking a journey by car. This review is aimed at freeing up parking spaces for those who have no option but to travel by car. It should also help local businesses, by encouraging a faster turnover of parking spaces which makes it easier for customers and visitors to find a space.”

The Council has written to more than 900 residents and 600 businesses, appealing for as many as possible to respond to a survey. This will enable officers to gain a full understanding of parking requirements and help them to identify a solution that best meets the needs of the local area.

The following options are being considered as part of this review:

- Increased on-street parking provision.
- Introducing resident parking schemes.
- Charging for on street parking within the current disc zone.
- Reviewing the current controlled parking boundaries.
- Reviewing days and times of operation of the controlled zone.

The results from this questionnaire will help prepare a report outlining proposals for the Environment and Transport Select Committee. Once this has been considered, the proposals will be formally advertised for comments, with notices displayed on street and in the local press.

Traffic ban for rural routes

A TRAFFIC ban restricting articulated vehicles from passing through Barnston and Thornton Hough in Wirral has now come into effect. Council highway engineers have been putting up regulatory traffic signs along Barnston Road, Thornton Common Road and Neston Road as the local authority has completed the necessary legal procedures to introduce an eagerly awaited Traffic Order. The move was prompted in response to public concern over the opening of a large distribution centre outside Neston on the A540. The centre had been expected to generate an increase in the number of HGVs using these routes.

The Order affects:

- Barnston Road (A551) from its junction with Brimstage Road to its junction with Thingwall Road East.
- Neston Road and Thornton Common Road (B5136) from its junction with Parkgate Lane to its junction with Clatterbridge Road.

Red circled signs reading 'No articulated vehicles' now feature at these junctions. Blue information signs are also being installed along side roads. The Council proposed the Order in the interests of road safety, traffic management and to preserve the existing character of Barnston village and Thornton Hough, both of which are Conservation Areas. Merseyside Police will be responsible for enforcing the ban. In the meantime Council officers have fitted specialist traffic counting equipment along both routes to check articulated vehicles are adhering to the new restrictions.

Road improvements along Saughall Massie Road

WIRRAL Council has started work on a £300,000 road improvement scheme along Saughall Massie Road in West Kirby. Work began at the end of February and the road is currently closed from its junction with Black Horse Hill to its junction with Gilroy Road.

The project is expected to take twelve weeks to complete allowing for the road to be rebuilt, widened and have parking bays installed. The scheme will reduce congestion and improve road safety along one of the main thoroughfares to and from West Kirby. In the past parked cars have disrupted the flow of traffic in the area, particularly outside Black Horse Hill primary at the start and finish of the school day. The scheme will create new parking bays when the road is widened.

Overhaul of road signage

HIGHWAY experts in Wirral have started work on the largest overhaul of road signage the borough has ever seen. More than 300 road signs are being upgraded or replaced as part of a £70,000 initiative. Signs with directions, warnings and speed limit information are all being reviewed as part of the exercise. The overhaul is aimed at improving road safety, reducing pavement clutter and ensuring that motorists will be able to find their way around Wirral easily – in readiness for The Open Championship in Hoylake this summer.

Director David Green said: "Schemes that improve road safety are a high priority for this Council. The Open will see thousands more motorists on Wirral's roads making their way to The Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club this July.

Many will be unfamiliar with the local area – and we've carried out this review of signage to make sure drivers can find their way about as safely as possible. We want motorists to be clear about the speed limit and alerted to any potential hazards, such as bends in the road. We've also used this exercise as an opportunity to tidy up our pavements, and remove redundant signs."

The scheme covers all priority routes in Wirral. Key 'A' roads that have already been reviewed and improved include Birkenhead Road, Market Street, Meols Drive, Grange Road, Column Road, Telegraph Road, Barnston Road and Brimstage Road. Over the coming weeks traffic officers will be concentrating their efforts on main roads in Birkenhead and Wallasey. Faded and damaged signs are being replaced with those using the latest reflective materials. This reduces the need for illuminated signs and improves the Council's energy efficiency. Wherever possible, separate signs are being merged on to a single column. This minimises clutter along Wirral's pavements, and reduces the risk of signs creating an obstruction for people with disabilities.

New Food and Garden Waste recycling initiative

THE first large scale combined food and garden waste collection in Merseyside began this April for 20,000 homes in Wirral.

Residents received a brand new brown wheelie bin for both food and garden waste, to replace the white garden bag. A handy kitchen caddy, small enough to sit on a work-top or under the sink, also provides a useful container to transport kitchen scraps to the wheelie bin. The scheme, which will eventually be rolled out to other residents, currently involves homes in Heswall, Gayton, Pensby, Spital, Bebington, Higher Bebington, Prenton, Oxton, Caldy, West Kirby, Thingwall and Irby, and is aimed at boosting recycling rates across Wirral.

People taking part in the scheme have received a brown wheelie bin to take food scraps and all the garden waste that was previously placed in the white garden waste bag. The new bin is more durable, easy to move and holds much more.

Over 22% of the average contents of a bin are made up of kitchen scraps and the new service will reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill and help the environment.

Not only is the Council introducing the food and garden waste recycling but officers are also working on a dry recyclable collection too. This includes plastics, glass, cardboard, paper and cans. Changes to waste services will be introduced over time from August 2006. The Council will make sure residents receive all the help and information they need to get recycling.

New roundabout for Leasowe Road / Gardenside

WORK has begun on a major road improvement scheme in Wallasey. Technical Services is building a roundabout at the junction of Leasowe Road and Gardenside. The scheme is aimed at improving road safety and reducing congestion at one of the busiest junctions in the area.

Director David Green, said: "The Council has carried out a number of major schemes this year – along Thornton Common Road, at Arroe Park and in Saughall Massie. We hope this latest project at one of Wallasey's busiest junctions further demonstrates our commitment to improving road safety, reducing congestion and lowering accident figures for the borough. Residents and motorists have shown great patience in waiting for this roundabout – we've had to follow lengthy legal procedures to buy additional land, needed as part of the scheme. Our highway officers are delighted that work is now starting on site and will do their utmost to minimise disruption for the local community while it is carried out."

Work started at the end of April and is expected to take up to four months to complete. The project involves building a 9-metre roundabout and new pavement, improving street lighting, upgrading bus shelters and introducing pedestrian crossing facilities. This will make crossing the road much safer for children attending the nearby Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School.

BT and Manweb have been working in the area for a number of months, carrying out essential diversion work – ahead of Council contractors starting on site. The scheme is being funded by central government as part of the Merseyside Local Transport Plan settlement for the area.

A41 footbridges are removed

WIRRAL Council has started work on a £1m package of environmental improvements for the A41 corridor, including the removal of footbridges in Eastham and Bromborough.

Mill Road footbridge in Bromborough was removed by crane, during an overnight road closure from 9pm on Saturday, March 4. A second bridge at Carlett Park was removed during a closure the following weekend.

Built in the 1960s, the Council faced costs of up to £70,000 to repair the two structures. Highway officers consulted with residents and monitored use of the two bridges. Both had low pedestrian usage and nearby pedestrian crossing facilities were being used in preference to the footbridges. The structures were also perceived by some people to be unsightly with the potential for attracting anti-social behaviour. Contractors were appointed to remove them on behalf of the Council and officers requested that materials recovered were sent for recycling. The bridges, their ramped walkways and stair cases, where possible, were removed the same night. Any necessary repair works to the pavements were also carried out.

Upgrade to some of Wirral's best loved promenades

A MAJOR refurbishment of some of Wirral's best-loved stretches of promenade gets underway this month (May).

Three kilometres of coastline, stretching from West Kirby to Hoylake, is in line for an £85,000 facelift. Promenade railings and shelters along South Parade, North Parade and Meols Parade have been earmarked for upgrading, with work expected to start within the month.

The scheme is being funded as part of the Council's annual coastal maintenance programme. Work is scheduled for completion as part of the 'Wirral – Open to All' campaign, aimed at improving the appearance of the local environment in time for The Open Championship at Royal Liverpool this summer.

The railings along South Parade in West Kirby endure some of the most extreme forces of nature being both abraded by sand and corroded by saltwater. They are now due to be coated in a new specialist hardwearing marine paint.

A total of six shelters in the area will be given a complete overhaul – with repainting, re-roofing, and new panels fitted to shelters where needed.

Work is also being done to reduce the amount of windblown sand along the promenade, with replacements to mesh panels being put in place, preventing sand from getting on to the road.

Section Seven

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service update

This will be updated at the meeting by the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Representative.

Section Eight

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

STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2006/07

Name of Road	Limits	Ward	UKPMS Ranking	Other Priorities	Estimate	Category	Description of Works
Paignton Road	All	Wallasey	83		£5,000	Surface Treatment to carriageway	
Wharfdale Road	All	Wallasey	83		£36,500	Structural footway & Carriageway	P/L kerbs Remove flags & construct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Haydock Road	All	New Brighton	76		£42,000	Structural footway & carriageway	P/L kerbs as required Remove flags & construct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Aysgarth Road	All	Wallasey	66		£65,000	Structural footway & Carriageway	P/L kerbs Remove flags & construct flexible footway Resurface carriageway
Dalton Road	All	New Brighton	--		£750	Surface Treatment to footway	
Holland Road	All	New Brighton	--		£2,100	Surface Treatment to footway	
Orrel Road	All	New Brighton	--		£750	Surface Treatment to footway	

Section Nine: Community Safety

Making Wirral Safer.

Our work as the Joint Community Safety Team (JCST) is showing good performance against our targets to make Wirral safer. As a partnership, we are required to achieve a 20% reduction against a number of indicators by March 2008. Wirral performance for the first half year of the target period (April - October 2005) has shown an 11.3% reduction compared to the same period in our baseline year 2003/04. We therefore have a further two and one half years in which to make a further 9% reduction in order to achieve the target. Based upon our projected performance the chances of us achieving our annual milestone target are very good.

Our performance compared to our most similar family of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) places us in fourth position out of 15 other areas and below the most similar family average.

C.C.T.V. developments;

The council have supported the development, through various funding streams, of the CCTV system into digital which enables police officers to obtain CCTV images more efficiently and enables staff to be more proactive in its use. We have also kept abreast of developments within the industry and have utilised the latest mobile CCTV systems to place in 'hot spot' areas.

What are we doing to reduce burglary (dwelling)?

Our performance to reduce the numbers of domestic burglaries continues to be at a high level. During the period April - October 2005 (which includes this quarter's performance) there has been a 14.4% reduction in burglaries compared to the same period last year. This means 148 fewer victims of this offence.

Alleygates continue to be installed in the more vulnerable areas for burglary across the Borough 167 properties target-hardened through Victim Support Service.

Burglary campaign on road hoarding signs, buses, radio (Buzz FM & Community Radio – Leasowe).

Burglary reduction marketing campaigns featuring Crimestoppers

Property mark using Smartwater technology in homes and schools

Smartwater leaflet distribution through Youth Offending Service and the Alleygating programme

Financially supporting Victim Support (through Government funding streams) to improve security in vulnerable homes which has lowered repeat victimisation.

The Joint Community Safety Team organised and hosted a conference entitled 'Friend or Foe' to highlight the issues surrounding doorstep crime, particularly targeting the elderly

Operating closely with Merseyside Police 'Pier Project' which targets Persistent and Prolific Offenders.

Domestic Burglary is an area subject to an LPSA target with a target not to exceed 4,700 offences of burglary over the two year life of the agreement which ends in March 2006. Our projected March 2006 performance predicts a level of 3,523 burglaries which equates to a total of 1,177 burglaries below our target of 4,700.

What are we doing to reduce business crime?

The team works closely with Trading Standards, Business Crime Direct, the Wirral Chamber of Commerce and independent traders. Some initiatives include;
The number of Pub / Shop-Watch schemes mushrooming with the latest areas of Hoylake, West Kirby and New Brighton coming on line.
Radio Watch schemes also being established Wirral-wide
Development of CCTV Broadband monitoring within Shop-Watch Schemes
New Web-based Ringmaster which alerts businesses to crime trends
CCTV Broadband monitoring system placed in two Birkenhead nightclubs which will also address violent crime linked to Council Control Room

What are we doing to reduce vehicle crime?

Vehicle Crime represents a further good news story in terms of performance against targets. During the period April - October 2005 the number of vehicles;
Vehicles stolen have fallen by 40.8% compared to the same period last year and are 53.3% below our performance during the baseline year 2003/04. Against a quarterly target of 453 vehicles being stolen we have recorded only 278 incidents
The numbers of vehicles broken into has fallen by 8.3% this year compared to the same period 2004/05 and has fallen by 22.3% compared to the same period within our baseline year. During the last quarter against a target of 510 vehicles being broken into we have recorded only 440 incidents.

Initiatives, following on from extensive research on car crime on the Wirral, include: -

'Roadshows' throughout the Wirral in which Neighbourhood Police Inspectors have assisted to raise public awareness of Car Crime through their staff.
Marketing communications campaign, this was launched in November in line with the seasonal trend of increased offences for car crime. The campaign will continue until February 2006 when the Home Office Car Crime Campaign will commence.

Tri-band signs erected on lamp columns in areas of greatest risk in order to remind people to lock and secure their vehicles and are careful with their property.
CCTV placed on various buildings to link through Council Broadband systems, which monitor vulnerable car parks.
Mobile CCTV cameras deployed to various locations to deter car crime.
'Talk Boxes' (which give an audible car crime reduction message) placed in four sites where they would have the maximum benefit.
Signage in local 'beauty spots' where there have been sporadic thefts from vehicles.
Crime reduction leaflets and posters distributed via Wirral Chamber of Commerce to businesses addressing car crime. This also includes leaflets given by retailers to customers at the point of sale when making purchases of items such as Satellite Navigation Systems.
Leaflets with specially designed crime reduction message placed under car windscreen wipers distributed by Police, Community Support Officers and volunteers.

What are we doing to tackle anti-social behaviour?

Reported incidents of anti social behaviour have shown a 9% reduction during the last quarter. This quarter comprised Mischief and Bonfire nights both generators of high levels of anti social behaviour but this year,
Due to the joint work between the JCST partners. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service saw a 35% reduction in calls on Bonfire Night compared to 2004/05.
In the year to date we have also seen 12 Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) obtained against an annual target of 4 ASBO's.
The CDRP is actively working through the Youth Service and voluntary agencies to engage young people resulting in the provision of diversion activity across the Borough

New projects will address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) with the help of additional support from Government to target alcohol-related violence.

More co-ordinated response to 'hotspot' areas. An important outcome of this work has been a steady fall in the number of incidents of disorder being reported. There were over 4,500 less incidents reported in 2004-05 compared to 2003-04.

The above, together with joint support of new anti social behaviour legislation, has been evaluated as successful in reducing disorder in areas critically affected by such problems.

Wirral's Youth Offending Service has been ranked 15th out of 155 authorities. This places the team in the top 10% of best performing youth services in the country.

What are we doing to reduce the impact of drug and alcohol abuse?

Operation Hawk is a nationally acclaimed enforcement operation jointly funded by the Local Authority, DAAT and Merseyside Police which involves education and community support aiming to tackle the availability of drugs. Since the start of this operation:

Over 150 warrants have been executed

180 persons arrested and charged for drug offences

£120,000 cash assets seized

Drugs to an estimated street value of £1 million seized.

Violent crime

Violent crime remains an area in which we do not anticipate reaching our overall target. Half way through the first year of our three year target for the more serious incidents of violence we remain 0.9% above our baseline year. In the second category of violence offences, assaults in which less serious injuries occur and in which a Police Officer is assaulted there has been an increase on the baseline year of 68.7%. Whilst this increase is significant it is exaggerated by the small numbers of this type of offence.

What are we doing to help victims / survivors of domestic violence?

A Family Safety Unit was opened at the end of November at the Old Court Building, Manor Road, Wallasey. It will improve services, focusing on risk assessment, earlier intervention and practical support to victims / survivors to assist them through the criminal justice process and reduce the threat to their safety. The Unit will also co-ordinate responses based on the experience gained in dealing with Race Hate Crime. For more information about the Family Safety Unit email familysafetyunit@wirral.gov.uk or call 0151 606 5440.