

**YOUR SAY** 

 **WIRRAL**



**New Brighton and Wallasey  
Area Forum**

**Papers for the forum meeting**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007**

**New Brighton Primary School**

**7.00pm – 9.00pm**



2002-2003  
Community Legal Services  
2003-2004  
Transforming Secondary Education  
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services

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# **New Brighton and Wallasey Area**

## **Forum**

### **Area Co-ordinator's Report**

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007**

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<b>Section One</b>	<b>Minutes from last Meeting Matters arising February</b>	<b>Page 4 Page 14</b>
<b>Section Two</b>	<b>Local Updates:</b>	<b>Page 12</b>
	<b>Safer and Stronger Communities</b>	<b>Page 12</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Unlicensed landlords urged to contact Council</li> <li>➤ Recycling champions walking the streets of Wirral</li> <li>➤ Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association Conference</li> <li>➤ New services at One Stop Shop</li> <li>➤ Mersey Fire and Rescue Service</li> <li>➤ Wirral Community Safety Team</li> <li>➤ Planning Aid</li> <li>➤ Pride in our Promenades</li> </ul>	
	<b>Healthier Communities and Older People</b>	<b>Page 18</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Wirral Hospital NHS Trust – Engagement Strategy</li> <li>➤ Technology to help vulnerable people in Wirral to live at home</li> <li>➤ Bidston boats top wheelchair tennis talent</li> </ul>	
	<b>Children &amp; Young People</b>	<b>Page 22</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Youth Service Update</li> <li>➤ Ability vs Ability .... Nothing Else</li> <li>➤ Celebrations as Wirral school named in top 100 most improved</li> <li>➤ Wirral school children win recycling challenge</li> <li>➤ Thousands of pounds available for Wirral Teenagers</li> <li>➤ First school in Wirral to pioneer grey bin recyclin</li> <li>➤ Space-themed reading project ready for lift-off</li> </ul>	
	<b>Economic Development &amp; Enterprise</b>	<b>Page 29</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Fairtrade Guide available</li> </ul>	
	<b>Cross cutting all themes</b>	<b>Page 30</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Latest news on changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collection</li> </ul>	
<b>Section Three</b>	<b>Area Forum Funding Progress Report</b>	<b>Page 32</b>
<b>Section Four</b>	<b>Local Area Plan Update</b>	<b>Page 33</b>
<b>Section Five</b>	<b>Streetscene &amp; Waste Update Integrated Transport Block Report Update</b>	<b>Page 34</b>
<b>Section Six</b>	<b>Equalities and Diversity Update</b>	<b>Page 44</b>

## SECTION ONE

### Minutes - Area Forum (New Brighton and Wallasey) - 27 February 2007

Present	
Chair	PJ Hackett
Ward Councillors	A Pritchard, Mrs LA Rennie, Mrs K Wood
Community Representatives	Rita Fraser (New Brighton Community Partnership), I Lewis
Business Representative	Martin Revans
Lead Officer	David Green (Director of Technical Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Andrew Brannan
Street Scene Manager	Chris Jones
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Dr S Mukherjee
Merseyside Police	Acting Inspector Paul Farrar, Inspector Peter Kolokotroni, Sergeant Greg Lambert
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Tony Mooney
Council Officers	Graham Arnold (Conservation Officer), Matthew Crook (Conservation Officer, Technical Services), Tara Dumas (Recycling Officer), Russ Glennon (Head of Corporate Policy), Mandy Keenan (Technical Services), Bob Little (Community Safety Team)
Apologies	Councillor W A Duffey

#### **Minute 1 - Welcome and introductions**

Minute Text :

The Chair, Councillor P J Hackett, welcomed Forum members and 40 members of the public to the meeting of the New Brighton and Wallasey Area Forum in Wallasey.

#### **Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinator's Report**

Minute Text :

Copies of the Area Co-ordinator's report had been posted on the Council's website at [www.wirral.gov.uk/minutes/public/minsareaco-orddsreport](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/minutes/public/minsareaco-orddsreport), and copies were available for members of the public at the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Area Forum were on pages 3 – 8 of the report, and actions taken on matters arising from the minutes were on pages 8/9. Additional information was given at the meeting as follows:-

Fire Service – Storing of Fireworks [page 7 of previous minutes]:

Sales of fireworks and pyrotechnics are permitted during three prescribed times –

Bonfire celebrations/Divalli 15 October to 10 November

New Year 26 – 31 December

Chinese New Year 15 – 18 February.

Retailers need a licence to store/sell fireworks and pyrotechnics. The Licensing year

runs from 1 October to 30 September. This year's sales periods have ended and sales should not be taking place. Anyone with information about illegal sales should contact [0151] 296 4607.

Youth Disorder – Earlston Road Library: A successful bid for funding of £4,000 would be used to improve the security lighting to deter youths from congregating around the library during hours of darkness. The roadway will be fenced and gated to further improve security.

The Mounted Branch had been involved in Operation Perch on 8/9 December and had resulted in seven people being arrested for various offences. Letters had been sent home to the parents of 50 youths. The successful operation would be repeated if there is a re-occurrence of the anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the Library in the future.

The Area Co-ordinator highlighted key points from his report under the headings –

Community Initiatives Fund [page 35]: New Brighton Community Partnership. An error had occurred in the Cabinet report for the New Brighton and Wallasey Community Initiative Fund Panel. Councillor Tony Pritchard gave his declaration of interest for a funding application made by the Friends of Rake Cemetery Group but unfortunately this was missed off in the Cabinet report.

Integrated Transport Block (Capital Programme) 2007/08: Following consultation on the re-allocation of the transport block from a central allocation pot to each Area Forum, two Area Forum had asked to be allocated a share of the Integrated Transport Block for spending within their areas, and the remaining nine [including New Brighton and Wallasey Area Forum] had agreed that the funding should be held centrally as in previous years.

The funding was available for spending on speed reduction programmes, road widening/-residents parking, pedestrian dropped crossings, central refuges and pedestrian sign posting.

Forum members and members of the public were invited to advise of any traffic issues or locations in New Brighton and Wallasey requiring investigation for potential inclusion in the Integrated Transport Block programme for 2007/08. Suggestions should be made in writing or by email and should reach the Area Co-ordinator by Friday, 9 March.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for a detailed report.

### **Minute 3 - Public Question Time**

Minute Text :

Members of the public raised the following questions –

- Mobile Phone Masts – Are there arrangements in place to evaluate whether continuing exposure to mobile radiation is causing ill-health problems, especially for those residents living or working within 50 ft of a mast.

Dr Mukherjee offered to investigate the issue and provide an update at the next meeting.

- Dog Fouling – on pavements in and around Greenleas Road and Green Lane, and in Egerton Street/the Tower Grounds. The lack of waste bins and the piles of plastic bags containing dog mess left on pavements. The effectiveness of prohibition notices stencilled on pavements, and the absence of dog wardens.

David Green replied that the issue of dog fouling is a constant problem, and is being addressed by the Council's Environmental Scrutiny Committee. Most of the problems could be resolved by educating people to take more responsibility for cleaning up after their dogs.

Due to limits on resources, there would be no more litterbins available in this financial year. The Councillors would meet on Thursday to decide the level of Community Tax for next year and this would determine the amount of resources that will be invested in public services next year.

For every request for a 'dog' sign to be stencilled on a pavement, there are about 25 other residents who complain that the pavements are being defaced and the signs are not wanted.

A member of the public suggested that the re-introduction of dog licences would make people accountable for their dogs as if dogs cause nuisance the licence could be revoked.

- Alleygating: The introduction of alley gates in New Brighton has led to a significant reduction in the incidents of burglary in the area. The area recently completed – the promenade to Egerton Street – was one of the biggest areas to be alley-gated. Various options to extend the alleygating scheme would be explored at Budget Council on Thursday.
- Crime Survey: 50 responses had been received to the 85 survey forms sent to householders by the Police. The main concerns identified, in order, were anti-social behaviour, under-age drinking, and criminal damage. The three areas identified would become the priorities for attention in the coming year.
- Graffiti: British Railway Police are the acknowledged experts with regard to graffiti. A joint Police exercise to identify the tags had been successful and one arrest has been made. The Police are pursuing an anti social behaviour order against known offenders which prohibits young people from carrying paint in the street.
- Buxton Lane/Leasowe Road: West Wallasey Village Residents' Group were concerned about anti social behaviour and under age drinking in the area. The area is totally dark at night and passengers arising from Liverpool find the presence of young people wearing hoods to be intimidating. The area needs flood lights. Dave Green agreed to walk around the area with the member of public who raised the query to see what could be done in terms of possible improvements.
- Egerton Street: Young people congregate in the area and get into mischief. The area should be targeted with cameras.
- Public Toilets: Councillor Rennie reported that the Standing Conference on Women's Organisations have organised a debate about public toilets at Heswall Hall on 23 March between 1 pm and 3 pm. There was an open invitation to anyone from this Area

Forum who wishes to attend.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that

i. Dr Mukherjee to investigate the issue of whether continuing exposure to mobile radiation is causing ill-health problems, especially for those residents living or working within 50 ft of a mast.  
and provide an update at the next meeting

ii. Dave Green to walk around the area of Buxton Lane and Leasowe Road with the member of public who raised the query concerning the problems of lighting to see what could be done in terms of possible improvements.

#### **Minute 4 - Presentation on the Designation of 'The Magazines' Conservation Area, New Brighton**

Minute Text :

The Chair welcomed the Council's Principal Conservation Officer Graham Arnold and the Senior Conversation Officer Matthew Crook

Matthew gave a presentation on a proposal for The Magazines, New Brighton to become a designated Conservation Area.

The Council has sent letters to all residents within and beyond the proposed designated area asking residents for their views on whether they believe there is a need for a conservation area, whether they would support one, and where the boundaries should be.

The proposal and the proposed boundary will be posted on the website and a public meeting to explain the detail will be held in New Brighton Primary school on 6 March. All views and comments made would be taken into account at the end of the six-week consultation period, Officers would meet The Magazines Conservation Society, and the final boundary would be determined based on the feedback received.

The outcomes would be presented to Cabinet and after taking account of the consultation, the Cabinet will make a final decision on whether to designate the area a Conservation Area and where the boundaries would be.

The Officers received feedback at the meeting from New Brighton Primary School, The Magazines Conservation Society, and individual members of the public who live in the area.

The Chair urged people to attend the public meeting on 6 March at 7.00 pm, in New Brighton Primary School where further information would be available.

#### **Minute 5 - Presentation on Wallasey District Cycle Plan**

Minute Text :

Mandy Keenan gave a presentation on the District Cycle Plans. She explained that a cycle plan is essentially a series of routes that form a network to serve the local area. The aim of the plan is to make travelling around the local area by cycle easier and safer. She would appreciate the views of local residents on whether the plan for Wallasey is the right one.

Mandy explained that one of the aims of the Cycling Solutions initiative was to involve more secondary aged children in cycle training. The training would involve on-road training based on new national training standards.

Mandy thanked the Area Forum for the feedback and questions she had received following her presentation. The comments were appreciated and would be taken back.

Minute Decision :

Resolved to thank Mandy Keenan for her presentation.

### **Minute 6 - Community Safety Update: Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire Service**

Minute Text :

Merseyside Police - Inspector Peter Kolokotroni, Neighbourhood Inspector for East Wallasey reported on crime figures in New Brighton. Acting Inspector Paul Farrar and Sergeant Greg Lambert.

- Anti-social behaviour - The Police receive more complaints from members of the public about anti-social behaviour than for any other reason.
- Car crime has reduced by 14% in the past year.
- House burglaries in alley gated areas in New Brighton have reduced by 19% compared with the previous year.
- Criminal damage has not reduced, but the Police are tackling criminal damage and youth disorder. The Police had successfully tackled the problem in Earlston Road Library, and following an impressive operation between the Police and Wirral Community patrols, the vandalism to Wallasey Town Hall had abated.
- Drugs – drugs underpin a lot of crime that happens across the neighbourhood.

Successful raids had been carried out in December when supplies of cannabis and large quantities of cash had been seized.

- Youth disorder – The Police are working with local secondary schools to discuss ways of engaging youths in alternative activities at lunchtimes.

The Police are working with partner agencies and the Youth Service to tackle the nuisance caused by youths from many areas of Wirral who congregate in Elleray Park and Harrison Park on Friday and Saturday nights.

A truancy sweep which begins on 5 March and extend across Wirral, but concentrates on

Wallasey. Police Officers would join Education Social Workers and any children found on the streets at times when they should be in school will be taken back to their schools or to a place of safety designated by the Local Authority.

On the whole, New Brighton is a relatively safe place to live and the reduction in incidents of crime bears that out.

A member of the public highlighted incidents of malicious damage caused to cars



parked in School Lane.

Members of the public were alerted to a spate of incidents where expensive Yorkshire stone flags had been lifted and stolen by gangs operating in Birkenhead who were posing as Council workers.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service: Tony Mooney

- Domestic fires had increased slightly during the Christmas period, but over the year there had been a 20% reduction in domestic fires.
- Anti-social behaviour – There have been 54 incidents. A firefighter has been appointed to a new full time post to operate within the Youth Engagement and Arson Reduction Team and address anti-social behaviour.

The Fire Service and partner agencies are working in conjunction with colleagues in Liverpool to develop a DVD to show the effects of anti-social behaviour.

Kitchens are a major source of fire in domestic properties and a new initiative has been introduced whereby volunteers clean the oven in the homes of elderly or disabled householders. The service is free of charge and can be accessed on 0800 731 5958.

Young people are being encouraged to become involved in the renovation of an historic fire engine – the only one of its type in the country. The restoration work can lead to a qualification for the young people.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That –

i the Police and their partner organisations be thanked for all their efforts on behalf of New Brighton and Wallasey, and especially in connection with resolving the vandalism at Wallasey Town Hall;

ii Inspector Kolokotroni, Acting Inspector Paul Farrar and Sergeant Greg Lambert be thanked for their updates.

iii Tony Mooney be thanked for his report.

#### **Minute 7 - Primary Care Trust Update**

Minute Text :

Wirral's Public Health Annual Report has been produced in an electronic format this year. The evolving Internet based report enables the content to be updated on an ongoing basis with new information being added as soon as it becomes available. The Annual Report, which contains a wealth of easy to digest Public Health information, includes - data in map and graph formats, demographic information, life expectancy information, health inequalities data and research methodology. A presentation on the Annual Report would be given for those who wish to remain at the end of the meeting. Otherwise, the report can be accessed electronically on [www.wirralpct.nhs.uk/publichealthintelligence](http://www.wirralpct.nhs.uk/publichealthintelligence).

Copies P R I M E, a free NHS magazine packed with information about how to stay

healthy, feel good and reduce your risk of serious diseases, were available at the meeting.

**Minute 8 - Dates of future meetings / Presentations**

Minute Text :

Resolved that the next meeting of the Area Forum be held on Tuesday, 3 JULY 2007.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

## Matters Arising

**Page 6 of minutes:**

**Dr Mukherjee to investigate the issue of whether continuing exposure to mobile radiation is causing ill-health problems, especially for those residents living or working within 50 ft of a mast and provide an update at the next meeting.**

A verbal update will be given on the evening of the forum.

**Dave Green to walk around the area of Buxton Lane and Leasowe Road with the member of residents group who raised the query concerning the problems of lighting to see what could be done in terms of possible improvements.**

Dave Green (Director of Technical Services), Peter Dickinson (Chair, West Wallasey Resident Association) and Andy Brannan (Area Forum Co-ordinator) spent time looking at the issues in Buxton Lane and Leasowe Road.

Following the visit a number of improvements to the area have been introduced, including additional lightening on Buxton Lane as requested at the forum.

## SECTION TWO

### Safer & Stronger Communities

#### Unlicensed landlords urged to contact council

**WIRRAL Council is calling for all owners and managing agents of large rented properties to contact them before the end of the month or risk prosecution.**

From last summer, large houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) have been required to be licensed by the council to comply with new housing laws. If a property is three storeys or more in height, occupied by five persons or more or forming more than one household sharing some facilities such as a kitchen or bathroom, then it will require a license. Without one, the owner or managing agent will face prosecution and a fine of up to £20,000.

Alan Stennard, Director of Regeneration at Wirral Council, said: "Houses in multiple occupation present some of the biggest health and safety risks for residents, especially with the risk of fire. To protect residents' well-being we urge landlords and managing agents of HMOs in Wirral to contact the council immediately. "So far we have issued licenses to 35 owners and managing agents but we know there are far more properties that should be licensed. By the end of March, we will have allowed 10 months for landlords and agents to contact the council. From April 2007 we will begin to prosecute those who have failed to apply for this compulsory scheme."

If you own or manage a HMO you should contact the Private Sector Housing team on 0151 691 8118 now. After March 31st it will be an offence to run or manage unlicensed premises and after that date the council will increase the level of license fees to be charged to cover its enforcement costs.

#### Recycling Champions walking the streets of Wirral

**WIRRAL Council has four new recycling champions to help residents really get to grips with what they can and can't recycle.**

David Green, Director of Technical Services said: 'Incorrect use, or contamination of recycling can cause a lot of problems. Heavy items like alloy wheels have been recovered from bins which could have caused serious damage to the materials recovery facility (MRF) if not spotted. We also have a problem if people dispose of plastic film and plastic bags with their waste paper - the companies that buy the waste paper for recycling don't want it as it's full of plastic and useless.'

Residents who use their recycling bin incorrectly receive a note with their bin from the collection crews, explaining why the bin was not emptied. This is followed up with a visit from one of Wirral's new officers to help the householder with their recycling.

Said David Green: 'We appreciate that this is a new process for people to understand and follow, our Recycling Champions are here to help and provide alternative solutions if residents cannot cope with managing their waste.' The officers are out and about in Wirral

all week including Saturdays and all will be carrying official Council identification. Anyone who fails to produce official Council ID is not a bona fide representative. You should refuse to deal with them and report them to the police.

Any Wirral resident is also welcome to request a visit from a recycling champion if they are unsure about the new scheme, by calling Streetscene on 0151 606 2004.

## Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association

The Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association would like to hear from anyone worried about anti-social behaviour in their community.



Representing around 50 tenant and resident associations in Wirral, the Federation of Tenants and Residents Association sees first hand the effect anti social behaviour has. Anti social behaviour affects people's lives in so many ways. To help address this issue, Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association is organising an anti social behaviour conference in September at Tranmere Rovers FC.

The conference will provide an ideal opportunity for tenants and residents to meet and speak to the people who's jobs it is to reduce anti social behaviour in Wirral.

If you are interested in attending please contact Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association on 0151 666 1770 or email [wirralfed@hotmail.com](mailto:wirralfed@hotmail.com)

## New Services at your local One Stop Shops

Since February this year the following services have been made newly available via your local One Stop Shop:

### Licensing

The main change is that the Licensing Reception point at Wallasey Town Hall has closed to the public and therefore you are able to pick up and drop off forms plus get advice and information at any One Stop Shop on the following areas:

- Licenses for airport/chauffeur services
- New and renewal licence applications for Hackney/Private hire drivers
- Permits for house to house collections
- Lottery licences
- Personal licenses for the supply of alcohol at licensed premises
- New licenses or requests for variation of existing licenses for premises or club premises
- Review requests for premises or club premises licenses
- New and renewal license applications for private hire operators
- Applications for Street Collection licenses
- Temporary Event notices
- New and renewal licence applications for Hackney/Private hire vehicles

We will also check any proofs that you supply, take payments where necessary and book any relevant tests/courses you will need to go on

#### Council job vacancies

If you see a vacancy you want to apply for, you can now go to any One Stop Shop and get an application pack for that job. You can also contact our Call Centre and a recruitment pack will be sent to you within a few days.

Also when you come to return the form you can take it back to any One Stop Shop and they will record that they have received it from you and give you a receipt. This means that you no longer have to go to Wallasey Town Hall to hand job applications in, and you can be guaranteed that the form is in before the closing date.

#### Streetscene

You can also access more Streetscene services at your local One Stop Shop so you can now request:

- Removal of any fly tipping
- To go on the Help List for bin collection
- Help following a missed bin collection
- Street cleaning
- A replacement bin following damage etc

Also don't forget if you have a query about when your bins are due to be collected you can do this via your local One Stop Shop, Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 or at [www.wirral.gov.uk/recycling/](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/recycling/)

#### Tourism

One Stop Shops can now give information and advice on Wirral's tourist attractions and events on Wirral.

#### Pest Control

It is planned that from the end of June you will be able to request the Pest Control Service from your local One Stop Shop as well as being able to phone our Call Centre. We will be able to make the appointment for you there and then whilst you wait.

#### New Advice Surgeries

##### Bebington One Stop Shop

There is now a Police Surgery being held at Bebington One Stop Shop on the first Tuesday of each month. The times and dates for 2007 are as follows:

1pm-3pm	5th June 2007
1pm-3pm	3rd July 2007
1pm-3pm	7th August 2007
1pm-3pm	4th September 2007
1pm-3pm	2nd October 2007
1pm-3pm	6th November 2007
1pm-3pm	4th December 2007

Police and Community Support Officers will staff the surgery and will be there to discuss neighbourhood concerns of local residents.

#### Eastham One Stop Shop

There is a Police Surgery being held at Eastham One Stop Shop (next to the Library). The surgeries are held between 10.00am and 12 noon with the next one on the 18th June. They are then every 3 week after that. Officers will be handing out crime prevention materials to encourage local people to improve their personal, home and car security

So pop into your One Stop Shop for further information on any council service – everything you could ask for under one roof.

For details of where your nearest One Stop Shop is please contact 0151 606 2000 or go to [http://www.wirral.gov.uk/fn/one\\_stop\\_shops.htm](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/fn/one_stop_shops.htm)

## Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Each year each fire station produces a service plan setting key objectives for that station to focus its activities on during that financial year. The objectives are agreed and are set in line with the Integrated Risk Management Plan for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service which can be viewed on our website [merseyfire.gov.uk](http://merseyfire.gov.uk)

Key objectives for all Wirral stations include:

- Use of local intelligence to access the “hard to reach” in the community to deliver Home Fire safety Checks.
- Affect a strategy to reduce fires in derelict properties.
- Continue to work with community partners to promote healthy lifestyles.
- Work with partner agencies to reduce the number of Road Traffic Collisions.
- Devise a strategy to reduce small fires in grasslands and open spaces with the Arson Reduction Advocate.
- Introduce a specialist Hazardous Materials response vehicle at Bromborough.

#### Home Fire Safety Checks

The number of home fire safety checks including the free fitting of smoke detectors carried out by operational crews in peoples homes in Wirral has increased by over 20% with 1700 carried out in April alone.

To get your free home fire safety check call 0800 731 5958.

#### Station Contact Numbers Ask for the Watch Manager

Birkenhead	0151 650 0422
Bromborough	0151 548 9258
Heswall	0151 342 4510
Upton	0151 678 0819
Wallasey	0151 630 3040
West Kirby	0151 625 1157

Information and details relating to particular areas will be available from the Wirral Management Team at the Forums.

## Wirral Community Safety Team

### All Wirral

- 3G cameras now available and in use in Tranmere and soon to be in Woodchurch
- The Home Office Minister Louise Casey has identified Wirral as one of the England's 'Respect Action Areas'. The 'Respect Housing Standard' an agreement with Registered Social Landlords will start in early June. Wirral's largest registered social Landlords are signed up to this initiative and will be meeting on a monthly basis to ensure standards are maintained.
- Police and Wirral Partnership Homes are working with the Wirral Joint Community Safety Team to reduce Criminal Damage to properties. This will act as a pilot project to be taken up by other registered social landlords.

### Birkenhead and Tranmere

- The much publicised 'talking CCTVs' are now being deployed starting with Charing Cross, Birkenhead.

### Neighbourhood Renewal Areas

- An initiative to provide computers to pupils has worked with Wirral Joint Community Safety Team to ensure they are delivered and used in safety. Specialist Brigadoon Stealth software was deployed which disables and locates computers if stolen.

## Planning Aid

Planning Aid provides free, independent and professional town planning advice and support to communities and individuals who cannot afford to pay planning consultant fees. It complements the work of local planning authorities, but is wholly independent of them. In addition to providing advice, Planning Aid aims to empower local communities by helping them to effectively engage with the planning process and influence decisions that affect their neighbourhood.

The service is targeted at people who would otherwise be excluded from participating in local decision making. The current focus of the organisation is on widening engagement in the planning process and giving an equal voice to all those involved in planning.

Planning Aid could help with education of forum members or community groups to help them better understand the Planning System or hold consultation events. If the forum knows of any areas where the charity could become involved, this would be a great opportunity. Leaflets could also be made available to publicise the service.

The following links provide more information about Planning Aid & some of the projects it has supported:

<http://www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk/>



## Pride in our Promenades

Mersey Waterfront Regional Park is pursuing a number of schemes across Merseyside under the banner of Pride in Our Promenades. The schemes are designed to revitalise the urban waterfront, create a high quality environment and enhance public access to it.

Plans for the Seacombe-Egremont Promenade are being finalised by The Environment Partnership (TEP). The programme of improvements is due to commence this summer, funded by the Northwest Development Agency and the European Objective One programme. As a condition of this funding, the Council has to agree to an enhanced management and maintenance plan for the Promenade.

The proposals for Seacombe-New Brighton

Plans of the proposals will be displayed at the Area Forum. They focus on 3 main areas:

The Seacombe gateway to the Promenade adjacent to the ferry terminal is to be given a major uplift, through the creation of a more pleasant, welcoming environment. The proposal is to encourage more walkers and cyclists to use the prom, with vehicular access restricted to emergency vehicles and those servicing the ventilation shaft. Physical works will include new surfacing, steps/ramps from adjoining residential areas, some planting and a gateway feature. There will also be new signs to, and information about, the attractions and historic sites along the Promenade.

The Seacombe embankments. Here, the existing planting will be improved, with some seeding with wildflowers on areas not infested with Japanese Knotweed, which the Council is currently eradicating. Railings, paths and seats will be refurbished or replaced, and the waterfall feature replaced with an interpretation of the Millennium Trail (the seven pieces of artwork designed by local school children and communities, and laid into the Promenade at various locations along its whole length).

Vale Park. The proposal is to improve the boundary between the Promenade and the Park, through the installation of new railings, enhancements to the surfacing, especially at the main park entrance, some planting and pruning/ thinning of existing trees. Also, the dilapidated shelter at the corner of the park (known locally as "Dr. Poggi's" shelter) will be completely refurbished and re-roofed.

General improvements In addition, some of the Pride in our Proms budget will be reserved for general improvements to the Promenade. These will include new signage (interpretation, orientation, finger posts and way markers), seats and bins and improved settings and plaques for the Millennium Trail artworks. These will complement the historic interpretation plinths to be constructed at Seacombe, Egremont and New Brighton, as part of the Maritime Heritage Trail.

## Healthier Communities & Older People

Wirral Hospital   
NHS Trust

**Engagement Strategy** - *The aim of this report is to 'set the scene' for presentations by the Trust at future forums, as part of our ongoing engagement strategy, at which more detail will be communicated about the Trust's plans for the next five years.*

**Wirral Hospital: into a new era** - The development of our Engagement Strategy marks the second phase in meeting our commitment to engage more closely with the communities we serve.

The first phase of this ongoing process came in February 2006 when we undertook a massive consultation programme in relation to our application for Foundation Trust Status "A Change for the Better". This consultation laid out our service plans for the next five years, which were then published as a formal part of our application to become a Foundation Trust. We are now half way through our application to become a Foundation Trust and feel that this is the right time to again engage with the communities we serve.

In the coming months, we will be talking – and listening – to people like you about our plans for the future. Hospital services are changing right across the country and it is important that we keep you up to date on developments. At future presentations we will be in a position to tell you more about our plans.

**Agenda** - Our aim for this brief report is to set the scene and remind you about:

- **who we are**, because sometimes there is confusion about who provides which health service
- **why we are changing** – we have to move with the times and respond to changing needs and demands, which I want to talk about
- and finally, **how we are changing**.

**Who we are** - Wirral Hospital NHS Trust manages two hospitals, providing services for approximately 320,000 people. Arrowe Park Hospital in Upton has around 900 beds and provides a complete range of acute health services. Clatterbridge Hospital in Bebington has around 200 beds for elective surgery (planned operations), rehabilitation services and care of older people. The Trust also manages the X-ray facilities, outpatient services and day hospital at Victoria Central Hospital and the Radiography Department at St Catherine's Hospital. The Trust budget is c£220m and we employ around 6,000 staff across all our sites.

**NHS Foundation Trust** - All hospitals have to become FTs by 2008. NHS FTs are a new kind of NHS organisation. They are accountable to their Membership and to Parliament, rather than to the Department of Health. An independent regulator, Monitor, makes sure they meet requirements and reports on this to Parliament. FTs have Members and Governors – unlike current NHS trusts. Members elect Governors to represent them and to set direction for the organisation. The establishment of a membership and Assembly of

Governors is a key part of our ongoing engagement strategy. We are aiming for at least 13,000 public members – currently we have 6,000.

**An NHS FT:**

- provides free NHS services on the basis of individual need and not ability to pay
- has to meet NHS standards in everything that it does and will be inspected by the Healthcare Commission and other national bodies
- employs NHS staff on their current terms and conditions of employment
- is accountable to local people through a Council of Governors elected by its members
- has Members who provide a strong link between the services it provides and the local communities it serves
- has to provide real opportunities for staff, service users and carers to influence decision making
- is part of the NHS and cannot be privatised - the level of money it can earn by doing private health work is capped by law
- has to maintain good working relationships with other health and social care organisations

**Changes in NHS nationally** - The NHS has seen a massive increase in funding in recent years, which has brought significant improvements to the way in which patients receive their care and treatment. The dramatic reduction in the maximum waiting times for planned operations (18 months to 6 months) is just one example. As well as improving services for patients the increase in funding has also enabled significant increases in salaries for doctors and nurses both in hospitals and in primary care.

The Government has introduced a number of strategies to enable the NHS to maintain its progress and achieve further improvements both in terms of services to patients but also in terms of the efficiency with which these services are provided. These include:

- changing the way in which NHS trusts are funded. No longer do they receive an annual allocation at the start of the year, but instead are paid according to the number and type of patients they treat (Payment by Results)
- giving patients a choice of which hospital to attend, encouraging trusts to raise standards in order to attract patients through their doors
- offering services, which traditionally were provided in hospitals, closer to people's homes in community settings and developing community services to avoid some patients having to go into hospital
- ensuring NHS trusts become more efficient by requiring them to meet a 2.5% efficiency target by matching the best national or international levels of performance

**Five year plan** - Over the last 10 years Wirral Hospital NHS Trust has become one of the most successful NHS trusts in the country. It has a tremendously strong track record of robust financial management that has enabled the expansion of the range, quality and availability of services to patients. As well as reducing waiting times and balancing our books we have also been able to develop services locally that previously had only been provided in Liverpool. We need to make sure we keep improving and developing services while making realistic financial assumptions and meeting national efficiency requirements. To do this we have developed a five year plan which includes:

- Our plans to treat many more patients and so reduce waiting times to 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment by December 2008
- Our plans to spend over £10M a year on better equipment and facilities such as more single rooms and ward upgrades, parents accommodation and a new heart treatment laboratory
- Our plans to develop more specialist services locally to avoid patients having to travel to Liverpool

Achieving our plans will cost a lot of money and will require us to improve the way we provide services. Treating additional patients will bring more money into the Trust (our income is forecast to go up by around £40M over the five years) but this will not cover all of the extra costs we will face. Comparing ourselves to other hospitals suggests we can do things more efficiently. We have developed plans to improve the way we provide services by reducing the need for patients to come into hospital the night before their operation and making sure they can go home the day they have their operation. We are also planning to improve our elderly care and rehabilitation services, alongside developments in services in primary care, so that patients can be discharged earlier than they are now. We are also looking at the possibility of providing some services in partnership with other NHS organisations or other public sector providers.

Our proposals aim to treat many more patients but to reduce the Trust's running costs by just over £20 million over the next five years by providing services more efficiently for example by:

- Reducing our numbers of surgical beds by admitting patients on the day of their operation and converting beds into day-case beds so that more patients to go home the same day
- Reducing the number of beds we need for patients who do need to stay overnight, by working with primary care services to develop community services and by improving our discharge procedures

Moving forward together - The Trust has engaged with the local community regarding its application to become a Foundation Trust but clearly this has to be an ongoing process. As we are now half way through our Foundation Trust application it seems appropriate to undertake further engagement, which will then feed into and hopefully our ongoing strategy and the establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors. Over the coming months and at future meetings we will be talking in more detail about our plans.

### **Technology to help vulnerable people in Wirral to live at home**

Wirral's Department of Adult Social Services, in partnership with Wirral Partnership Homes and Wirral Primary Care Trust is setting up a new, technology-based service that will help disabled and older people to live at home more safely.

The Assistive Technology Project will be launched officially by Wirral's Mayor, Cllr Peter Johnson, at the 'Smart House' on the Woodchurch Estate in Birkenhead on Monday, April 30.

The 'Smart House' will showcase equipment to support people who have difficulty due to age or disability in carrying out everyday tasks.

Nationally, the benefits of assistive technology have been well researched. They include enabling people to live more safely at home, assisting with hospital discharges, supporting falls or accident prevention and reassurance for carers.

Wirral has concentrated on two areas of assistive technology; Telecare and Telemedicine

Telecare means supporting and reassuring service-users from a distance with the help of technology. A range of smart sensors and detectors designed to improve safety in the home connect users by telephone to a monitoring centre via a Lifeline base unit, which is provided by Wirral Partnership Homes.

In the case of an incident or a request for help, the sensors will activate and alert the monitoring centre within seconds. Trained operators will promptly respond to the call.

In many cases, operators will contact a key-holder nominated by the client, for example a relative or neighbour. In other cases this will be a back-up response service.

Wirral's Director of Adult Social Services, Kevin Miller, said: "This is a genuinely exciting project that will enable vulnerable people to live safely and independently in their own homes.

Kevin added: "The extent to which this project can make a difference to the lives of older people and their carers is staggering; The range of sensors that Wirral will be providing in the initial phase of the project include fall, flood and gas detectors, emergency pull-cord, movement and wandering detectors, bed occupancy sensors and a medication reminder."

The equipment can be commissioned by occupational therapists and social workers working in hospitals, community teams and Adult Social Services.

In the longer term, the Assistive Technology Team will be exploring the role of Registered Social Landlords and other service-providers in the provision of assistive technology.

Telemedicine will come on stream in the coming months. It is designed to compliment traditional health care and will not replace face-to-face contact with older and disabled people. Telemedicine works by monitoring vital signs such as blood pressure, blood sugars, pulse etc. The data is then transmitted to the clinician's computer where it is closely monitored ensuring a constant picture of a person's health and well being and alerting clinicians to problems

### **Bidston boasts top wheelchair tennis talent**

**The breeding ground for the next generation of Paralympians in wheelchair tennis is right here in Wirral.**

Wirral Tennis and Sports Centre currently has more wheelchair tennis players attending training sessions than any other sports centre in the country. And the quality of the facilities and coaching on offer at Bidston is attracting players from far and wide.

There are 15 adults and seven junior players regularly attending the Tennis Centre's sessions coming, not just from Wirral, but from elsewhere on Merseyside and even from Staffordshire and Derbyshire.

The centre currently has five players who have represented Great Britain in international competition, including the coach Mark Ecclestone, who won the silver medal in the Athens Paralympics in 2004, while another – Carl Hird – is in the GB Development Squad.

Three players – Debbie Thomas from Prenton, Jamie Burdekin and Anthony Cotterill – have just been selected for the British squad that will compete in the World Team Cup, the Davis Cup of wheelchair tennis, and all three will be attempting to qualify for the Paralympics in Beijing next year.

Coach Mark is justifiably proud of the achievements of his charges, saying: "Over the past month Carl, Jamie, Debbie and Anthony have all won tournaments in Sunderland, Glasgow, Preston and Florida respectively. Alex Kroll from Aintree also reached his first ever singles final last week in Glasgow.

"Because of the success of the programme we have players attend the sessions from all over the region, including Macclesfield, Congleton, Stockport, Stoke on Trent, Preston, Southport - we even have a junior player travel over from as far as Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire!"

One of the reasons why the sessions at Wirral Tennis and Sports Centre have proved so popular might be because of the 'outreach' work that Mark undertakes to promote the sport in the area.

He adds: "We have an agreement with the spinal injuries unit in Southport to bring patients over to look at the coaching and facilities and I have also done presentations at limb centres at Clatterbridge and Aintree Hospitals to show them what can be achieved."

## **Children & Young People**

Wirral Youth Service provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. The Service's age range is 13-25 years; prioritising young people aged 13-19 years. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

The Youth Service in Wirral works with many young people in a variety of different settings, these include:

- Youth clubs
- Street work projects
- "Kontaktabuses"
- "Wirral Youth Theatre" and Youth Arts
- "Response" – Advice, support, advocacy and information service and Substance Misuse Service
- International exchanges
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Outdoor activities
- Projects in schools

The Service is flexible and able to respond to the needs of young people and offers opportunities that are both universal and targeted. Youth work on Wirral is delivered through joint working between the Local Authority, voluntary organisations and other agencies.

Youth workers work with young people in many different localities in Wirral. Having a variety of youth clubs and street work projects allows youth workers to work with young people in their neighbourhoods, meet their specific needs and respond to issues that are important to them.

Much of the work of the Youth Service takes place in one of sixteen open access youth clubs located across the Borough from Wallasey to Eastham and Birkenhead to West Kirby. Street work teams of youth workers make contact with young people who do not access the service elsewhere, build relationships with them and in negotiation with the young people, develop programmes which address their specific needs. This work is delivered on the streets, through project work and on mobile Kontaktabus.

### **Response**

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty.

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

### *International Work*

Each year the Youth Service runs a comprehensive programme of International Youth Exchanges. Young people from Wirral take part in a number of international opportunities including, Hong Kong and Italy, Germany and the Azores.

### *Duke of Edinburgh's Award*

The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 500 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

The Award is available to all young people aged between 14 and 25 with the emphasis being the development of young people's leisure time. By taking part in the Award, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

### *Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts*

Wirral Youth Theatre operates across the Borough to enable young people to access a wide range of performing arts related activities. Art forms such as drama, dance, music, technical theatre and new media are used to help young people to develop personally and socially as well as developing theatre and media related skills.

### **New Brighton and Wallasey.**

#### *St. Mary's Youth club:*

The youth club is open four nights a week and has 150+ members. The Duke of Edinburgh groups are at present preparing for expedition season, which began in April. The silver groups are on expedition and the bronze groups will be out June and July.

Young Volunteers are on the increase with some being referred through social care and other professionals.

The Special Needs Youth Club enjoyed a trip to Chester Zoo provided by the Rotary Club. Members of the Thursday Youth Club have attended training with Save Sex, looking at sexual behaviour and relationships.

#### *The Wallasey Young People's Project*

The Wallasey Young People's Project undertakes outreach work in the area, making use of the Kontactabus. Work is undertaken to address community safety issues, particularly in the local parks.

## **Ability vs Ability...Nothing Else**

### **A talent recognition day is taking place in Wirral for up to 60 youngsters with special needs.**

The 'Ability vs Ability...Nothing Else' event will be held at Pensby Sports College on Tuesday 13th March between 10am and 2pm.

The youngsters come from both special schools and mainstream schools within Wirral between the ages of 7 and 19 years.

They will be taking part in sporting events such as boccia, goalball, new age curling, multi-skills and floor lacrosse.

The event will also see the launch of a new web-based education resource pack from the British Paralympic Association designed to raise awareness of the Paralympics and Paralympic athletes.

Special guests for the day include Jamie Andrews, a mountaineer who had his lower arms and legs amputated following an mountaineering accident, but has gone on to climb mountains and run a marathon, Martin Mansell, a former Paralympic Swimmer and chair of the British Paralympic Association, Mark Eccleston GB wheelchair tennis player and former world no1, and Derek Mountfield, formerly of Everton Football Club and now a multi-skills coach for the Pensby School Sport Partnership.



Further aquatic, athletics and racket-based events are planned for later in the Year

### **Celebrations as Wirral school named in top 100 most improved**

**Pupils, staff, parents and Governors at Wallasey School are celebrating today after receiving a letter from Government putting them in the top 100 most improved schools in the entire country.**

The letter from Jim Knight MP came in response to the school's excellent Key Stage three test results.

Headteacher Phil Duffy said: "These results at Key Stage 3 show the fantastic work that goes on in the school by both students and staff. Together, working closely with parents, we can see at first hand the outcomes of real partnership. We are thrilled and delighted that the skills, talents and commitment of the whole school and community are recognised nationally and publicly by the minister for School Standards Jim Knight MP.

"We will continue to realise our missions of 'a caring and achieving community'.

Mr Knight MP says in his letter: "There is a lot to celebrate with these results as we know that young people who reach Level 5 at the end of Key Stage 3 are better prepared for their GCSEs and have better life chances, so pupils and teachers should be extremely proud of their performance."

The results at Wallasey show that over the period 2003-2006 they are among the top performing schools based on sustained improvement in the aggregate of pupils achieving Level 5+ in English, Maths and Science.

### **Wirral school children win recycling challenge**

**Schoolchildren across Wirral have scored a double jackpot simply by recycling old Yellow Pages directories - winning hundreds of pounds for their schools and raising enough money to plant and care for 70 native trees.**

Twenty schools recently took on the Yellow Woods Challenge – the simple, educational and fun environmental campaign for schools run by Yellow Pages, working with the Woodland Trust – the UK's leading woodland conservation charity - and Wirral Council.

The schools had fun competing against each other, recycling over 6000 old Yellow Pages directories. Clare Mount Specialist Sports College beat off fierce competition, recycling an impressive 12.53 old Yellow Pages directories per pupil to take the 'Gold Oak' title and win £300. Kilgarth School has been named the 'Silver Birch' winner and receives £200, while Orretts Meadow School has been rewarded with £100 and the 'Bronze Beech' title.

Stanley Special School will also receive a £100 bonus prize from Yellow Pages for the school that builds the best giant sculpture using old Yellow Pages directories.

Richard Duggleby, head of external relations at Yell – the publisher of Yellow Pages directories, said: "For every pound we award to schools for recycling old Yellow Pages directories, we give a matching pound to the Woodland Trust. Thanks to the recycling efforts of residents and schools in Wirral, that's another £700 raised for the Trust."\*

The Woodland Trust will use the money to support its 'Tree For All' campaign – the most ambitious children's tree-planting project ever launched in the UK.

Janice Hix, corporate partnerships manager with the Woodland Trust, said: "This is a very valuable contribution towards our goal. We're hoping to raise enough money through the Yellow Woods Challenge this year to plant and care for more than five hectares of native woodland – an area as big as 13 football pitches. "Woodland is the UK's richest wildlife habitat and offers benefits for the environment, for people and for communities. Tree planting is really important as we are one of the least wooded countries in Europe."

The local competition has now closed, but the schools have several more chances to win thousands of pounds in the national competition for their recycling, environmental education, community involvement and sculpture building efforts.

David Green, Wirral Council's Director of Technical Services added: "This has been a fantastic competition with over 5 tonnes of old directories diverted from landfill and recycled into cardboard. I congratulate our schools for their achievements locally and wish them all the best of luck in the national competition."

For more information about the local and national Yellow Woods Challenge competition, please visit [www.yellow-woods.co.uk](http://www.yellow-woods.co.uk)

### **Thousands of Pounds available for Wirral Teenagers**

**Wirral's teenagers will soon get the chance to bid for a share of hundreds of thousands of pounds to pay for projects and equipment to improve their lives.**

A total of £377, 513 is available from the Youth Capital Fund and the Youth Opportunity Fund this year in the borough.

Application forms are available from April 2 – and must be submitted by midday on June 25. Wirral's new grant panel of young people aged 13-19 will decide which projects are successful.

Youth Capital Fund money is for capital projects – ie buying equipment, new builds or refurbishments.

Youth Opportunity Fund money is for places to go and things to do – ie projects, residential stays, trips which support young people's personal development.

Applications should be made from groups or young people aged 13-19. Individuals can't apply.

Last year the funds were oversubscribed by almost £1 million. Successful applications included a new minibus for a youth club, new equipment for parks and clubs, support for homeless young people, a booklet written by young carers to help others in their situation, residential and trips.

Maureen McDaid, Head of Wirral's Youth and Play Service, said: "Last year's money has

paid for some wonderful projects and broadened opportunities for Wirral's young people. This year's grant panel will have to make some tough decisions – they will be paying close attention to the benefits each application represents.”

To request an application pack or find out more about serving on this year's grant panel please contact Youth and Play Service on 637 6370.

### **First school in Wirral to pioneer grey bin recycling**

**WIRRAL Council and St Anselm's College have joined together to introduce Wirral's paper and packaging recycling collection to the school.**

New grey bins have been delivered to match every regular bin to encourage students to recycle everything they can. The school is leading the way with innovative ideas to help the environment and reduce the amount of waste they produce.

David Green, Director of Technical Services said, “St Anselm's was chosen to pilot the paper and packaging collection due to their forward thinking in many areas of environment protection. We were also very impressed that it's the students that are pushing for the recycling, not just the teachers.

“It's essential that we think about schools as well as households in Wirral in order to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and recycle as much as possible.”

St Anselms students created an eco-group the self-named 'Plastic Scousers' who have accepted the task of getting all students to use the grey bins recycling plastic bottles, cans and tins, card and glass by holding assemblies for all students. The paper has already been collected out of every classroom and recycled for some time.

Mr A Rumsby, Deputy Headmaster commented; “When I joined the college in September there was some recycling happening but the systems were not in place for it to be expanded. It took very little to spark the boys into action and the whole initiative is now being driven by our Eco Committee. They have been given the brief to investigate and promote recycling options within our community. They have just found a source for stationery manufactured from recycled materials; the possibilities for continual improvement seem to be endless!”

The school also recycles mobile phones, ink cartridges, CDs and another student group called 'Organic Youth' care and attend to the school's new vegetable garden with a school composter recycling kitchen waste.

The school is appealing for any help to continue to set up the new vegetable garden so any cash, seeds, plants or compost would be greatly appreciated.

### **Space-themed reading project ready for lift-off**

**Pupils from four local primary schools and staff from nearby libraries are on final countdown ahead of the launch of this year's “Reach For The Stars” reading project.**

The project, which first took place 10 years ago in Wirral, involves children from the schools being split into teams then reading as many books with a space theme as they can over a six-week period.

They report into their local libraries on a weekly basis to provide an update on their progress and select more books to borrow.

At the end of the project, everyone who takes part will be invited to a celebration event where the Mayor will present them with a certificate and badges in recognition of their achievements.

The Mayor, along with popular Liverpool poet, Levi Tafari and the project's very own spaceman, will be on hand to launch this year's project on Thursday and Friday this week. Levi has written a special "Reach for the Stars" rap, which he will perform at the launch and at the celebration finale.

On Thursday 3rd, it is all systems go at Leasowe Library at 10.30am with children from Leasowe Primary school. Then on Friday 4th, pupils from Portland Primary will be St. James' Library at 9.15am for their launch, followed by similar events in the children's section at Birkenhead Central library with pupils from Cathcart Street school (10.30am) and at Ridgeway Library with St. Peter's primary at 1.15pm.

The Mayor, Levi and the project's astronaut will be present at all four launches.

Sue Powell, Head of Libraries and Halls for Wirral Council, said: "This project has proved massively popular with children for a decade now and goes from strength to strength. It aims to promote reading for pleasure among pupils, at levels above and beyond what they might do anyway and we are delighted to have the backing of the Mayor and Levi once again this year."

## Economic Development and Enterprise

### Fairtrade Guide available

**A new Fairtrade Guide to Wirral is now available with details of local shops and cafes, more about the local campaign and about why it's important to support farmers in the developing world.**

Wirral officially became a Fairtrade Borough in April 2006. In partnership with Wirral Council, the campaign has been led by the Fairworld Group – part of Wirral Local Agenda 21 Network – which includes representatives from many local churches, environmental and social justice groups.

The Guide lists dozens of local shops and cafés that stock products with the distinctive Fairtrade Mark on them. It also highlights the work local schools have done to spread the message.

It will be widely available at local libraries, One Stop Shops, Fairtrade shops and cafes, or by calling 0151 639 2121

## Cross Cutting (across all themes)

### Latest news on changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collections

**Residents urged to read their information packs as changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collections get underway. Wirral's new waste and recycling collections have begun, with residents being asked to use different types of bin for their waste and recyclable materials.**

As the new collections roll out across Wirral, homes will use:

A brown bin, for garden waste only (with the exception of a limited number of homes who are taking part in a trial combined food and garden waste scheme). A grey bin, for 'dry' recyclables such as plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars, paper, cardboard, tins and cans. Their usual green wheelie bin for all other waste that can not be recycled.

The new service is being delivered area by area, and as each phase begins, residents in that area will receive an information pack and collections' calendar so everyone will know which bin is being collected when, and what to put in it.

The information you receive is specific and targeted to the street you live in, and is not applicable to a friend or neighbour, even one living nearby. You should ensure you read the instructions delivered to your home carefully and keep them in a safe place. We know that some residents are apprehensive about the new scheme, but this is one of the most convenient schemes around the country; instead of a number of different bins, bags and boxes for different types of waste, this gives residents the chance to use the minimum of

means to recycle the maximum amount of waste - with no need for sorting. We do it for you.

Help is available from a number of sources: If you have access to the internet, use our [collection day search engine](#) for a road-by-road breakdown of latest collection information for your street. Alternatively you can call into any of Wirral's One Stop Shops, or to your local library, who will be able to access the internet for you for free.

The council call centre, Streetscene on- 606 2004 - will also be able to help, but please be aware that it is experiencing a high volume of calls at the moment and you may have to wait for assistance. We're sorry for any inconvenience you may be experiencing due to this.

These collections are being introduced to help the Council meet new recycling targets to cut down on the amount of waste it sends to landfill. In the long run, it will not only save precious resources for future generations, but will save council taxpayers money as it reduces the amount of landfill tax we have to pay.

Please bear with us while these changes settle down; as with any major change, it takes time for people to get used to new processes and new systems. We appreciate your patience and apologise for any inconvenience suffered while the service is established

## SECTION THREE

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
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.	The patio area has been completely renovated, re-paved and made safe. Patients and volunteers are now able to make use of the lovely garden at the charity's premises with the help of your funding.
Wallasey Sea Cadets	To purchase desk, folding desks and trolley, and chairs to set up additional classroom space.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,309.71 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The table and chairs have now been delivered and distributed between the classrooms thank you.
Wallasey Chess Club	To host two competitions for junior chess players from New Brighton and Wallasey and surrounding areas.	Panel considered this to be a good project which meets the criteria and will benefit local people and agreed to award £150.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We held our first competition for Juniors in December which, thanks to the funding, was quite successful with 16 children competing.
The Society for Dogs in Distress	To contribute towards veterinary and kennelling costs associated with providing help to dogs and people in Wirral.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to fund this.	So far we have made three donations, totalling £305.50 to help with vets bills and kennelling costs for dogs.
New Brighton Cricket and Bowling Club	To contribute towards the cost of erecting a 2m high metal fence and gates across the	Considered to be a good project that meets the criteria agreed to contribute £1,250.00	This project has now been completed and has so far proved a great success as casual use of our ground has declined, and is no longer seen as an easy shortcut to Liscard.

## SECTION FOUR

### Local Area Plan Update

**Background** The area plans were developed during 2004 to 2006 and launched in May 2006. In order to align them to Wirral's local area agreement, the area plans will be refreshed and reviewed on an annual basis to reflect Wirral and area forum priorities, and will follow the same delivery timeframe as the agreement.

**Purpose** The purpose of the area plans is to identify local issues, priorities and needs and to support and guide the forums in working towards addressing these throughout the year. The area plans are a development that will evolve over time as issues are addressed and new priorities emerge. The area plans aim to give an understanding of the local area in which residents live through the provision of information about what is in the area and statistical information about the needs of the local population. It also identifies local issues that have been raised through the forums and contributes towards achieving local area agreement priorities and outcomes.

The purpose of refreshing the plans is to standardise the 11 area plans ensuring they are easy to use and useful to residents. The proposed new structure will enable local issues and priorities to be identified and included in the area plans, this will ensure that through regular monitoring, Wirral Council and its partners are providing a dynamic and responsive approach to local issues.

**Proposals for new look area plans** It is proposed that the area plans will feature three main sections;

- Introduction
- Statistical Information
- Local priority action plan

**Introduction** This section will set out the purpose of the plans and introduce the members of the area forum. Contextual information about the area will still feature in this section, however in order to make these plans as user friendly and accessible as possible, this section will look to signpost to other websites and contact details for further information where appropriate.

**Statistical Information** In order to provide a standard approach to all of the area forum plans, the statistical information for each of the area plans will follow the same format and include the same content, adapted to show highlighted information for each of the forum areas. The section will focus on the individual area forum and also provide comparative information for Wirral to provide context.

**Local priority action plan** As part of the review of the existing area plans, each area coordinator will address the issues which feature in the local issues section of each plan and identify outstanding issues. These issues will transfer into the refreshed area plans to ensure they remain a key focus for the area forum. The owner of each action will be a named partner who will have responsibility to tackle this issue. Issues that have been resolved will not be taken forward into refreshed area plans. This will ensure that there is a clear focus on the key outstanding priorities and issues that are identified at a local level for each area forum. As new priorities are identified, they will also form part of the local priority action plan to be addressed at each area forums and progressed through the responsible partner.



## SECTION FIVE

### Streetscene and Waste Update

#### **Birkenhead Parking**

New parking regulations came into force in Birkenhead Town Centre in April, which replaced the existing Disc Zone with a new Controlled Parking Zone.

Motorists now have to pay to park in the new parking zone, between the hours of 8:00am and 6:30pm. Wirral Council did allow for people to become accustomed to the new charges, by offering a few weeks 'grace period' where no parking fines were issued.

The charges have been introduced to reduce congestion and accidents, encourage people to use public transport, free up more parking spaces, and improve access for emergency vehicles and disabled drivers.

#### *Changes to Speed Restrictions*

Wirral Council received a number of enquiries and petitions expressing concern about the speed of traffic in sections of Telegraph Road, Column Road and Thurstaston Road. As part of a scheme to improve road safety it is proposed to reduce the speed limit along sections of these roads.

Consultation letters have been sent out to residents in the area, notices have been placed on site and the proposed orders appeared in the local press.

The proposed speed reductions are as follows:

- Telegraph Road and Column Road from Church Lane to Grange Cross Lane will be reduced from 50mph to 40mph.
- Drivers travelling along Column Road from Grange Cross Lane to Croome Drive will be forced to slow from 40mph to 30mph.
- The existing 50mph speed limit in Thurstaston Road from Telegraph Road to reduced to 40mph.

#### **Residents Parking Zones**

After many requests and complaints from residents about the lack of parking facilities outside their homes due to non-residents (students, shoppers, commuters) using the spaces, Wirral Council are running a **consultation** about possible Residents' Parking Zones. The consultation is in the very early stages and will be carried out in seven pilot areas across the borough.

The Council have no budget set aside for creating Residents' Parking Zones so are suggesting that all residents' who opt for a zone pay an approximate £75 set up charge

per household. This funding would then go to signing, road markings, permit issuing and enforcement.

Residents in the seven pilot areas will be receiving a letter, leaflet and questionnaire. We urge everyone who receives this correspondence to state their views via the feedback questionnaire and return it.

No charges will be incurred by residents within existing zones.

The seven pilot areas are:

- **Atherton Street area, New Brighton** – near to New Brighton train station and a small number of businesses.
- **Alexandra Road area, West Kirby** – Near to boating lake, beach, shops and Coronation Gardens.
- **Grasmere Drive area, Wallasey** – Just outside of Liscard resident parking scheme. Near to local shops.
- **Barnston Lane area, Moreton** – To the north of an existing small scheme. Within Moreton town centre where there is generally low provision for commercial off-street parking.
- **Probyn Road/Ponsonby Road, Wallasey Village** – Near to train station.
- **Acacia Grove area, West Kirby** – Mixed residential/commercial use, close to train station, shopping centre and leisure areas.
- **Brookfield Road/Brookfield Gardens, West Kirby** – primarily residential with displaced parking related to nearby businesses and train station.

### **Road Safety Campaigns - Young pedestrians, young drivers and young passengers**

Wirral Road Safety Partnership (Wirral Council & Merseyside Police) commissioned a radio advertisement campaign aimed at teenagers and young people. A series of three hard-hitting adverts were aired daily on Radio City 96.7 throughout March and April, urging young people to belt up when in car, and to take care as a pedestrian.

In addition to the air-time campaign, Wirral Road Safety and Radio City are hosting a competition between four Wirral high schools - Woodchurch, Park High, Rock Ferry High and The Wallasey School. This competition asks for students to compile a short road safety advert film, and spread the film to friends and other young people, via mobile phone and the internet etc. The winners will be announced in June.

### **Port Sunlight/Clatterbridge Cycle Route**

Wirral Council is committed to promoting cycling as a healthy, sustainable mode of transport. The cycle route between Port Sunlight Railway Station and Clatterbridge Hospital is nearing completion and will increase road safety for cyclists who currently experience difficulties on main roads and at junctions. It will also encourage workers,

visitors and residents of the area to take up cycling as a form of transport. To benefit pedestrians and cyclists, three toucan crossings have been installed in Brimstage Road, Church Road and Bromborough Road to enable them to cross the road safely.

The route will also enable thousands of local schoolchildren to get out on their bikes and into the fresh air by providing safe routes for them to cycle.

**Traffic Safety Schemes**

Since the last update at the beginning of the year, we have implemented the following traffic safety schemes:

Conway Street / Exmouth Street	Signal Improvement
Hoylake Road / Reeds Lane	Signal Improvement
Duke Street	New Puffin Crossing
Port Sunlight Station	New Refuge
Bebington Station	New Refuge
Greenfield Avenue / Dawpool Drive	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
Dock Road	Traffic Improvement
Birkenhead Park Station	Convert Zebra to Puffin Crossing
Manor Lane, Liscard	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
St. Georges Way, Thornton Hough	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
M53 exit slip road (Toyota Dealership)	Speed limit reduction / New Carriageway and markings / New signs

**Highway Maintenance Contracts**

The extensive procurement exercise for the future provision of all Highway Maintenance works continues. Consultants, Capita Symonds, are currently preparing options and reports to be put to Members. The contract will cover maintenance works such as footway and carriageway works, traffic signals, gully cleansing and street lighting.

**Wirral on the Road to Recycling**

Working alongside Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, Wirral Council is encouraging local companies to use recycled materials and where possible use them within Council business.

One example of this is how we are using 100% recycled plastic kerb stones for pavements around the borough. The kerbs are light, very hard wearing and are reducing the length of time it takes to repair roads. This ultimately will save the Council money and provide us with a more effective material for road reconstruction.

The kerbs mean the use of technical lifting equipment is unnecessary due to their light weight and it's therefore much safer for staff to use. All the pilot schemes have also shown us how hard wearing the material is.

## **Cigarette / Smoking-related Litter**

Wirral Council are aware that when Wirral goes 'smokefree' on July 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a backlash of cigarette litter.

In preparation for this, the installation of 50 cigarette bins is imminent in the Birkenhead and Liscard town centre areas. Discarding cigarette butts is an offence, as is dropping any litter, and is subject to a £75 fine.

To deter Wirral residents from committing the offence, we are warning them of the £75 fine. We are heading up an extensive advertising campaign, including adverts on billboards, bus stops, phone boxes and bus rears. Will also be hosting events to give away portable ashtrays (Stubbi pouches) and communicate the fact that people will be given £75 fines if they are caught dropping a cigarette stub, or any form of litter.

## **Major Surfacing Schemes**

The Highway Maintenance Division has been very busy since the last review with the following surfacing schemes undertaken:

### **Footway works completed**

Heswall Mount, Thingwall	Cestrian Drive, Thingwall
Rullerton Road, Wallasey (part)	Birchway, Gayton
Downham Road, Tranmere (part)	Aysgarth Road, Wallasey
Orchard Road, Moreton	Craighleigh Grove, Eastham
Parkway/Parkway Close, Irby	Holmlands Drive (Part) Oxton
Moseley Avenue, Wallasey	Haydock Road, New Brighton
135 -157 Thingwall Road Irby	Darmonds Green, West Kirby

### **Future footway works planned**

Wakefield Drive, Leasowe	Devonshire Road, West Kirby
Caldwell Drive, Upton	Bassenthwaite Avene, Claughton
Burlingham Avenue, West Kirby (part)	Upton Road (part) Claughton
The Laund, Wallasey	Nursury Close, Oxton
Derwent Drive, Liscard	Grafton Street (part) Birkenhead
Dalmorton Road (part) New Brighton	Well Lane, Bebington
Croxteth Avenue, Liscard	Fieldway, Bebington
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard	

### **Carriageway resurfacing completed**

Trinity/Eddisbury/Kingswood/Berwyn Roads, Wallasey	Gorsedale Road (part) Seacombe
Wright Street, Wallasey	Beryl Road, Claughton
Kinglake Road, Wallasey (part)	St Elmo Road, Liscard
Lingdale Road North, Claughton	Hoscote Park, West Kirby
Adelaide Road, Birkenhead	Elm Grove, Hoylake
Byron Close, Prenton	Orchard Grange, Moreton
Redcar Road, Wallasey	Twickenham Drive (part) Leasowe
Moseley Avenue, Liscard	Darmonds Green, West Kirby
Palmerston Road, Wallasey	Redhouse Lane, West Kirby

### **Carriageway resurfacing planned**

Sherlock Lane, Poulton	Neville Road, Bromborough
Brompton Avenue, Wallasey	Dibbins Hey (part), Clatterbridge
Haydock Road, New Brighton	Wirral Mount, Clatterbridge
Chadwick Street, Moreton	Patterdale Road, Clatterbridge
Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge	Devonshire Road (part) Birkenhead
Derwent Drive, Liscard	Townsend/Challis/Curlender Roads, Bidston
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard	Bedford Road (part) Rock Ferry
Wharfedale Road, Wallasey	New Chester Road (part) Rock Ferry
Aysgarth Road, Wallasey	Bridge Street, (part) Birkenhead
The Laund, Wallasey	Argyle Street, (part) Birkenhead
Perrin Road, Wallasey	Mount Road (part) Bebington
Acres Road, Bebington	
Richmond Close, Bebington	

### **Tall Ships 2008**

Plans are already underway to manage the huge amount of traffic that the Tall Ships 2008 event will attract. The event is set to take place between 18-21 July NEXT YEAR

(2008). We are working with Merseytravel, Culture Company and Liverpool Council to create a suitable park and ride site on Wirral and to ensure East Wirral's streets are not gridlocked when the event is taking place.

### **Walk to School Week 2007**

Wirral Council have been working hard to ensure as many schools as possible encourage their students to walk to school by setting up 'walking bus' programmes throughout the year. Walk to School Week is Monday 21 – Friday 25 May 2007. The Mayor of Wirral, Phil Gilchrist will be joining a walking bus to Woodchurch Primary School on Wednesday May 23 at 8.30am and then St Joseph's Primary School, Seacombe on Friday May 25 8.30am.

### **Garden Recycling**

Garden waste brown bins have now been delivered to most homes that have a garden. This includes an extra 11,500 households previously without a garden collection scheme and brings the total to approximately 85,000 households.

Collection calendars have been delivered to all households with a brown bin. Collection days have been changed in order to provide greater balance of collection rounds and more logical route plans. Unfortunately, after being considerably let down by the distribution company some households did not receive their calendars. Wirral Council is now collating this information and arranging for calendars to be delivered as quickly as possible.

There have been some teething problems getting residents on to the new collection days, however the contractor are now catching up with collections and bins are being presented with lots of garden recycling.

### **Paper and Packaging Recycling**

The new paper and packaging scheme has now been extended to more residents bringing the total households to 110,000. Plastic bottles, glass, paper, cardboard, tins and cans are being collected, combined, from the kerb-side and taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Bidston where they are separated and sent to local processors for turning into new products.

The final phase (excluding flats) is beginning with the grey wheelie bins being distributed currently. All residents will be on the scheme by 11 June, this includes a further 33,000 properties.

Comprehensive information and advertising for the scheme has been provided to all residents. The Council applied for funding from the Waste Resource Action Program (WRAP) for the communications activities and this was awarded providing Wirral with an extensive marketing campaign. The marketing literature was used as good-practice by WRAP. Wirral's website has been updated and provides all the most recent information for residents.

Some problems occurred at the beginning of the recent roll-out of the bins. This was mainly due to the contractor playing catch up after the Easter Bank Holiday's as residents were unaware collections would take place. This led to a back-log of bins to collect and caused some problems with delayed collections. The Council did experience high volumes of calls to Streetscene and negative press coverage, however

since the scheme has begun, residents have presented huge amounts of recycling and have really taken ownership of the scheme.

Wirral saw almost treble the volume of recycling within the first four weeks on the paper and packaging scheme with a 95% participation rate. It is anticipated that Wirral will exceed our recycling target of 23% next year. Wirral is very encouraged about the standard of recycling with very few bins having to be rejected for contamination, i.e. wrong items presented for collection in a recycling bin.

### **Home Composting**

WRAP (Waste Resource Action Program) are funding a home compost incentive scheme for Wirral residents throughout 2007. Residents can purchase home composters for as little as £8 including free delivery. The scheme also provides residents with an information starter kit, access to a compost help line and regular newsletters with helpful hints. Details of the scheme are posted on the Council's website. In addition Wrap will carry out several borough wide leaflet drops promoting the scheme to every household in the borough

## **INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK (CAPITAL PROGRAMME) 2007/08 – UPDATE**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES TO STREETSCENE & TRANSPORT SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –23 MAY 2007

Senior officers from my Department have engaged with each of the eleven Area Forums in the June 2006 cycle of meetings.

Nine out of the eleven Area Forums had decided that the whole of the Integrated Transport Block allocation remains at the centre for use on a borough wide basis. Bromborough and Eastham and Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forums expressed a desire to have a share of the budget allocated locally.

It was noted that this would mean that the two Area Forums would receive 1/11th each of the Integrated Transport Block for local allocation and that any projects within those areas above that level of funding would not be able to proceed.

I am expecting suggestions at the June 2007 cycle of Area Forums, which will be considered, where appropriate.

Suggestions already received from some of the Area Forums have already been considered along with all other requests received for Speed Reduction and Aids to Movement schemes. Requests for Speed Reduction schemes are included within a separate report to this Committee. The remaining initiatives within the Aids to Movement programme are considered below.

I do, however, propose to bring a separate report to your Committee following the next cycle of Area Forum meetings and report on the requests made within the Bromborough and Eastham, and Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forums, identifying Aids to Movement schemes to be implemented from the allocated share of the Integrated Transport Block.





## SECTION SIX

### Equality and Diversity

#### Introduction

Welcome to this new section of the forum's report! This will be a regular feature in future and if anyone has any comments, ideas or items they would like to see included in this section, they will be most welcome.

#### What is Equality and Diversity?

The ESLG (Equality Standard for Local Government) assesses how we are performing in respect of gender, race and disability. The standard provides a framework for delivering continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

There are 6 strands/pillars of the Equality Standard:

- Race
- Disability
- Gender
- Age
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion or belief

We currently have a statutory duty to produce schemes which address any negative impact in respect of race, disability and gender, all of which can be found on the Council's website.

[http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO\\_Policy.htm](http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm)

The Equality Standard has 5 levels, Wirral is aiming to achieve level 2 by December 2007. A validation exercise took place recently where 'critical friends' were invited to help assess us informally as an Authority in order for us to reach level 2. The process for level 2 is self assessment and includes colleagues from other local authorities, Age Concern, Youth Service, Jigsaw, Wirral Change, WIRED and Women's Enterprise Breakthrough.

The Council has mechanisms to ensure all departments regularly discuss equalities. There is also a Corporate Group which meets bi-monthly to assess the progress of departments through the equality agenda. In this way we hope to address any areas of weaknesses in our employment practice or service delivery.

If you are interested to find out more please visit our website and your views/comments would be appreciated and fed back to the Corporate Group.

#### Useful groups/contacts

**Clint Agard, Wirral Change** - Wirral Change is a Black and Racial Minority Outreach Service which offers information, advice and guidance on jobs, education, training, self-employment and signposting to other services for Racial

Minority people on the Wirral. We offer drop-in sessions for internet access/job search. We also now have a new service which provides immigration advice.

For further information please contact Clint on 0151 650 5428

**Margaret Jones, Chair - Wirral Disabled People's Forum** - The Wirral Disabled People's Forum meets four times a year at different accessible venues across the Wirral. The Forum exists to discuss issues that are of importance to disabled people and their carers and to ensure that their views are taken forward to the relevant bodies where decisions are being made. By doing this disabled people in Wirral have the opportunity to influence services in the area.

For further information please contact Margaret on 0151 327 5508

**Peter Barnett, Wirral LGB&T Forum (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender)** - A forum for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender community has been set up; this has been done with the support of the NETWORK (WVCSN), Wirral Borough Council and Merseyside Police. At this moment in time we are setting up the core group to assess the policy's and aims of the forum, if any one is interested in joining the core group please email us at [wirralgbt\\_forum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wirralgbt_forum@yahoo.co.uk)

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