

New Brighton and Wallasey

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

15th Oct 2007

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Your area forum members

Area forums involve your local ward councillors, Merseyside Police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services Representatives, along with your nominated local community representatives and officers from various departments of the council, who regularly attend to support the work of the forum.



Area Forum Chair:
Councillor P.J. Hackett
Labour Councillor for New Brighton Ward
pathackett@wirral.gov.uk
0151 638 4718



Councillor Lesley Rennie
Conservative Councillor for Wallasey ward
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0151 644 8137



Councillor Mrs K. Wood
Conservative Councillor for Wallasey Ward
0151 639 5920
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Councillor Bill Duffey
Conservative Councillor for New Brighton Ward
billduffey@wirral.gov.uk
0151 630 1578



Councillor Tony Pritchard
Conservative Councillor for New Brighton Ward
tonypritchard@wirral.gov.uk
0151 639 4586



Councillor Paul Hayes
Conservative Councillor for Wallasey Ward
paulhayes@wirral.gov.uk
0151 638 8046

Wirral Council Lead Officer:

Dave Green, Technical Services

As Director of the Technical Services Department, Dave is committed to consulting and engaging with residents, businesses and community partners to deliver efficient and high quality Technical Services, including building control and design, road maintenance, road safety, transportation, planning and waste and recycling

Community Representatives:

Ian Curruthers

Ian has owned Hollins Hey Hotel for the last 11 years and was recently nominated for the position of Chair of New Brighton Trade and Business Association.

Rita Fraser

Rita represents the New Brighton Community Partnership having been elected to the Forum 3 years ago.

Ian Lewis:

Ian is a Governor of a local primary school and former Chairman of Governors at Orrets Meadow Special School.

Mark Williams

Mark is a Community Representative for Wallasey and is the Governor of Mosslands School.

Martin Revans

Martin is the Business Representative on the New Brighton and Wallasey Forum and takes a keen interest in seeing the area thriving for businesses and local residents who live in the area.

Andy Brannan – Area Forum Co-ordinator

Andy can be contacted on 0151 691 8391, andrewbrannan@wirral.gov.uk or speak to him at your local forum

All Ward Councillors, hold regular surgeries all year round and can always be contacted by post or via their email. They represent all residents regardless of political persuasion. You can write to your local councillor at Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wirral CH44 8ED.

Our website is www.wirral.gov.uk

Section One

Minutes from last meeting and any matters arising from the previous forum

Minutes - Area Forum (New Brighton and Wallasey) - 3 July 2007

Present

Chair

PJ Hackett

Ward Councillors

Paul Hayes, A Pritchard, Mrs LA Rennie, Mrs K Wood

Business Representative

Martin Revans

Older People's Parliament Representative

Joseph Fish

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

Inspector Paul Farrar, Inspector Peter Kolokotroni

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Tony Mooney

Wirral Hospital Trust

Sue Green

Council Officers

Bob Little (Community Safety Team)

Apologies

Councillor W A Duffey, Rita Fraser (New Brighton Community Partnership), I Lewis, Mark Williams

Minute 1 - Welcome / Introductions / Apologies

Minute Text :

The Chair, Councillor P J Hackett, welcomed Forum members and 18 members of the public to the meeting of the New Brighton and Wallasey Area Forum in New Brighton.

Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinators Report Including: Matters Arising from October 2006 Area Plan Update

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, 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 4-10 of the report, and actions taken on matters arising from the minutes were on page 11. Additional information was given at the meeting on :-

Exposure to mobile radiation: Dr Mukherjee had investigated the issue raised by a local resident about the health hazards associated with mobile phone masts. There is a great deal of interest in the issue nationally and the Public Health Department has carried out a substantial amount of research into the medical implications of mobile phone masts.

There is no evidence whatsoever that mobile phone masts cause any problems from a health perspective; exposure from mobile phones is much higher than from masts. Research is continuing and if further data of any significance becomes available, Dr Mukherjee will report further to the area forum and will publish the information in the newspapers.

The area co-ordinator drew attention to Section 3 of his report which included progress reports on organisations that have received community initiatives funding in the past.

Councillor Wood commented that grants have been awarded to more than the five organisations who have provided reports. It is necessary to ensure that public money is being spent properly. She suggested the need for the Area Forum to look more closely in future at the organisations who are awarded grants.

Councillor Wood formally moved that anyone who applies for and is awarded a CIF grant needs to be reminded that they have a responsibility to report back to the Area Forum on the use of the grant.

Section 4 of the Area Co-ordinator's report gave information on the local area plan for New Brighton and Wallasey. Work has been completed on refreshing and updating the plan and copies can be downloaded from the Council website.

Minute 3 - Public question time

Minute Text :

Members of the public raised the questions –

Recycling: [Member of public] I am very happy with the recycling system, but am confused about some of the materials that should go in the recycling bin, eg certain plastic products including those that indicate that they are made from materials that are suitable for recycling.

David Green replied that the machinery available at the new Materials Recovery

Facility at Bidston, although state of the art, can only deal with certain types of recyclables. As technology moves forward the equipment will be upgraded and in future it will be possible to sort items such as margarine tubs and yoghurt pots, tinfoil etc. For now, the facility can deal only with plastic bottles, glass, paper, cardboard, tins and cans. Everything else should be placed in the green bin.

Recycling Facility – [Member of public] Are there any plans to allow visitors to see the facility in operation? It would be useful to see which materials can and cannot be recycled.

David Green – School children have organised visits because Citizenship, which includes Recycling, is part of the curriculum. The Disposal Authority will be asked if there are any plans to build on that to include adults.

Mr Revans – Would it be helpful with such an excellent website to do a video on what the recycling machinery can handle, and explain why some things can be re-cycled and some cannot?

David Green – The Waste Disposal Authority is going through a massive re-organisation at the moment. There will be a new contractor from 2008, and as part of the tendering process, we are asking for ideas about how we can do things like that, a webcam idea.

Membership of the Area Forum: Anne McArdle enquired about the criteria and process to appoint members of the Area Forum.

The Area Co-ordinator replied that the Area Forum comprises representatives from various partner organisations, such as Police, Fire and Rescue Service, the Primary Care Trust, as well as elected members for each Ward. In addition, there are community members who are elected from the community and if there are vacancies members of the community can put their names forward. The current term of office of Community Members for all eleven area forums is due to end in the Autumn 2007 and elections will be held at that time.

The Chair asked that a paper on the process for the election of Community Members is presented at the next Area Forum Meeting. A suggestion was made that there should be an annual general meeting type of process to elect a Chair, decide who attends and make nominations for community members so that the process is transparent.

Public Transport – [Member of public] The bus stop, which serves the 410 and 433 New Brighton to Liscard route has been removed because the drivers decided it was dangerous to stop there.

The Chair replied that Councillors from the two political wards are represented on Merseyside Transport Authority. It is a problem for the Liscard Area and that forum will be writing to Merseytravel. However this forum would welcome comments on the issue.

Members of Parliament have voted for a national bus pass from next April.

Minute 4 - Older Peoples Parliament Update

Minute Text :

Joseph Fish introduced himself and explained that he is a member of the Older People's Parliament. Since it started in January the Parliament has elected an executive and eight committees. The committees have been monitoring Arrowe Park, Transport, Crime, Education and Youth and have made significant progress in those committees. The Transport Committee has met with Arriva who are talking about having an older person on their Committee from the Parliament. Mr Fish offered to provide more details for anyone interested, at the end of the meeting.

Minute 5 - Wirral Hospital Trust – Engagement Strategy

Minute Text :

Sue Green thanked the Area Forum for the invitation to attend and give a presentation on Wirral Hospital Trust Engagement Strategy. The development of the Engagement Strategy marks the second phase of the Trust's commitment to engage more closely with the communities it serves.

The first phase in February 2006 involved a major consultation programme, A Change for the Better, in relation to the Trust's application for Foundation Trust Status. The consultation laid out service plans for the following five years. The Trust has just been notified that it has been granted NHS Foundation Trust status. Arrowe Park Hospital will be renamed Wirral University Teaching Hospital.

In the coming months the Trust will be talking – and listening – to Area Forums and community groups throughout Wirral on ways in which hospital services are changing.

The focus of the presentation this evening would be on Who we are, Why we are changing, and How we are changing. The responses from the consultation will be feed into the strategy.

Unlike current NHS trusts, Foundation Trusts have Members and Governors. Members elect Governors to represent them and to set direction for the organisation. The membership and Assembly of Governors is a key part of the engagement strategy.

The Trust values the contribution made by members and encourages members of the public to become public members or attend Assembly meetings – application forms were available at the meeting. Further information can be obtained from www.whnt.nhs.uk. Read your hospital.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Sue Green responded to questions from members of the Forum and the public on –

Single Sex Wards – The majority of our wards are now single sex. The wards that are mixed have separate bays. There are plans to have single rooms with ensuite facilities to protect privacy and dignity. Areas that are not single sex – because of the nature of the provision - are the high dependency unit and the intensive care unit.

Members - Foundation Trusts have Members and Governors. 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 the Trust's ongoing engagement strategy. The Trust is aiming for at least 13,000 public members – currently it has 6,000.

The Assembly of Governors has extensive powers and the majority of votes on the assembly are public and public governors. The Assembly of Governors has to approve the Trust plans for the future, including the financial plan, on the basis that they have been involved in and understand them. They can determine the pay and the contract for the Chair of the non-executive Directors of the Board of Directors and they have powers to dismiss the Chair and the Chief Executive of the Trust. A meeting of the Governors will be held this week to help them become involved in developing plans for the future.

Sue Green responded to questions about the transfer of patients from Clatterbridge Hospital to Arrowe Park Hospital; she explained the financial issues relating to income of £40 million referred to in the presentation, and the justification for reducing the number of hospital beds.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That Sue Green be thanked for the presentation.

Minute 6 - Partner updates Community Safety, Fire Service, Wirral Primary Care Trust & Police

Minute Text :

Tony Mooney - Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service: Each fire station produces a service plan setting key objectives for that station to focus its activities on during each financial year. The objectives are agreed and set in line with the Integrated Risk Management Plan for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.

Key objectives for all Wirral stations include: Use of local intelligence to access the 'hard to reach' in the community to delivery home fire safety checks; a strategy to reduce fires in derelict properties; work with community partners to promote health lifestyles and with partner agencies to reduce the number of road traffic collisions; devise a strategy to reduce small fires in grasslands and open spaces; introduce a specialist hazardous materials response vehicle at Bromborough.

In the last quarter, there have been 305 home fire risk assessments carried out; there have been seven domestic fires in New Brighton and two in Wallasey. The Service has targeted areas in which those fires have occurred in an attempt to further reduce the number of incidents.

It was reported at the last Area Forum that a firefighter has been appointed to a new full time post to operate within the Youth Engagement and Arson Reduction Team to specifically target anti-social behaviour. The strategy had been successful inasmuch as there has been a marked reduction in incidents of anti social behaviour, and that is to the credit of all the partnerships – Social Services, Education and the Police – who

are all working together to make some positive changes and improvements in the area.

The Service is also working with Wirral Partnership Homes in identifying the most vulnerable members of the community and carrying out home risk assessments and signposting people to the services that can provide additional support.

The Service is also working with its partners on an assistive technology project, called the 'Smart House', on the Woodchurch Estate in Birkenhead. The Smart House showcases equipment to support people who have difficulty due to age or disability in carrying out every day tasks and enables disabled and older people to live at home more safely.

There is a high incidence of fires in properties in multiple occupancy. The Service is working on the development of an 'adopt a block' strategy whereby a watch would adopt a block of flats or a property in multi-occupancy and work to reduce the risks in those properties.

Last year, due to the dry weather, there were a number of serious grass fires on public land such as Bidston Hill. This year, in conjunction with the Police, the Council, Schools, Ranger Service the service is developing a 'traffic light' system to identify areas where there is a risk of large fires and to tackle those fires before they get out of hand.

The Fire Service has a dedicated unit to deal with fireworks and explosives, and works with the Police and Trading Standards to monitor the licensing of premises that sell or store fireworks and pyrotechnics.

In response to a question from Councillor Pritchard about the hazardous response vehicle at Bromborough Fire Station, Tony Mooney explained that there are officers throughout the service who are trained as specialist hazard materials officers. They are qualified to deal with incidents quickly. The aim is to create a specialist team of officers who will become a centre of excellence in dealing with hazardous materials.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has recently been awarded a Regeneration Award for Excellence and Innovation in Community Work and Improved Neighbourhoods.

Councillor Rennie requested that the congratulations of the Area Forum be conveyed back to the staff who have worked to achieve the Award.

The Chair commented that the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has the highest status of all the services in the country. He expressed his thanks for the excellent service the Service provides for the public.

Wirral Primary Care Trust: Dr Mukherjee offered to take questions from individual members of the public at the end of the meeting.

Merseyside Police: Inspector Farrar reported that the incidence of crime in New

Brighton remains very low compared with last year. For the whole of June, there were only eight domestic burglaries in the whole of the New Brighton area, which is an all-time low. There were six incidents of theft of or from cars. Cars made after 1998 are more difficult to steal and it is recommended that older cars are protected with a crook lock. There has been a 10% reduction in criminal damage in New Brighton. There has been no further damage in Rake Cemetery following the arrest and sentencing of a number of youths in connection with the £1 million damage caused to gravestones.

Anti-social behaviour remains an issue, and the Police are continuing to work on problem-solving the issue. Various tactics are being used to address identified 'hot spots' around Earlston Library and Quarry Park. Plain clothes officers are engaged in licensed premises pretending to be members of staff and dealing with under-age young people who try to purchase alcohol, and with older people who purchase alcohol on behalf of under-age people. A significant number young people who regularly engage in disorder and auto crime have been arrested over the weekend. There has also been a significant amount of activity to address speeding motorists and other issues that affect road safety, especially in Mount Pleasant and Earlston Road.

Several complaints have been received about activities surrounding nightclubs. One complaint was concerned with the group of youths urinating in a resident's doorway in Rowson Street at 1.30 am on a Sunday morning; others about youths hanging around the promenade during the early hours at weekends, and in Virginia Road and in the Floral gardens, breaking glass and intimidating people.

The bus stop in Rowson Street has been moved in response to complaints about noise from residents in sheltered accommodation in Rowson Street. Residents have since reported that the noise levels have diminished. Community Safety Officers are patrolling the area around the Floral Pavilion to deal with the problems caused by youths congregating.

A multi-agency initiative called Safe Space will be operating in green spaces throughout the Summer. Alongside enforcement, the Youth Service will be organising youth diversionary activities.

A member of the public highlighted a problem on the Promenade at New Brighton. On two occasions in the past three weeks, he has been accosted by youths when walking on the prom. Youths in cars speed along the prom and it is common practice for young people from across Merseyside to travel to Wirral specifically to race on the prom. Perch Rock is a popular meeting place for young people.

The Police Officer thanked the member of the public for the information. Traffic wardens will be deployed to the areas identified.

Inspector Kolokotroni reported that the performance in Wallasey is similar to that in New Brighton. The year-on-year figures on crime – violence, burglaries, thefts of and from motor vehicles – are all down significantly. Thefts from motor vehicles are down 28% and theft of motor vehicles is down 24%. Anti social behaviour is down 10%. There is an upward trend in robbery with eight offences, and criminal damage shows a

slight increase.

Concerns raised by members of the community are about anti social behaviour, criminal damage and under-age drinking, especially at weekends. These issues are tackled through engagement with youths through the Youth Service and enforcement where necessary. The enforcement measures include the seizure of alcohol, issuing fixed penalty notices, stop searches, and also Operation Martin, which is linked to off licences.

Police Officers visit schools to address assemblies, and talk to pupils in classrooms about Citizenship and Bullying. They have spoken to local residents about anti-social behaviour in the areas around Elleray Park, Liscard Hall, Belvidere Playing fields and other parts of Wallasey. Letters have been sent to 350 people highlighting the behaviour of some of the youths in the area and the effect on vulnerable groups such as the elderly, and advising that the Police will take positive and robust action against youths causing further annoyance to those residents.

Police Community Support Officers give advice on crime prevention, initially in relation to auto. crime. More than 100 vehicle owners have joined the vehicle watch scheme in the past month.

Information has been distributed to local residents giving crime prevention advice on how to avoid 'bogus official' type burglaries when offenders call at houses and flats and use excuses to gain entry in order to steal.

A member of the public highlighted the dangers associated with cyclists riding on pavements.

Councillor Pritchard enquired who would be at fault if a driver reversing out of his drive was involved in a collision with a cyclist on a pavement, and he drew attention to cars being driven dangerously on the car park next to Perch Rock.

The Chair undertook to investigate the situation concerning the locks to the gates of the Tower Grounds in response to a comment from a member of the public highlighting access difficulties for ambulances responding to emergencies.

Inspector Kolokotroni read out a community bulletin on the counter terrorism investigation underway following attacks in London and in Glasgow. The country is on critical alert and high visibility policing activity is taking place across Wirral and Merseyside as a precautionary measure to ensure that the public at large are kept safe and are reassured. Members of the community are being asked to help by remaining calm but vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour directly to Merseyside Police on 0151 709 6010, or to the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321.

Further updates are posted regularly on the Merseyside Police website.

Minute Decision :
Resolved: That -

i. Traffic Wardens to be deployed to the area around Perch Rock over the issue of

cars speeding along the prom.

ii. The Chair undertook to investigate the situation concerning the locks to the gates of the Tower Grounds in response to a comment from a member of the public highlighting access difficulties for ambulances responding to emergencies.

iii. Tony Mooney, Inspector Farrar, and Inspector Kolokotroni be thanked for their updates;

iv. the Officers from Merseyside Police be thanked, in particular, for addressing the issues in a number of areas of Wallasey and New Brighton, which is very reassuring for people living in those areas.

Minute 7 - Future meetings/presentations 15th October 2007 Venue to be confirmed

Minute Text :

Resolved: That the next meeting of the Area Forum be held on 15 OCTOBER 2007.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.00 pm

Matters Arising.

The Chair undertook to investigate the situation concerning the locks to the gates of the Tower Grounds in response to a comment from a member of the public highlighting access difficulties for ambulances responding to emergencies

Although there is a vehicle barrier gate it's only intended for use by our maintenance vehicles, mostly tractors. Consequently there is no vehicle access road on the site for ambulances to use and if they did there is always a possibility that they could get stuck on the grass. Wirral Council is not aware that the ambulance service have ever raised this as an issue for them but where they have there has always been a surfaced access road for them to use not gravel footpaths and grass.

Where the ambulance service have requested access we use a standard lock to which they have a key such as that used on all the access barriers to the revetment roadway along the north Wirral coast. Although the Council can ask the ambulance service if they would use the access on to the Tower Grounds it has been decided to fit one of the standard locks to which they have a key so access for them will not be a problem.

Traffic Wardens to be deployed to the area around Perch Rock over the issue of cars speeding along the prom.

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

Section Two

Local Updates

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services. They involve local ward councillors, police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, fire safety representatives along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council. Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.

This section covers relevant news under the Council's local area agreement themes of safer and stronger communities, healthier communities and older people, children and young people and economic development and enterprise.

Safer & Stronger Communities

Alleygates crash through thousand barrier



The number of alleygates protecting Wirral properties from crimes such as burglary and vandalism is set to hit the thousand mark this month with the commencement of the latest installation phase.

Wirral's Joint Community Safety Team recently canvassed opinion from all residents in the Deveraux Road area of Wallasey ahead of the installation of 48 alleygates in that community and the response was overwhelmingly in favour of their

installation.

As a result of this public backing, the gates are beginning to be put in place in August. Once this phase is finished, the gates will bring a proven high level of protection against crime to some 619 more households.

The alleygating scheme began in Wirral in 2003 when the number of household burglaries was 210 a month on average, with some areas of Wirral suffering a burglary rate which was four times the national average.

By installing the alleygates in areas where burglary was at the highest, the number of break-ins is now down to below the national average and Wirral as a whole suffers less than three burglaries per day amongst its 144,043 households.

By April 2007, there had been a 49.9% drop in the domestic burglary rate or 1,267 fewer offences of domestic burglary compared to 2003 when alleygating began. They are justifiably very popular then and by March next year, there will be a total of 1,060 alleygates installed across Wirral.

Cllr. George Davies, who is the Cabinet member for Housing and Community Safety in Wirral, said: "Alleygates have proven how successful they can be in reducing burglary and the figures justify the investment Wirral has made in installing them so widely; investment that was only possible thanks to Neighbourhood Renewal funding."

Steve McGilvray, Manager of the Joint Community Safety Team, said: "Any burglary is unwanted and alleygates have substantially reduced the number being perpetrated in Wirral. However, it is important to remember at this time of year, when the weather is warmer, opportunist burglars will still take advantage of open windows or doors.

"With this in mind it is important to stress that everyone should still take care and check all windows and doors are securely locked before going out or going to bed."

Wirral Council would like to warn residents about bogus callers apparently posing as council workers.

A group of men are reported to be randomly calling at homes in Birkenhead saying they are collecting unwanted bulky items, such as old washing machines, cookers and bikes.

The men are reported to be distracting residents by asking them to open their back gates so that bulky items can be removed, whilst one of the men steals money and valuables.

The gang appear to be wearing normal clothes, no uniform as such, and drive a large blue truck with a metal cage on the back.

Unless you have made an appointment with Wirral Council's Streetscene to have an unwanted bulky item collected from your home, (Eric Service) then no one should call. If you have booked a collection, we advise you to be cautious. Wirral Council's contractor Biffa will collect on the scheduled day booked in with Streetscene and will wear uniform.

If in any doubt, contact Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 to check if the staff are genuine before allowing them entry on to your property.

Anyone who witnesses suspicious activities of this nature should contact Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111

Agencies combine to tackle underage alcohol sales

Agencies in Wirral are joining forces to try to reduce the risk of harm to young people from alcohol abuse.

Wirral Trading Standards, the Youth Service, police licensing and the Wirral Primary Care Trust are combining to provide new training, free of charge, to off licensees and their staff about underage sales.

The training is part of an ongoing drive to reduce incidents of alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour across the borough, as well as tackling related health issues.

John Malone, Trading Standards Manager said: "We want to work with businesses to prevent alcohol getting into the hands of young people. The new training we will be providing will look at the legal position for off licensees but a new element will also deal with the impact alcohol can have on young people's health and well being.

"It is essential that off licensees are aware of the health consequences of selling alcohol to young people. Hospital admissions for injuries caused when drunk, risky sexual behaviour and teenage pregnancy, involvement in crime, violence and anti-social behaviour, school truancy and road traffic accidents."

If any off licensees and their staff want to attend the free training, which will take place at Wallasey Town Hall at 6pm on Wednesday 12th September, they can contact Nick Chesters of Trading Standards on 0151 691 8579.

Healthier Communities & Older People

Find out More log on to www.wirral.gov.uk Or www.ageconcernwirral.org

Wirral Older People's Parliament

Newsletter Issue Four June 2007 – Issue Number 4

News Progress & Information - Following comments at a recent parliament meeting any person receiving un-solicited letters (**Junk Mail**) or Telephone calls (**Silent Calls**) should make contact with the “**Mailing Preference Service**” and or “**Telephone Preference Service**” this is a very simple procedure via the web page, and registration of your address or telephone number should go a long way to clearing this sort of problem. You may still receive mail or telephone calls from companies you may have dealt with in the past, to eliminate this type of contact you will need to contact the organisation concerned and ask to be removed from their data base. Useful telephone numbers are “**OFCOM 020 7981 3000**” or “**Information Commissioners Office 01625 545745**” more detailed information is available at your local library, or CAB Office. Write to your local councillor and ask what provision is available for older people to learn about or even have access too Computers. I believe you will be pleasantly surprised at the volume of information available and the amount of help and support that is available to older people

Regional Devolution At the last Parliament Meeting a question was asked about reports that certain authorities are discussing banding together to draw up a Regional Devolution Plan, what effect this may have on Wirral Borough Council, at this moment true information seems to be sparse to say the least

Transport and Free travel for the elderly This subject has been under discussion for some considerable time and new legislation is to come into force in July of this year. It is yet to be seen if local authorities will all conform in a manner that is fitting for the needs of the elderly population. For instance in many locations even the so called rush hour busses are half empty, so why cannot we who are retired, use our passes on such routes it will not interrupt or compromise those going to work, but could boost the local economy.

Express Your View You have the opportunity to write or E-Mail to parliament if you are unable to get along to one of the meetings held throughout 11 local forum areas. Items directly affecting older people will be addressed by the Older Peoples Parliament Officers. You also have the opportunity to assist on one or more of the committee meetings held to assess the various items involved. People in the age group 50+ are a major influential body in the total population of Wirral Borough Council 22 different ward areas, it is important that their wishes are reflected in the decision making process “**Do you have something to say**” ?

Computer Use There are a number of places that encourage computer access and usage for the older generation. Most of the Library's have the required equipment, plus in some community centres there are opportunities for basic tuition.

Ring **Leasowe 630 3486, Rock Ferry 643 1215** or **New Brighton 639 1386** For up to date information, you may also check with your local School or Night School many of them run courses on basic internet access, **you are never too old to learn.**

To learn about your local forum - Tracey Smith 0151 691 8026 (traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk)
To learn more about “the Older Peoples Parliament” - Lesley Howells 0151 666 2220

Children & Young People

Wirral's students are celebrating

Wirral's students are celebrating after yet another year of improvement in A-Levels, AS Levels and Vocational Courses in the borough.

Today's results saw the average pupil's point score raise by 32.4 points – from 729 last year to 762 this year. Wirral also saw a rise of nearly 80 in the numbers of pupils sitting these exams.



Director of Children's Services Howard Cooper was very pleased with the results: "Once again, it looks as though our A-level, AS level and vocational training students in Wirral have surpassed themselves.

"I am extremely proud of all those students who put in so much hard work to achieve these results and I am also proud of the teachers and other school staff who helped and supported them in their studies.

"It is particularly encouraging to note that an increasing number of our youngsters are staying on at school to improve their chances of a better career and life. I wish all of them the best of luck in their chosen degree, college course or employment."

Teenagers' challenge of a lifetime

Eight teenagers from Wirral are taking the challenge of a lifetime in a bid to turn their lives around from the risks involved with anti social behaviour, drink or drugs.

The group are canoeing 68 miles from Fort William to Inverness across Scotland's Caledonian Canal. Aged between 15 and 18, the young people were engaged through the Council's Response Service - a support service for at-risk young people.

In total the group of seven young men and three young women will complete the six-day course carrying their own equipment and camping gear.

Called The Imagine Project, the expedition, which is jointly funded by the Youth Opportunities Fund and Wirral Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) will be supported by experienced instructors from Wirral Council's Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre and key staff from the Council's Response Service.

The trip will see the group work as a team developing better health and improved life chances. For many, it is their first experience of working within a group but they represent a growing number of young people determined to tackle substance abuse through making changes to their own lives.

Individually the youngsters have already achieved a First Aid and Life Savers award and are aiming for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award for Outward Bound Achievement.

Pat Rice, Head of Response, said: “These young people first came to Response with some challenging issues, with some of them having personal experience of drug and alcohol misuse. They were on the brink of becoming disillusioned, and disinterested in life. But now they are healthier, happier and looking forward to this challenge and a great life-changing experience. I’m really proud of what they have achieved so far and I know that they will become valued members of their communities and a really great example to their friends and families”.

Terry White, Young Persons Programme Manager said: “The DAAT is committed to reducing the harm caused by substance misuse throughout Wirral. Through this type of partnership work we are able to prevent today’s young people, especially the most vulnerable, from becoming tomorrow’s drug misusers, which is a key target within the Wirral Drug and Alcohol strategy. This project is an exciting initiative that will result in healthier, happier and more confident young people build resistance against substance misuse,’ he added.

Jo Day, Outreach Team Leader for Response, said: “The project, which has been running since May, is about personal, emotional and social development and as a group they have built friendships and their confidence and self-esteem has grown during their time together”.

Young people dig it at Bromborough

An exciting new community facility that has been designed and put together by young people at Bromborough Fire Station tomorrow (Thursday). Around 30 young people have put their heart and soul into a market garden which is now growing vegetables, fruit and plants and also contains a pond, wildlife area and borders.

The Dig It project was established last year after the Fire Service and South Wirral Young People’s Project engaged with young people in the area to see what activities would be an alternative to hanging around the streets. They said they would like to develop a market garden where they could learn to grow vegetables and how to cook them.

Since then the young people have designed the garden, put together bids for funding and worked with contractors to develop their landscaping skills. They have also designed a community kitchen that has also been completed.

Station Manager Myles Platt said it had been fantastic to see how much the young people have developed as a result. He said: “I’m extremely impressed by them. Some of them have some challenging personal circumstances and this is a real outlet for them. It has given them a sense of responsibility and achievement. A couple have moved on and got employment and this project has helped them to do that by developing their practical and social skills.”

The initiative has cost more than £50,000 and has received support from various funds and local companies. These include the Urban Green Land Initiative; Youth Opportunities Fund; Wirral Partnership Homes; Riverside Housing; Eastham Oil Refinery; Local Area Forums Community Initiatives Funds; BT It’s Your Community Award; UniLever Green Machine; and Uniqema.

Wirral Youth Service

Provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

The Service works with young people aged 13-19 years, and specifically targeted young people aged 20 until their 25th birthday who have additional needs and need support with transition into adult life/services.

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 and 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. Streetwork 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 Kontaktabuses.

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, 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 450 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.

During the summer holidays the Youth Service was able to offer an adventure activity programme to youth clubs and associated organisations. Over 160 young people took part in sailing, canoeing, rafting, climbing and adventure course activities which were delivered by both licensed operators and our own staff. Despite the inclement weather there was a 90% take up on the activities offered.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children in a bid to help them successfully complete their Bronze Awards. In August, most of this group attended a 3 day residential course at The Oaklands Centre where they engaged in a wide variety of outdoor activities. One young woman in particular was identified as having the potential to take a future lead role and will probably be invited back and given a work experience opportunity.

Wirral's D of E Open Award Centre is due to move premises again. Following a decision to vacate the Somerville Site at Gorse Lane we have entered into negotiations regarding the use of the Wirral Alternative Schools Programme new premises at Solar Campus.

In our drive to make the Award available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units run the Award. This includes Meadowside Special School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with complex learning difficulties.

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 period from Easter is a big expedition season for the club and at least one group per weekend are on expedition, from Bronze to Gold. Over 200 young people were involved in gaining community service and skills sections of DofE

The Tuesday club has enjoyed a wide range of activities, all organised by young volunteers.

The gold award group had fun taking part in bleep tests

Big fans of Ray Mears some groups have been learning survival skills and are hoping to test these out in the 'rough' terrain of Wales later in the year.

The youth club has a range of volunteers that are not only DofE but also include looked after children, and referrals from social services and school.

The volunteers took the Tuesday group bowling during the summer.

The Wallasey Young People's Project works with young people in a variety of public places in the area and the Kontactabus Bus is used as a point of contact with young people in some locations. WYPP organised a sand sculpture competition, with more than 100 entrants, at New Brighton.

Belvidere Youth Club in Wallasey is open 4 nights each week, Monday to Thursday, and is an integrated club for young people with disabilities and their peers. Activities at the club include the usual club activities such as pool, quizzes, TV games, discussion groups etc. and the club also has a programme of visits and residentials including theatre trips and outdoor adventure weekends. The young people come from all areas of Wirral.

Economic Development & Enterprise

A Wirral call centre has won a high profile contract with Woolworths because the famous high street retailer was impressed by their passionate approach and the available workforce in Birkenhead.

This exciting development means The Contact Company, based in Birkenhead is now recruiting for jobs to meet the demand of their increasing portfolio of clients.

The company is holding a recruitment open day at Wirral Museum, Birkenhead on 23rd August to recruit up to 100 staff to work on this prestigious contract. They want to recruit local people for jobs which offer flexible hours between 8am and 8pm, seven days a week.

People interested in applying for vacancies can meet staff from The Contact Company and find out more about this type of work on the day.

The Contact Company's Chief Executive, Asif Hamid said: "This contract is further evidence of our growing profile within the competitive contact centre industry and demonstrates the confidence that large blue chip companies have in us to deliver a high quality service.

"The Contact Company operates an added value service at the higher end of the contact centre market and this approach is proving fruitful as we win more contracts like this. We are looking forward to adding to our excellent 125 strong team and are excited to be working with Woolworths" he added.

Wirral Council's Head of Strategic Development, Kevin Adderley said: "The Contact Company has rapidly grown its team in the last year and is now recruiting even more staff to meet demand. This type of work appeals to people who need flexible working hours and is in an attractive location in central Birkenhead. This is a fantastic jobs boost for Wirral."

The Contact Company has been trading since July 2006 and has already won 'New Business of the year' at the Liverpool Daily Post Business Awards and was one of the host call centres for this year's Comic Relief when millions were raised for charity.

Wirral Council is the first authority in the northwest to launch online web casts of Planning Committee Meetings.

All Planning decisions can now be viewed live from anywhere in the world via Wirral Council's website, www.wirral.gov.uk

The new facility uses web cameras at council meetings to capture the live information and send it to a central server, which in turn sends it to anyone that would like to view the meeting via the internet.

The web cast facility also archives each meeting, meaning that recorded meetings can be viewed online at anytime of day, as many times as required. The use of the index points allow you to jump to a specific agenda point or speaker.

Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor John Cocker, welcomes the move;

"This new facility is very good news for Wirral residents and developers. Now the meetings can be watched live, or at a time that suits you, from the comfort of your own arm chair or from the side of a swimming pool on holiday.

Its also going to save many journeys across Wirral to watch the meetings in person, people can now log on and watch at home or at work, saving unnecessary car journeys"

To access the web cast facility, visit www.wirral.gov.uk and click on 'Planning Webcasts' on the right hand menu, or simply click here. The pilot scheme will be running until the end of the January 2008.

LICENSING ACT 2003

The Licensing Act 2003 has been the responsibility of Wirral Borough Council since 24 November 2005.

In December 2004 a Statement of Licensing Policy was produced which sets out the principles the Council will generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions under the Act.

It is a requirement of the Licensing Act 2003 that the Council reviews it's Statement of Licensing Policy every three years.

The Council welcomes the views of any interested parties and you should feel free to draw the attention of this document, which can be found at www.wirral.gov.uk, to others who may be interested in responding to the consultation.

Full consultation on this document is being undertaken with: -

- The Chief Officer of Police
- The Fire Authority

- Bodies representing local holders of premises licences
- Bodies representing local holders of club certificates
- Bodies representing local holders of personal licences
- Bodies representing businesses and residents
- Other interested parties

You may find it useful to consult the Statutory Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act when making comments to the Statement of Licensing Policy. The Statutory Guidance is available at www.culture.gov.uk.

Your views are important to the Council in reaching a fair and proportionate Licensing Policy that discharges the Licensing Objectives. Please ensure we receive your views no later than **17 November 2007**.

If you have any further enquiries about the Licensing Policy please contact Margaret O'Donnell on 0151 691 8606.

Section Three

Partner Update

Area forums also provide an opportunity to meet partners and organisations who are working to deliver a better, safer and cleaner Wirral.

Merseyside Police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Wirral Community Safety Team and Mersey Fire and Rescue Service to name just a few, are active members of the forum. This section is to share partner information with forum members and the community.

Community Safety

- Stealth software - the Joint Community Safety Team, working in conjunction with the IT Department of the Children and Young Person's Department, have a roll-out programme of software being loaded onto all computers belonging to the Authority e.g., schools, libraries, One Stop Shops, Community Centres.

In the event of a computer being stolen, it notifies a central control point where the machine is being used. The police are alerted and procedures are in place for the machine to be recovered and, if appropriate, person(s) arrested.

- Smartwater Project - most schools now have their valuable equipment marked with Smartwater which identifies which school the property came from.

All operational police officers on the Wirral have been equipped with special torches which identify Smartwater marked property. In addition, Trading Standards attend Car Boot Sales with police officers and check for Smartwater marked property.

- DVLA Project - whenever Parking Wardens, Community Support Officers, Police Officers see vehicles with items on display a letter is forwarded to the registered keeper to remind them of their responsibility and they should remove items on view in the future to ensure their vehicles are not going to be targeted by thieves.

Most thefts from vehicles are committed by opportunists.

- 'Talking CCTV' launched 31/5/2007.
Funding was secured from the government's Respect Task Force enabling broadcasting systems to be attached to existing CCTV cameras at key site. The systems enable operators in the Council's CCTV Control Room to prevent and challenge anti-social and criminal behaviour by broadcasting directly to members of the public and giving out key messages relating to crime and disorder.
- Reparation initiative launched on 13/6/2007.
A partnership between Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Wirral Youth Offending Service (YOS), BT and Virgin Media using young people engaged with YOS through reparation to repaint streetboxes affected by graffiti and flyposting. Residents can report streetboxes requiring repainting to 'It's Your Call' on 606 2020 or at any One Stop Shop.
- Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords signed-up to Respect Housing Management Standard on 26/6/2007 as part of a local Consortium.
Eighteen RSLs in partnership with Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team signed-up to the Standard as part of a local Wirral RESPECT Consortium. The Standard is commitment to challenging unacceptable behaviour and promoting good behaviour. The Consortium now meets regularly to share intelligence and best practice and develop initiatives.
- Operation Safe Space launched 18/7/2007.
A new partnership initiative, led by Merseyside Police, aiming to increase the use of parks and open spaces. This involved enforcement activities across hot-spot parks

by the police and diversionary activities throughout the summer in multi-use games areas.

- Youth RESPECT Team appointed to Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team launched on 27/7/2007. The Team consists of youth workers and play workers with the focus of preventing and reducing ASB by young people. They are identifiable by their distinctive red jackets.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Young people dig it at Bromborough

An exciting new community facility that has been designed and put together by young people at Bromborough Fire Station tomorrow (Thursday). Around 30 young people have put their heart and soul into a market garden which is now growing vegetables, fruit and plants and also contains a pond, wildlife area and borders.

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Merseyside Police

Second cannabis farmed seized in a week

Merseyside Police has seized a cannabis farm at an address in Wallasey, on Saturday 1st September. This is the second seizure this week and is the result of information supplied by the local community.

A large quantity of sophisticated cannabis growing equipment was seized together with what is believed to be over 100 cannabis plants.

Total war on drugs

Acting Sergeant Jordan said: "We want to reassure local people that we are dedicated to continuing the total war on street level drug dealing and associated criminal activities.

"We urge anyone reading this article to come forward with any information they have – no matter how trivial they think it might be. Information from people living in our communities is a vital part of war on drugs."

Anyone with information relating to this incident or drug-related crime in their area is asked to call Merseyside Police on: 0151 709 6010 or alternatively call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Wirral Primary Care Trust

1. Primary Care Trust (PCT) Small Grants Programme to support Community Initiatives Fund

During 2007 the PCT will be supporting the Local Authorities Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) and will allocate 5K across New Brighton and Wallasey Area Forum. The funding will be allocated to health promoting activity, which meets the needs of local people within the area. Voluntary and Community sector groups are invited to submit applications through the current CIF application criteria. All proposals will need to meet funding limits and priorities, determined by each area forum.

The PCT Funding must address following health themes:

- Wirral taste for health – improving access to healthy, affordable foods and helping people to develop shopping and cookery skills.
- Wirral active – encouraging people to participate in activities that are enjoyable and health enhancing.
- Smoke free Wirral – providing support for people to stop smoking and protecting children from second hand smoke.
- Damage Limitation – providing diversionary activities for young people to reduce harm related to alcohol misuse.

If you feel you can support the delivery of some of the above health themes and wish to apply for funding please contact the Council Community Engagement Team on 0151 691 8650 or email : engage@wirral.gov.uk

2. Primary Care Practice developments update

Seabank Medical Centre and St George's Medical Centre

Demolition has now begun on the adjacent site of St George's Medical Centre. Alley gates have recently been installed as a joint project between PCT and Wirral Council to improve security for neighbouring residential properties.

3. Update on questions/discussions raised at Area Forum held 3rd July 2007, New Brighton Primary School, Vaughn Road, New Brighton.

No issues or queries raised at this forum.

4. Wirral Primary Care Trust Involvement Strategy 2007 - 2010

The Primary Care Trust is currently developing its 'Involvement Strategy' which will set out its plans towards:

- Involving patients: as consumers of health care services and using their views to influence Primary Care Trust commissioning and help shape current and future health services.
- Involving citizens: to provide legitimacy and accountability for health policy and health care service provision decision making.
- Winning hearts and minds: enabling people to take a more active role in their own health and wellbeing.

The PCT will be involving people in the implementation of the strategy and input will be provided to all future area forums.

5. Wirral Primary Care Trust Commissioning Strategy 2007 – 2010

The PCT is currently developing its commissioning strategy this will provide information on PCT investment and funding programme for 2007 - 2010.

6. The PCT would like to invite you to “Have your say”; we want to know what you think of your health service?

Wirral Primary Care Trust (PCT) is responsible for commissioning health services in Wirral. We want to know what you as a patient think of the services you have received, be it your family doctor, dentist, optician, pharmacist or community based service such as district nursing. We also want to know if you have any ideas for making services even better.

Your comments will be used to improve our services so that they continue to meet your needs and the needs of local people.

How can you submit comments to the PCT?

We aim to give all our patients and members of the public an opportunity to contact us through a variety of methods. You can go to our public web-site by clicking on to the icon on the home page, or you can place your comments on our on-line form. The following is a list of approaches you can use when contacting us to ‘Have your Say’.

- You can call in person to our PALs office at Laurie’s Centre, 136 Claughton Road, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 6EY
- Call us on our free phone 0800 085 1547
- Write to us at FREEPOST HAVE YOUR SAY
- e-mail us at <mailto:Haveyoursay@wirralpct.nhs.uk>
- Have Your Say on line form at www.wirralpct.nhs.uk and go to home page and click on ‘Have Your Say’ document. Click on left hand side box ‘Have your say request form’ and you will then be guided through the ‘Have Your Say’ process.
- SMS text on 07781472493

What happens next?

If you provide your contact details when submitting your comments you will receive acknowledgement and if appropriate, after 21 days you will receive a formal response to your comments.

Section Four

Local Transport Update

Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside.

The LTP is a document prepared by the five local authorities and Merseytravel.

The second LTP covers the period between 2006/2007 and 2010/2011 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

Transport

Wrexham Bidston Electrification

The Forum will be familiar with the Local Transport Plan which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The LTP is a document prepared by the 5 local authorities and Merseytravel.

The second LTP covers the period between 2006/7 and 2010/11 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

Included within the LTP is reference to the electrification of the Wrexham Bidston rail line to link it to the existing Mersey electrics network.

The electrification of the Wrexham Bidston (Borderlands) Line involves the extension of the electrified network to all or part of the line between Bidston and Wrexham.

It also included the construction of new stations at Deeside and Woodchurch.

In 2005 consultants First Class Partnerships and Mott Mac Donald had looked at the physical infrastructure and what was needed to electrify the line.

Both considered a number of options with the Mott Mac Donald report being more detailed but indicating greater costs.

During 2006 consultants Faber Maunsells had provide Benefit Cost Ratios for a number of options.

Earlier this year (Jan 07) Neil Scales, Director General of Merseytravel attended the Streetscene and Transport Services Overview Committee to update members on the scheme and indicated that the following actions need to be taken to progress the scheme;

- (1) Further discussions with the Welsh Assembly – Neil Scales has been discussing the issues with WAG.
- (2) Clear indication of the costs of the Project with Network Rail undertaking work which would give a clearer understanding of the work that had been carried out to date using the GRIP (Guide to Rail Investment Projects) scale. They had been asked to provide an estimate of the cost of taking forward the design to a higher GRIP level. This study is currently underway.
- (3) Merseytravel would be considering this project along with other possible rail projects which would require funding through the Regional Funding Allocation process.
- (4) The development of greater costing detail was important to be able to provide a greater certainty of the Benefit Cost Ratio as the intention would be to include the

project in the Regional Funding Review which was likely to take place in the next two years. This would effectively cover the English element of the funding profile.

- (5) The overall capital funding of the project if approved would however come from a combination of English and Welsh Government finance. A separate application to the Welsh Assembly would be required.
- (6) Revenue funding was a separate issue. It was likely that a revenue funding gap would exist and a means of bridging the gap would need to be identified.

Future updates will be provided to the Forum as the project progresses. If any of the area forums want more information on any aspects of the capital programme we could come along at the next round of forums in February/June 2008 a presentation if the forums think that this would be useful.

Julie Barnes, Principal Officer (Forward Planning & Strategy) Technical Services, traffic management Division, Forward Planning/travelwise.

Julie Barnes@wirral.gov.uk or 0151 606 2004

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Following the announcement by the Department for Transport (DfT) in December 2006, approving a Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement for Wirral of £6,549,000 for 2007/08, this report sets out a draft transport capital programme in line with the Local Transport Plan (LTP) targets.

1.2 This report is identified in the Forward Plan.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Members will be familiar with the Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Merseyside, which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The second LTP (LTP2) covers the period between 2006/07 and 2010/11 and contains a 5-year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

2.2 Future funding allocations will be dependent upon the successful delivery of the LTP targets over the coming years. Therefore, it is necessary for Wirral's transport capital schemes to deliver the outcomes necessary to help meet this aim.

3.0 PROGRAMME REVIEW

3.1 The second Merseyside LTP was submitted to the Government in March 2006. LTP2 contains 41 targets – some of which are mandatory. In order to ensure that these targets are managed effectively, they are delegated between the various Merseyside LTP sub-groups. As such, the sub-groups are responsible for the targets' monitoring and reporting.

3.2 For LTP2, the Government introduced four 'shared priority' areas: Congestion, Road Safety, Accessibility and Air Quality/ Environment. Each target, and indeed each transport scheme, is likely to contribute to the delivery of more than one of these 'shared priorities', however, there is generally one that can be identified as the 'main' priority.

3.3 Consequently, the LTP programme for 2007/08 (see Appendix) is presented differently to last year. Members will note that the main budget headings reflect the four shared priorities and that the sub-headings more closely reflect the LTP2 objectives and policies. To ensure effective monitoring, each is owned by the LTP sub-group that is responsible for the respective targets.

3.4 Whilst it is essential that each of the proposals help towards meeting the delivery of the various LTP2 targets, it is evident that some schemes contribute towards a greater number of targets than others. In order to inform the funding allocations for 2007/08 consideration has been given to target delivery, however, the relative significance of each target also has to be borne in mind, along with the highway responsibilities that the authority has in terms of statutory duties.

3.5 Therefore, to assist the continued development of future transport capital programmes, a further piece of work will be undertaken over the coming months to develop an improved appraisal framework. This framework will provide a transparent process and help further improve scheme prioritisation, whereby ensuring funding will be allocated to projects that have the most benefits for LTP2 delivery and/or statutory obligations.

3.6 This framework will also be applied to longer-term projects that might be introduced into the LTP process in the future. To justify future schemes, such as specific junction improvements, it will be necessary to have a clear framework upon which decisions are based. Consequently, should appraisal of a particular project, in terms of LTP delivery, not provide strong justification then the project may not receive funding prioritisation in the LTP programme and it might be necessary for alternative funding to be acquired for the project's implementation to be pursued.

3.7 Should Members, through the Area Forums, be aware of potential junction or transport projects that might be considered in this appraisal process, I would appreciate any suggested locations to be forwarded to me by the end of June 2007. As the success of any project will be dependent upon its appraisal against LTP criteria, I would appreciate if members would also include the reasoning for their nominations and what element(s) of the LTP strategy each project would help to deliver.

4.0 SHARED PRIORITIES, TARGETS AND SCHEMES

4.1 Congestion

4.1.1 This shared priority contains schemes and initiatives that are primarily focussed on reducing/managing levels of congestion and the negative impact of the motor vehicle, and/or promoting public transport and the effective movement of freight. This is particularly relevant in terms of the LTP Person Delay Indicator on part of the A552 corridor between Prenton and Birkenhead. This shared priority also has a supporting role to the authority's Network Management Duties under the Traffic Management Act 2004, which require highway authorities to manage and ensure the expeditious movement of traffic.

4.1.2 Measures might include:

- Strategic highway improvements
- Parking (demand) management
- Area traffic control
- Intelligent transport systems
- Bus priorities
- Park and ride schemes
- Strategic signing on freight routes.

4.1.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with congestion:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP2	Change in area wide road traffic	9.2% cap on growth to 2010/11
LTP5	Bus punctuality	90% by 2012/13
LTP6	Changes in peak traffic flows to LCC (7-10a.m.)	7% cap on growth to 2010/11
LTP7	Congestion (Person Delay)	6.4% increase in traffic leading to a 4.3% increase in journey time over the life of the LTP2
BVPI 102	P.T. patronage (bus, rail)	Bus: 1% growth to 2010/11 Rail: 7.9% growth to 2010/11
BVPI 104	Satisfaction with local buses	65% by 2009/10
L1	Sustainable transport as the final mode for air passengers	12% - 2008/09, 14% - 2010/11
L2	HGV journey times on designated freight routes	Capped at 1/3 rd of increase in traffic levels
L3	Limit current number of car parking spaces in LCC	16,500 public off-street cap
L4	% of network below threshold speeds during peak periods	Monitoring only
L5	Extent of peak spreading	Monitoring only
L6	Road works coverage	Monitoring only
L7	Park & Ride usage	35% increase by 2010/11

4.2 Road Safety

4.2.1 This shared priority not only contains the more traditional types of scheme to reduce road accident casualties but also those to ensure a safe and well maintained highway asset. Road safety measures undertaken as part of the LTP strategy can also contribute to the Council's road safety stretched target.

4.2.2 Road safety schemes can be split into two principal types: Those that meet accident reduction criteria and those that are not required to meet such criteria. The former are essential Local Safety Schemes (LSS) to reduce road accident casualties and can comprise of speed reductions schemes and junction / route improvements. Non-criteria safety schemes include Safer Routes to School, street lighting and structural maintenance programmes. In order to enhance previous years' road safety programmes, a NEW budget heading of "Community Projects" has been included in the LTP capital programme for 2007/08 to fund initiatives such as "20 is Plenty" and recognise recent concerns raised by elected Members in this area.

4.2.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with road safety.

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
PI 99 (X)	Total killed and seriously injured casualties	40% reduction by 2010
PI 99 (Y)	Child killed and seriously injured casualties	55% reduction by 2010
PI 99 (Z)	Total slight casualties	No change in absolute numbers to 2010
BVPI 187	Footway condition	Wirral – 18%
BVPI 223 (96)	Principle Road Condition	National survey data processing problems; DfT aware of issue & effects on target setting.
BVPI 224a (97a)	Non-Principle Classified Road Condition	Target to be set after June 2007
BVPI 224b (97b)	Unclassified Road Condition	Wirral – 4% by 2010

4.3 Accessibility

4.3.1 New to LTP2, the Access Plan sets out a strategy to ensure access health care, education and jobs and opportunities created through regeneration. It is anticipated that external funding will provide the main expenditure for this work therefore the LTP programme is relatively modest.

4.3.2 The LTP partners will:

- Pursue improved bus services
- Review the role of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)
- Build upon the expertise of the Community Transport Sector
- Continue the TravelWise campaign
- Encourage the development of Travel Plans with businesses and schools

4.3.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with accessibility:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP1	National Accessibility Indicators	Monitoring only
L8	No. of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service	Minimum 95% standard to be maintained through LTP2 period
L9	No. of rail stations upgraded to meet preset standards for (a) facilities & (b) access	By 2010/11: (a) 15; (b) 5
L10	BVPI 165 (accessibility of pedestrian crossings)	Wirral – 96% by 2010/11
L11	Bus based physical access (a) % low floor vehicles (b) % near level boarding via access kerbs	(a) 88% by 2010/11 (base 35%) (b) 32% by 2010/11 (base 12%)
L12	Affordability – Index of transport usage costs	Monitoring only
L13	Accessibility – Economic impact: Accessibility of workless residents to employment locations	Average 1% per annum improvement (target developed with Job Centre Plus)
L14	Accessibility – Education: % NEET group to access post 16 establishment	Average 1% per annum improvement (target developed with Learning & Skills Centre)
L15	Crime / fear of crime on and around public transport: (a) No. of broken window incidents reported on PT (b) Proportion of people who are discouraged from PT use at night	Monitoring only

4.4 Air Quality/Environment

4.4.1 The final shared priority is to improve air quality, the quality of life and the environment. The aim of this priority area is to support sustainable travel modes to provide alternatives to the private car, including walking and cycling, as well as works to improve local environmental conditions.

4.4.2 This shared priority contains:

- Local environmental works, e.g. Home Zones and relevant junction improvements
- Walking schemes, i.e. pedestrian signals, dropped crossings and pedestrian refuges and signing
- Cycleways and cycle storage facilities

4.4.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with air quality / environment:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP3	Cycling – Index of usage	10% increase by 2010/11
LTP4	Mode share of journeys to school	Due 2007
LTP8	Pollutant concentrations within AQMAs	28%, 13% and 10% reductions in emissions at receptor sites in AQMAs
L16	Estimated transport related emissions (tonnes/year) of CO, nitrogen oxides & particulate matter	Monitoring only
L17	Vehicle mileage in the AQMA or area of exceedance	7% traffic growth cap (AQMA1) and 9.2% traffic growth cap (AQMA2)
L18	Environmental standard of bus fleet (Euro111 or equivalent)	70% of fleet to meet standard by 2011 (baseline 35%)
L19	Physical Activity Indicator	Monitoring only

4.5 Transportation Planning

4.5.1 In addition to the four shared priorities above, the LTP programme contains an additional budget heading of transportation planning. Due to the constantly evolving range of demands linked to the LTP delivery, this funding stream ensures that effective forward planning can take place.

4.5.2 The type of projects under this heading include:

- Preliminary design of schemes and measures that are in the forward programme
- Acquisition of land
- Research to inform strategy development and identify future schemes.

5.0 DRAFT 2007/08 TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME

5.1 Wirral Council's total 2007/08 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement of £6,549,000 is made up as follows:

• Maintenance Block	£2,515,000
• Bromborough Pool Bridge (PRN)	£ 500,000
• Integrated Transport Block	£3,534,000
	TOTAL £6,549,000

5.2 The Maintenance block includes road, footway and bridge structural maintenance works. The Integrated Transport block covers the remaining elements of the LTP programme, including walking and cycling, local safety schemes, highway and public transport improvements, and traffic management schemes.

5.3 The Appendix shows Wirral's draft 2007/08 programme set in the context of the LTP2 shared priorities and policy headings. For additional information, it also includes the comparable levels of funding that were approved for 2006/07.

5.4 Due to the necessary level of analysis required for some of the budget heads, I am, however, unable to provide a breakdown of all elements of the programme at this time. Therefore, I propose to bring a separate report to elected Members in the Committee cycle in May 2007 covering cycling, pedestrian improvements, road safety, school travel and structural maintenance. These block allocations are highlighted in the Appendix with an asterisk (*) as being subject to a more detailed report.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Future levels of LTP funding will be dependent upon the successful delivery of the LTP programme and successful progress towards meeting the LTP2 targets. Running parallel to this, the level of funding via the LTP process is expected to reduce nationally. In terms of Wirral, it is likely that the annual LTP allocations will reduce by over £600,000 between 2007/08 and 2010/11.

6.2 Staff from my Department will continue to provide Wirral's input to the LTP and its strategic development. However, delivery of the transport capital programme will continue to have an impact on staffing requirements, particularly in the areas of work that require detailed accident analyses and public consultation prior to the scheme identification and implementation. It may be necessary, therefore, to appoint consultants to undertake certain categories of work so that I have the required flexibility to deliver the proposed programme of works.

6.3 Revenue implications – There will be increased maintenance costs or, in some instances, savings arising from specific projects. Where these arise, they will be detailed when projects are brought to Members for approval. However, it is recognised that levels of revenue funding available to the authority are not comparable to the level of capital infrastructure that is being implemented as part of the transport strategy.

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific ethnic minority, elderly persons or equal opportunities implications arising directly from this report. The transport strategy, which underpins the LTP, includes measures to assist the transport needs of all sections of the community.

7.2 In addition, the Accessibility Plan within LTP2 identifies current transport barriers to key destination across Wirral. This work will inform the identification of potential transport proposals to improve opportunities for all people.

7.3 Wirral's highway and transport proposals consider the needs of people with disabilities and impaired mobility, as set out in the Merseyside Code of Practice on Access and Mobility, which takes full account of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

8.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 In accordance with DfT guidelines, the LTP2 is closely aligned with the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and other strategic and local policies, including the Regional Transport Strategy, Wirral's Tourism Strategy and local environmental, social and economic regeneration strategies.

8.2 The Merseyside authorities are currently developing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) regarding land use and transport, which will improve linkages within the planning approvals' process. It is intended that the SPD be approved and implemented in the near future and will be reported to Members separately in due course. Members will note that the SPD was particularly noted by the Government in the settlement letter as "indicative of forward thinking on the links between transport and planning".

9.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Most of the schemes in the Transport Capital Programme have positive Community Safety Implications, either through improvements in road safety (e.g. introducing physical changes to the highway) or improvements in personal safety (e.g. installing better street lighting).

9.2 LTP2 directly addresses the Government's shared priority of road safety, which links closely with the council's Local Performance Service Agreement (LPSA) to reduce traffic accidents.

9.3 Furthermore, LTP2 complements the Housing Market Renewal Initiative by helping to improve the street environment.

9.4 The LTP2 complements the majority of the Council's corporate objectives, however, it is directly linked to that of 'Improving Transport'.

10.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Sustainability and LA21 issues are common threads running through all the transport policies.

11.2 Specific elements of LTP2 include:

- Sustainable Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the strategy;
- Joint working with health authorities and the promotion of walking and cycling;
- Reduction of transport related pollution;
- Encouraging greater use of public transport and non-motorised modes of transport;
- Development of Travel Plans with schools and businesses; and
- Merseyside 'TravelWise' – the initiative that is specifically helping to make an important contribution to people's behaviour change and the promotion of alternative modes of travel to the private car.

12.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

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

13.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The LTP contains a Wirral-wide transport strategy and implementation plan.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION That:

(1) the transport capital programme for 2007/08 be approved;

(2) Members inform the Director of Technical Services of potential future highway/transport schemes, for inclusion in the forthcoming appraisal framework, by the end of June 2007; and

(3) in view of the fact that the capital allocation is valid for only one year, the Director of Technical Services, in consultation with party spokespersons, be authorised to arrange the redistribution of funding between budget heads according to the changing demands of the programme.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

Section Five

Area Forum Funding Progress Report

Every year each area forum has funding to give out to small community groups within their ward area. This funding is to help and support services that benefit the community. This section provides an update on how some of this money has been spent in this area.

New Brighton / Wallasey

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
7th Wallasey Scout Group	To contribute towards a Canoe Trailer as present Trailer will no longer be able to be used.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding has enabled us to get an adjustable canoe / kayak trailer and will be able to purchase fittings for this in the future to use this to carry bikes.
The Friends of Vale Park	To contribute towards siting a community notice board in Vale Park.	Panel reconsidered this application and agreed to award £470.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The notice board was sited in August and officially unveiled by the Mayor of Wirral on 2nd September 2006 at the massed band concert.
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.	<p>We held our first competition for Juniors in December which, thanks to the funding, was quite successful with 16 children competing.</p> <p>We held our second competition in April 2007. This was highly successful with a total of 30 junior chess players competing in two age sections.</p>
Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	To train / recruit 15 volunteers to work with children and their families who are affected by crime in their local area, and to cover volunteer's travel expenses.	Panel considered this to be a good and worthwhile project that meets the criteria and agreed to award £218.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The grant enabled us to recruit and train 15 volunteers to deliver services to children and their families affected by crime (over 900 families across Wirral and 159 in this forum area).

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
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.	The project has turned out to be a resounding success. "The best show for many years" to quote many local residents. We concentrated on the Harrison Drive end of the village initially, and hope to extend it to the Leasowe Road end for Christmas 2007.
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.	Christmas lighting has been successfully purchased and there was a turning on ceremony and community Christmas party.
St Hilary's Youth Club, Wallasey	To widen the scope of activities and facilities available to members of the youth club by the purchase of a data projector, a laptop, karaoke machine and air hockey table.	Panel considered this to be a good project that meets the criteria and will benefit local people and agreed to award £1,00.00 from the Community initiatives Fund and £335.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	We have very much needed the increased range of activities the equipment the grant has provided. All of the equipment is intensively used and the numbers attending the youth club have continued to grow to about 60 per week.
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.	The band festival was well attended and considered to be a great success.
Wallasey Village Community Partnership	To produce and circulate a Partnership newsletter three times per year.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £864.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We have produced and circulated newsletters which has raised awareness of us and our partner organisations, increasing members of groups and encouraging community spirit.

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.

The funding was used to print four issues
of the Walrus magazine. These were
distributed by volunteers to 7000 households
in New Brighton.

Wallasey Athletic
Club

To contribute towards the
purchase of mobile
display boards as part of
a publicity campaign to
promote the Club's
Centenary.

Panel considered this to be a
good project that meets the
criteria and will benefit local
people and agreed to award
£500.00 from the Community
Initiatives Fund.

Two formal displays took place in April
and September 2006 at Wallasey
Central Library. The display was
formally opened by the Mayor of Wirral.
The publicity surrounding the clubs
centenary has attracted new members
to the club.

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 a total of £806.00
(£500.00 of this specifically
towards the purchase of tennis,
cricket, football equipment and
storage trolleys) from the
Community Initiatives Fund.

£544.60 of the funding was used to
purchase sports equipment and the
remainder used towards coach hire for
the club.

Summer Camp
for Girls /
Wallasey Division
Guides

To purchase a large tent,
and to fund improved
access and disabled
facilities at the
headquarters, and secure
storage facilities.

Panel considered this to be a
good project and agreed to fund
this.

Two tents have been purchased and
the accessible toilet should be in place
soon.

Applications granted for financial year 07/08

All applications were assessed by a panel (see below) membership decided and approved by each of the area forums against agreed and publicised criteria, and in making their recommendations the panels referred to any local priorities set by their particular area forum.

New Brighton & Wallasey	5 th July 2007	Cllr Wood, Cllr Duffey, Cllr Rennie, Cllr Hayes, Ian Lewis, Major Tipping, Andy Brannan (advisory role)
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Applications to Area Forums

The availability of the funding was publicised widely, including an advertisement in the Wirral Globe, publicity leaflets at Information including leisure centres, One Stop Shops and libraries etc across all of the wards and through the area forums.

Projects funded through the New Brighton and Wallasey forum only

New Brighton / Wallasey									
SA	14	Montpellier House Social Group	To provide a safe secure seating area for residents.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not feel that it was appropriate for this funding.	
SA	31	Wallasey Sea Cadets	To provide a trailer, tow bar and insurance for a minibus purchased by the unit.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1000.00 towards this from the Community initiatives Fund.	
SA	41	Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust	To update the galley on narrow boat "Michael Hayes".	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not feel that it was appropriate for this funding.	
SA	44	West Wallasey Village Residents Group	To provide initial set up and to support the running administration costs of the group.	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community initiatives Fund.	Councillor Kate Wood

SA	69	Wallasey Micro Interact Computer Club	To purchase equipment to provide training to be used by our members.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as not enough information was included on how the funding was to be used. Panel requested that the applicant submit a bid in the next round of funding with detailed information on how the money will be spent and type of training planned.	
SA	94	Wallasey Chess Club	To contribute towards the purchase of wooden chess sets and the organisation of a junior competition to take place in March 2008.	£350.00	£0.00	£0.00	£350.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £350.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	
SA	108	The Dragon Club	To contribute towards cost of re-organisation of a classroom to allow for more spaces at the club and for community use.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Councillor Kate Wood
SA	134	Wallasey Youth Bowling (YBC)	To purchase jackets for members and hire coach for YBC nationals held in Nottingham.	£900.00	£0.00	£0.00	£900.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £900.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	

Projects funded by various area forums, including New Brighton and Wallasey

Id		Organisation	Total CIF Awarded	Total CS Awarded	Total LA21 Awarded	Total Awarded
MA	3	Royal Army Service Corps & Royal Corps of Transport (RASC & RCT) Association. To purchase a desk top computer, monitor, workstation desk, printer and inkjet. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £100.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£706.03	£0.00	£0.00	£706.03
MA	15	Wirral Women and Children's Aid. To contribute towards the cost of running a youth club for our resident and ex-resident children aged 10-16, who have all witnessed / experienced domestic violence, to offer them respite from home and on going support. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £300.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£600.00	£1,300.00	£0.00	£1,900.00
MA	22	Marlowe Church 8 to 10 Ladies Club (Liscard). To contribute towards the running of the club by covering the cost of hiring the hall. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
MA	52	Wirral Festival of Music, Speech and Drama. To contribute towards costs of festival. Panel considered this to be a good project, and agreed to award £100.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund to encourage more users from the forum area.	£642.00	£0.00	£0.00	£642.00
MA	59	Wirral Community Pipe Band. To purchase two bass drums and cases Panel considered this to be a good project, and agreed to award £105.12 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£905.92	£0.00	£0.00	£905.92
MA	92	Wirral Society of the Blind and Partially Sighted. To provide an outreach service to maximise the awareness of the organisation and to ensure blind and partially sighted people in the community have access to services.	£3,128.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,128.00

		Panel considered this to be a good project, and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.				
MA	122	PTFA Ellera Park School. To contribute towards cost of setting up a sensory garden, quiet area, play area on land at the back of the school. Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1000.00	£0.00	£3,950.00	£4,950.00
MA	130	Friends of Rake Lane Cemetery. To organise a concert in the park. Panel considered this to be a good project, and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this, from the Community Initiatives Fund, on condition that a licence is granted. Panel requested that the applicant be informed that would welcome a further application once the permanent licence has been obtained.	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00

Section Six

Local Area Forum Plan Update

The area forum plan is a useful tool for everyone who has an interest in improving the local area as it will not only provide area forum members with a work programme of actions to be addressed, but will also ensure that local people have a means of monitoring the impact and progress of the area forum and the difference it is making to quality of life in the area.

Area forum plans form part of a much wider agenda for improving local services across the whole of Wirral and will influence the work of the local strategic partnership and the ongoing development of Wirral's local area agreement.

This section provides an update on some of the issues that have been resolved for this area forum.

CABINET – 20 JUNE 2007
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

ROAD SAFETY

The Local Transport Capital Programme, which was considered and approved by Cabinet on 28th March 2007, sets out project details relating to proposed schemes within the areas of road safety, school travel, structural road maintenance, walking and cycling.

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Merseyside, which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The second LTP (LTP2) covers the period between 2006/07 and 2010/11 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets

On 28th March 2007, Cabinet approved the report (Minute 310) on the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme described how, in accordance with Government guidance, the new LTP is constructed to relate to four “shared priorities” – Road Safety, Congestion, Accessibility and Air Quality/Environment.

Consequently, the LTP programme for 2007/08 has been revised to match these priorities and more effectively reflect LTP objectives and policy areas.

This shared priority contains the more traditional types of scheme to reduce road accident casualties as well as those to ensure a safe and well-maintained highway asset. Road safety measures undertaken as part of the LTP strategy can also contribute to the Council’s road safety stretched target

WALKING AND CYCLING

The following programmes comprising of pedestrian signal controlled crossings, dropped kerb crossings, pedestrian refuges, pedestrian signing and public rights of way, are proposed to encourage walking through better environments where it safe and attractive to walking

The Walking Strategy deals with the following specific programmes and recommends works/allocations for each of the following headings:-

	<u>Allocation</u>
Pedestrian Signals	£140,000
Walking/Pedestrian Dropped Crossing	£26,000
Pedestrian Central Refuges	£26,000
Signing for Pedestrians	£10,000
Public Rights of Way	£15,000

	£217,000

Area Forum – Heswall, Pensby, & Thingwall	£16,300
Area Forum - Bromborough & Eastham	£16,300

Further details of this report will be included in the New Brighton and Wallasey Forum Plan for 07/08. Please contact Andy Brannan on 0151 691 8391 for more information.

Section Seven

Streetscene Update

Wirral Council's Streetscene department is the main point of contact for people wishing to report issues affecting their area such as recycling, condition of roads, street lighting etc.

This section provides a report on the recent activities carried by the Streetscene department.

Residents Parking Zones The Residents' Parking Zones consultations for seven pilot areas have been completed. The seven areas were:

- **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.

The findings of the consultation were recently reported to Wirral Council's Cabinet. The resolution is that Residents' Parking WILL NOT be implemented in the 7 pilot areas as the majority of residents involved did not want the schemes. Wirral Council will now write to all those involved.

In future, people will refer to their Area Forum Coordinator to request a Residents' Parking Scheme. Area Forum Coordinators will be provided with information in time for the next meetings. (Not October's meetings)

School children win road safety prize: In conjunction with Merseyside Police and Radio City, Wirral Council have presented a £1000 prize to Rock Ferry High School for their outstanding entry in our Road Safety video competition. Pupils from Wallasey School, Park High School, Rock Ferry High School, and Woodchurch High School scripted, directed, filmed and edited videos, aimed at getting road safety messages across to other young people.

All of the films were excellent and we couldn't possibly pick the winner - so we gave the opportunity to Wirral's young people to vote online for their favourite video, and Wallasey were the clear winners. The videos can still be viewed online on Radio City's website www.radiocity.co.uk/roadsafety

Traffic Safety Schemes – the following safety schemes have recently been completed:

- St. Peters Way, Noctorum - 20mph/Traffic Calming Scheme
- Portsunlight Train Station to Clatterbridge Hospital - Cycle Route (including 3 Toucan Crossings :- Brimstage Road, Bebington, Church Road, Bebington, Bromborough Road, Bebington)
- Arrowse Park - Ambulance Priority Scheme (substantially complete)
- Hoylake Road nr. Danger Lane, Moreton- Puffin Crossing
- Townfield Lane, Oxton- Puffin Crossing (substantially complete)

Puffin Crossings have been proposed at the following locations:

- Hoylake Road / Stuart Avenue, Moreton - Conversion of existing zebra crossing, 13m West of its junction with Stuart Avenue
- Laird Street / Miriam Place, Brikenhead - 8m North-West of its junction with Miriam Place

- Irby Road / Fishers Lane, Pensby - Conversion of existing pedestrian refuge, 29m North of its junction with Fishers Lane
- Townfield Lane / Calverly Close, Oxton - 60m West of its junction with Calverly Close
- Eastham Rake / Plymyard Avenue, Eastham - 16m South-West of its junction with Plymyard Avenue

Recycling update: All Wirral Residents' should have recently seen a "Recycling Update" wrapped around the Wirral Globe Newspaper. To re-cap:

Grey bins – recycling: Since the roll out of the grey recycling bin across Wirral, the recycling rates for the borough have rocketed! The latest figures show that approximately 32% of Wirral's waste is being recycled, as opposed to 12% this time last year.

Grey bins have been rolled out gradually over the last 9 months and now 95% of properties are on the scheme. Those who live in flats or multiple occupancy housing will be joining the scheme soon. The grey bin is for plastic bottles, glass bottles, jars, cans and tins, paper and card and other dry recyclables. Whilst food waste, plastic bags, plastic containers, foil and textiles go in the green bin as normal, and garden waste goes in the brown bin.

Message from Director of Technical Services: "I would like to thank all the residents of Wirral for their support and participation so far. I am aware that there were teething problems to begin with, as all major changes take time to get used to, but now the system is working excellently and our latest recycling figures prove that."

Also, certain households who received their grey bins very early on in the scheme will be receiving literature very shortly, informing them that there has been a slight change in what they can put in their grey bin. As they were the first to get the bins, it was thought that the MRF recycling facility at Bidston would be able to process foil and certain plastic containers. However, foil and certain plastic containers such as yogurt pots are not able to be separated from the other materials very well. They tend to end up in the paper stream which increases the risk of the paper bails being rejected from the mill that finally recycle the paper. Therefore the only form of plastic that we can accept in the grey bin is all types of plastic bottles. All other kinds of plastic can not be recycled in your grey bin scheme. Neither can foil, or foil lids.

Brown bins – garden waste: 17,000 Wirral Households were taking part in a combined food and garden waste brown bin pilot. People on this pilot will have originally received a small brown kitchen caddy, along with their brown bin, and instructions about how food waste and garden waste could be put in the brown bin. These households will have recently received information telling them that the pilot scheme has now finished, and that brown bins will be for garden waste only from now on.

The pilot has concluded that is it better to collect garden waste only in our brown bins. This is because processing a combined collection of food and garden waste is a complicated and expensive way of collecting organic waste. If successful it could have helped reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill and increased Wirral's recycling rate. Unfortunately, due to a combination of the following factors, the scheme hasn't helped us to reach these targets:

- The composting units have struggled to maintain consistency with the biological reaction necessary for this type of enclosed composting.
- We've actually received very little food waste from residents as a whole, which meant the scheme was not cost-effective.

- Residents had concerns over putting food waste directly into a bin without wrapping.

Due to the above issues, the Council did not receive the benefit it expected in terms of weight of recycling, and now plans to reassess food recycling. There are many new options available, but these depend on facilities offered by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, with whom we are working to research and develop the best options.

Home Composters: We are offering low cost composters to Wirral households, in conjunction with Recycle Now. Up to a third of an average household bin can be composted. Items such as fruit and veg peelings, shredded paper, teabags, flowers and cardboard egg boxes can be easily composted at home.

www.recyclenow.com/compost 0845 077 0757

Footway works completed: Wakefield Drive, Leasowe, The Laund, Wallasey Derwent Drive, Liscard, Dalmorton Road (part) New Brighton (in progress), awarden Avenue, Liscard, Bassenthwaite Avenue, Claughton, Nursury Close, Oxton (in progress), Well Lane, Bebington, Riviera Drive, Rock Ferry.

Future footway works planned: Upton Road (part) Claughton, Grafton Street (part) Birkenhead, Burlingham Avenue, West Kirby, Fieldway, Bebington, Croxteth Avenue, Liscard, Sussex Close, Pensby & Thingwall, Hillfield Drive, Pensby & Thingwall, Mere Farm Grove, Oxton, Lord Street (part) Birkenhead, Chester Street (part) Birkenhead, Downham Road (part) Birkenhead, Oak Road, Bebington, Reedville Road, Bebington, Richardson Road, Rock Ferry

Carriageway resurfacing completed: Sherlock Lane, Poulton, Brompton Avenue, Wallasey, Haydock Road, New Brighton Chadwick Street, Moreton, Wharfedale Road, Wallasey, Aysgarth Road, Wallasey, The Laund, Wallasey, Perrin Road. Wallasey, Acres Road, Bebington, Richmond Close, Bebington, Devonshire Road (part) Birkenhead, Townsend/Challis/Curlender Road, Bidston, Bedford Road (part) Rock Ferry, New Chester Road (part) Rock Ferry Bridge Street, (part) Birkenhead, Argyle Street, (part) Birkenhead, Mount Road (part) Bebington.

Carriageway resurfacing planned: Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge, Derwent Drive, Liscard, Neville Road, Bromborough, Dibbins Hey (part), Clatterbridge, Wirral Mount, Clatterbridge, Patterdale Road, Clatterbridge, Bassenthwaite Avenue, Claughton, Laburnum Road, New Brighton, Sandheys Road, New Brighton, Mount Road (access link to hospital entrance) Clatterbridge, Telegraph Road/Pensby Road, Heswall, Dock Road, Seacombe (part).

Carriageway Retread sites completed:

HALSBURY/WOBURN ROAD

NEW BRIGHTON

Carriageway Surface Treatment sites completed (or due to be completed within the next 2-3 weeks)

SHEEN ROAD

NEW BRIGHTON

LYNDHURST ROAD

WALLASEY

Carriageway Surface Treatment sites programmed: Vyner Road North, Bidston & St James, Wroxham Way, Upton, Seabank Road (part) Liscard

Footway Surface Treatment sites completed (or due to be completed within next 2-3 weeks)

HOLLAND ROAD

NEW BRIGHTON

RANKIN STREET

SEACOMBE

LIMEKILN LANE

SEACOMBE

Section Eight

Equalities & Diversity

The Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG) provides a framework for local authorities to deliver continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

The standard has six strands or pillars:

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

New equality and diversity policy and strategy for Wirral Council

The Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG) provides a framework for local authorities to deliver continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

The standard has six strands or pillars and these are: Race, Disability, Gender, Age, Sexual Orientation and Religion or belief

Wirral has a new equality and diversity policy which sets out the council's commitment to fair employment and equitable service delivery and includes detailed statements in relation to all six strands of the equality standard. It also sets out the legislative framework within all local authorities must operate.

The council currently has 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.

Main site www.wirral.gov.uk
or use the following link http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm

Alongside its new equality and diversity policy, Wirral has introduced an equality and diversity strategy. The strategy recognises that Wirral has particular challenges in relation to this area of work, and that the council must work at all levels to progress this important agenda.

The authority has mechanisms to ensure all departments regularly discuss equalities. There is, for example, a cross-cutting corporate group which meets regularly to assess the progress of departments through the equality agenda. In this way the council works to address any areas of weaknesses in employment practice or service delivery.

Council staff diversity forums go from strength to strength

An employee diversity forum has long been established within the council. This group consists of staff from across the local authority and brings together issues relating to the six strands of the equality standard.

The group meets regularly before the council's corporate group, in order for the forum's views to inform strategic discussions. For more information about the employee diversity forum please contact Steve Russell (Chair) on 0151 691 8656 or email steverussell@wirral.gov.uk

More recently, two further staff diversity forums have been set up specifically designed to align to a particular strand, the gender diversity forum (women's group), and disability diversity forum.

The gender diversity forum has met twice since their inaugural meeting in May with the next meeting scheduled for 19th September. The focus of this meeting will include

agile working and transforming working practices to meet the future and addressing the gender imbalance within the top 5% of staff within the Council.

For more information please contact Christina Bebbington (temporary Chair) on 0151 691 8063. or email christinabebbington@wirral.gov.uk

The disability diversity forum has met three times since their inaugural meeting in May discussions have included terms of reference for the group and discussing council communications aimed at raising awareness about the reasonable adjustments to which people with disabilities are entitled.

For more information please contact Ged Smyth (temporary Chair) on 0151 691 8217 or email gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk

If you are interested in finding out more about what the council is doing about equality and diversity please visit the council's website where you can also have your say.

Wirral Black and Racial Minority Partnership established

The Wirral Black and Racial Minority Partnership (WBRMP) held its inaugural meeting on the 18th July 2007.

The aim of the WBRMP is to provide Wirral Black and Racial Minority communities with a co-ordinated voice to enable them to become more involved in local issues that affect their lives.

The Partnership has recently agreed its constitution and appointed officers. Presently, they are being supported by the Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network, Community Engagement Team at Bebbington CVS.

The Partnership is hoping to hold their official launch on 3rd October this year in The Laurie's Centre.

Current members of the Partnership include; Wirral African and Caribbean Community Voice, Wirral Cultural Diversity Group, Irish Community Care, Wirral Change, Wirral Sikh Association amongst others.

If you are interested in the work of the Partnership or wish to join please contact Julie Johnson or Karen Livesey 0151 645 4038.

Mayoral reception for Wirral's leading BME community members

The Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Phil Gilchrist, held a reception for Wirral's leading BME community members at on 6th September in the Round Room, Wallasey Town Hall.

The council recognises the growing diversity in Wirral and wanted to provide a forum to meet with those who represent both the established and the emerging minority communities.

Although informal, the reception offered an opportunity to discuss any issues that are of concern and a selection of senior council officers were in attendance.