

**Oxton and Prenton**

**Area Forum**

**Area Co-ordinator's Report**

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2005**

**Maxine Joynson, 691 8266 or**  
**maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk**

## **Contents**

### **Section One**

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

### **Section Two - Local Updates**

#### **Cohesive & Sustainable Communities**

- Extended Schools Prospectus
- Launch of Race / Hate monitoring form
- 'New for Old' – Older Persons Conference
- Oxtun Society
- Prenton Tenants & Residents Association
- Woodchurch Road parking
- Merseyfest

#### **Equity & Access**

- Wirral Patient & Public Involvement Forums
- Voting Registration Forms
- Have a say on Rights of Way

#### **A Quality Environment**

- Play Area
- Notes of Borough Road site meeting
- Park It!
- Interpreting Services – Council One Stop Shops & Call Centre

### **Section Three**

Community Initiatives Funding

### **Section Four**

Local Area Plan

### **Section Five**

Youth Update

### **Section Six**

Streetscene

# **Section One**

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

### Minutes - Area Forum (Oxton and Prenton) Meeting - 15 June 2005

Present	
Chair	FM Doyle
Ward Councillors	Mrs F E F Anderson , A Bridson , SA Holbrook , SE Kelly , Mrs P M Williams
Community Representatives	June Foster (Wirral Fed. of Tenants & Residents Assocs.) , Patrick Toosey
Lead Officer	Bob Beresford (Deputy Director of Housing & Environmental Protection) , Alan Stennard (Director of Regeneration)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Maxine Joynson
Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT	Richard Jones (Birkenhead and Wallasey Primary Care Trust)
Merseyside Police	Sgt J Garthwaite
Council Officers	Derwent Derbyshire (Deputy Director of Technical Services) , Derek Howard (Environmental Health) , Mark Traynor (Streetscene Manager) , Mike Walker (Community Safety Officer)
Apologies	Gary Cummings (Area Streetscene Manager) , Alan Dollery (Prenton Tenants & Residents Assoc.)

#### Index to Minutes

- Minute 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
- Minute 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING
- Minute 3 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT
- Minute 4 - AREA PLANS
- Minute 5 - COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND - PRIORITIES
- Minute 6 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
- Minute 7 - PRESENTATION ON THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2
- Minute 9 - PLAY AREA UPDATE
- Minute 9 - COMMUNITY SAFETY QUESTIONS
- Minute 10 - PRIMARY CARE TRUST UPDATE
- Minute 11 - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS
- Minute 12 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### Minute 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Frank Doyle (Chair) welcomed everybody to the meeting of the Oxton and Prenton Area Forum. He informed the audience that for the benefit of those using a hearing aid, a loop system was in operation. There were approximately 37 members of the public present.

#### Minute 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Doyle explained that the matters arising from the previous meeting were dealt with in the Area Co-ordinator's Report under Section 1 Local Issues. He explained that if any members of the public were dissatisfied with the explanations provided, they would have an opportunity to raise these later in the evening. However, he had been specifically asked by Alan Dollery to bring up the issue of Palmwood Close. Cllr Doyle asked whether any residents were present from the Close and, as there were none in attendance, he briefly mentioned that the matter of traffic problems were the subject of continuing

## Section 1

### Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

discussions between himself, the residents, Council Officers and Sainsbury's.

#### Minute 3 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Maxine Joynson, Area Co-Ordinator, explained her Report contained local updates from issues raised at the last Area Forum. She also confirmed that it contained local updates on issues raised at the last Area Forum and local updates on the following:

- Working Partnership – Developing Skills for Neighbourhood Renewal;
- Local Transport Plan 2 Consultation (presentation to be given later);
- Proposed new play area (presentation to be given later);
- Highways Maintenance Programme 2005/2006;
- Handyperson Scheme;
- ABC Together;
- Oxton Walks.

It was suggested that the former Metropolitan College site on Borough Road be a regular agenda item for the next twelve months due to the problems encountered on the site. This was agreed by the Forum. She also notified the Forum that there was a meeting with the local residents and the developer on 23rd June 2005 at 4.00p.m. with regards to Borough Road.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - that the former Metropolitan College site on Borough Road be included as a regular agenda item on the forum agenda for the next twelve months.

#### Minute 4 - AREA PLANS

Cllr Doyle explained that the Area Plan has now been compiled and copies were available for members of the public to read at their leisure. Background information on Oxton has been supplied by the Oxton Society and similar information on Prenton had been supplied by Alan Dollery. Cllr Doyle explained that the Prenton background information was based on the former Prenton Ward as were the statistics and at some point in the future both the statistics and the background information would have to be updated. Maxine Joynson explained that the document would be refreshed in December in order to reflect the four new themes within the Community Strategy. These themes are; Worklessness, Access and Equity, Cohesive and Sustainable Communities and a Quality Environment. A sub-group would need to be formed in order to address the issues section of the plan. She asked that members of the public who had any interest in being part of the sub-group contact her. She went on to explain that the report contained aims for the Area Forum and how these could be achieved together with supporting information. Cllr Doyle realised that people had not had chance to read the document in the time available this evening and suggested that once they had had chance to review this, they either contact one of their local councillors or Maxine Joynson with their suggestions. Maxine's phone number is on Page 1 of the Area Plan.

Cllr Ann Bridson pointed out that her initial reaction that the section headed "Improved Opportunities for Young People" and in particular the sub-section "Provide Diversionary Activities for Young People" did not reflect provision for young people, in that Prenton has no facilities for this age group apart from church groups; she feels there is a need for facilities to re-direct them from vandalism and under-age drinking. This is a main target and should be

## Section 1

### Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

included in the Plan.

There were no other comments on the plan.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - that an Area Plan sub-group be set up.

#### Minute 5 - COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND - PRIORITIES

Cllr Doyle explained that this year there are two additional elements of funding. The first is the Community Safety Fund, specifically ring-fenced funding for initiatives for tackling crime and nuisance, and this is set at £3,000 per Forum. There is also an amount of £1,500 for environmental funding; this is provided by Local Agenda No 21 for community based projects aimed at improving or maintaining the local environment. In addition, there is also the previously allocated £11,000 from the Community Initiatives Fund together with a carry forward of £1,882.66. This gives a total sum of £17,382.66 for allocation by the Forum for 2005/6.

Maxine Joynson explained that the funding would be advertised in the local press on 6th and 20th July with a closing date of 15th August 2005. The panel will meet on 5th September at 2.00 p.m. in the Prenton Drop In Centre, to make recommendations on the applications received.

Cllr Doyle asked if there were any comments and a member of the public asked if it would be an open meeting and if it would be minuted.

Maxine replied that it is a closed meeting of the panel, and Cllr Doyle explained that the final decision lay with Cabinet and these minutes are available to the public on the website.

#### Minute 6 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Doyle explained that there had been a number of questions raised, some of which had been received prior to the meeting and a couple had been received on the night.

However, before the main questions were addressed, Cllr Pat Williams said she would like to read out a note from Kath Byrne regarding the recent fire in Woodchurch Road in which she praised the emergency services and social services for their efforts on the night and afterwards. She still had personal concerns over safety due to inadequate security at the building site adjacent to her home. Mr Neale asked for a comment from the Police representative, Sergeant Garthwaite; however, he felt unable to comment due to insufficient notice of the issue. It was suggested this be included in the next Report.

Jean McCarthy - local resident from Prenton

Ms McCarthy raised the following concerns re. Mount Estate:

- rats;
- youths disturbances (in particular in the copse); and
- the non-collection of recyclable waste.

With regard to the rat problem, Rob Beresford agreed to liaise further with her and take the matter up with Pest Control, and to arrange a meeting with her on site.

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

With regard to the problem over the youths, Mrs McCarthy explained that she had difficulties in contacting the Police. There then ensued a discussion concerning problems generally over Police accessibility. One suggestion from a member of the public was that when Police stations such as Well Lane or Upton were not manned, that phone calls be automatically diverted to Birkenhead Police Station which is manned 24 hours per day. Alan Stennard asked for the Forum's perseverance until the next meeting as there were ongoing discussions with the Police concerning response times. He suggested that a senior police officer be invited to the next Forum. Cllr Doyle thought that this was a good idea but councillors still needed to address and look at the suggestion made by the member of the public concerning the diversion of calls. He also felt that given the level of questions at previous meetings concerning law and order and policing, that the majority of time at the next meeting should be given up to this subject and this was agreed by the Forum.

Mrs McCarthy's final point concerned the collection of recyclable waste, and the problems faced by elderly people being unable to carry heavy bags of waste paper down to the main gate. Derwent Derbyshire from the Technical Services Department agreed to take her details after the meeting and review the position. There is an arrangement for elderly people to receive help with their wheelie bins and this should also apply to the blue bag scheme.

Mrs Mooney local resident from Prenton

Mrs Mooney requested an explanation as to why the provision of visitor parking permits had not been resolved. She explained that visiting members of her own family were not allowed to park there at certain hours of the day without incurring a parking fine and that this is a ludicrous situation which has gone on far too long. Councillors seemed to be attending meetings on the matter but no progress is being made.

Derwent Derbyshire explained that when NCP had been awarded the contract, and this had been moved out of Police control, that they were obliged to fully enforce the system and that there is no way of part-enforcing it. He explained that members were also concerned about the Wirral-wide issue of traffic orders and had resolved to hold a special meeting to discuss this. It was recognised however that there is a problem and until matters were resolved, wardens would have to continue enforcing the regulations.

Mrs Mooney pointed out that workmen could not park vehicles outside her home without incurring a parking fine. Derwent Derbyshire explained that in some areas of the borough, residents were complaining that the Council were not enforcing the regulations enough.

A member of the public (Mr Neale from Prenton) commented that the situation is ridiculous and there is no consistency. He thanked the local councillors for the work that they had already undertaken but in his road, for instance, there was no problem with visitor parking but in adjacent roads there was. In addition, small shops in Woodchurch Road are losing business because of the strict enforcement by traffic wardens.

Mrs Mooney explained that they used to be able to leave a note in their car and wondered why this couldn't work again.

Cllr Bridson explained that each road has a different situation. The review which is going to take place will be Borough-wide, and this will involve a

## Section 1

### Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

substantial amount of manpower and resources in ascertaining exactly what local residents wanted.

Cllr Holbrook pointed out that the Company were doing, under the contract, what they had been asked to do but this has thrown up a lot of anomalies. He commented that there should be statistics available to show which areas had received the highest number of complaints and this could be used to prioritise which areas need to be consulted and acted upon first. Elm Road North has had a lot of complaints, so the system is obviously not working well there.

Cllr Kelly commented that he had been party to the original Cabinet decision to award the contract to NCP. At the time, he had expressed his concerns to Officers that there would be problems and was informed by them that these would be dealt with as they arose. He felt personally disappointed and misled by Officers.

Alan Dollery

Alan Dollery raised issues concerning noise pollution around the Durley Drive Estate and M53 roundabout and pavements behind the shops in Prenton Hall Road. As they had only been received that day, Maxine is to take these questions on board and report back.

Cllr Doyle said that the following questions had been raised, which have been dealt with / replied to:

Mr Grainger - concerning parking issues at Lookers

Mr Dowling - concerning selection procedures for grammar schools

Andrew Taylor - concerning traffic calming figures

Mr Neale - concerning parking issues and the impact of privatisation on Council services

Mrs Stott

Mrs Stott raised concerns over youths congregating on the Arno. She explained that gangs of youths congregate particularly on Friday evenings, and she has tried to speak to them herself and asked them to leave. Over the last two years she has asked the Police to show their presence in the area but nothing has been done, the problem has started again this summer with local residents feeling intimidated. She has spoken to Cllr Pat Williams who promised that the Police would come, Mrs Stott said they did arrive but didn't get out of their car, they spoke to the youths who then left but then came back later. She wanted to know why there is not more Police on the beat in this area.

Cllr Pat Williams said she has spoken to the Police about this problem and has been advised that they will be monitoring the situation regularly on Friday evenings. She believes that the Police and the local councillors have got a responsibility to divert these young people into other activities.

Mr Eddie Clark asked how many Police are out on the streets at the moment?

Cllr Frank Doyle proposed that a senior officer from the Police be invited to the next meeting of the Area Forum to answer questions of this nature. Cllr Freda Anderson sympathised with Mrs Stott's problems but pointed out that a large number of the Police are in the Birkenhead Town Centre on Friday evenings. She feels that the problem might be resolved by members of the community



## Section 1

### Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

receiving training to help to police the area and a 'No Drinking In This Area' notice in the Arno might help.

Sergeant Garthwaite informed the forum that the Police are currently running an operation, which covers anti-social behaviour, in this area and central Birkenhead and that they will be targeting hotspots with high resources. Also Birkenhead and Upton are to be designated as 'No Drinking in the Street' areas. He pointed out that the Arno is a difficult area to police as there are several ways for people to avoid them.

Mrs Beryl Colbreck

Mrs Colbreck raised concerns over the noise levels on the Durley Drive estate, there has been a problem caused by traffic and large vehicles going past the estate. She asked if there is any legislation on the type of business that can be conducted so close to residential housing, referring specifically to the double glazing firm which has recently moved there. She complained of having to continually suffer the noise of breaking glass with a detrimental effect on her quality of life.

Cllr Frank Doyle said there has been similar queries from other residents on the estate.

Rob Beresford said the estate is governed by Planning Regulations as to the type of businesses that can set up there. He offered to meet Mrs Colbreck for a separate consultation to have a look at what is available to alleviate her problem.

Cllr Simon Holbrook stated that following assessment of the problem a Noise Abatement Notice could be served on the company. They may be asked to change their working practices, and the Council might be able to act as a mediator to do something about it.

The following issues were also raised re: the Durley Drive estate

Member of the public - complaint about the articulated lorries coming past the estate and concern over the affect this has on housing foundations.

Mr Cannon - feels that Council officers don't realise the scale of the problem of noise on the estate and that he is receiving different explanations from different departments of the Council. He felt that a wall of trees might cut down on the noise and act as a sound barrier.

Cllr Frank Doyle assured him that these complaints have been noted and promised to arrange a separate meeting to discuss these problems more fully.

Mr Eric Dade

Mr Dade raised concerns over the construction work on the site of the old College on Borough Road. His complaints were concerning lack of security on the site, allowing unauthorised entry, together with the dust pollution causing health problems such as asthma.

Cllr Frank Doyle confirmed there is a meeting next week with the construction company, Wimpey.

## Section 1

### Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Derek Howard confirmed that the site manager had promised removal of a large pile of rubble at a recent meeting, and that Maxine had had discussions with the site owners who have promised two extra security guards.

A member of the public who lives in the adjoining housing stated that she has suffered abuse from children playing on the site, who have been throwing stones at nearby houses.

These problems will be discussed further at a meeting on 23rd June.

Cllr Pat Williams said that she felt it totally irresponsible to have a large pile of rubble so close to people's houses.

Following the complaints of the health effects, Cllr Frank Doyle said he will be speaking to the Head of Woodchurch Road School to see how many children have been affected.

Cllr Stuart Kelly asked the officers whether we, as a local authority, have enforcement powers to make sure that the site was secure.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved - that:

- i. Sergeant Garthwaite prepare a statement on the security of the building site at Woodchurch Road for inclusion in the next Area Co-ordinators Report.
- ii. Rob Beresford to arrange a site meeting with Ms McCarthy with regard to the rat problem and to meet with Mrs Colbreck with regard to problem created by double glazing firm near her home.
- iii. A senior police officer be invited to the next Forum to discuss issues raised at this and previous meetings on police accessibility, law and order, and policing. And that the majority of the next meeting should be given up to this subject.
- iv. Derwent Derbyshire review the position re: the collection of recyclable waste.
- v. Maxine report back on issues raised concerning noise pollution around the Durley Drive Estate, M53 roundabout and pavements behind the shops in Prenton Hall Road.
- vi. A separate meeting be arranged to discuss the problems on the Durley Drive Estate more fully.

#### **Minute 7 - PRESENTATION ON THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2**

Paula Coppell gave a presentation to the forum on the Local Transport Plan 2 for Merseyside. The Plan looked at transport in its wider context, concluding that congestion is a growing problem. The Plan includes a vision and a set of objectives with a set of emerging priorities for transport improvement.

The following questions were made from members of the public.

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Mr Garrett

Mr Garrett asked about the electrification of the Bidston to Wrexham line and the new railway station and wanted to know if the councillors are still committed to this project.

Paula Coppell replied that the whole network is being looked at and the electrification of this line is seen as a priority, although there are no guarantees that this will get cars off the roads. They are trying to plan to give people more choice in transport.

On behalf of the Oxton and Prenton councillors, Cllr Stuart Kelly stated that they are committed to this project and have been assured that it is going ahead.

Mr Eddie Clark

Mr Clark asked if the noise level of a new station near the Durley Drive estate would affect the residents.

Cllr Simon Holbrook commented that a new station near the motorway will lead to a major redesign of that junction and a look at the wider environmental issues in that area.

### Minute 9 - PLAY AREA UPDATE

Lance Farlam gave a brief outline of where this project is up to, explaining that money has been made available for a children's play area and a site at the Storeton Road Playing Fields has been chosen.

The views of residents and local people were obtained through questionnaires and two drop-in sessions to discuss the options and problems with the local community, with a map of the area provided for people to choose where they would prefer the play area to be sited. Lance reported that 35 replies were received which were mainly split into two distinct areas. However, the consensus of opinion was that the favoured area was behind the Kwik Save shop. The reasoning behind the decision was there is ample parking, it is near the pathway and there is a CCTV camera sited on Woodchurch Road. People were asked their opinions on the best type of equipment and the most popular were climbing frames, swings and a roundabout. The area is only to be used by younger children, although there are concerns about vandalism and older children gathering there. Lance said there would be no high fence around it, litter bins, a dog-free area and ball game facilities would be provided and he showed the Forum a board of photos of equipment which represented the best value for money.

The following issues were raised:

A member of the public asked about the policing of this area following the problems in The Arno with youths.

Cllr Frank Doyle replied there is a CCTV camera covering this site. He also mentioned that there is £3000 available for crime and nuisance and invited

## Section 1

### Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

people to put in bids for money to possibly site a camera permanently on the play area. Lighting was also suggested. It is hoped that the project will be completed before March next year.

Sergeant Garthwaite said he does not feel there will be a problem, and mentioned that there is a similar play area in Prenton Dell and there have been no problems there since it was taken on board by the local residents association.

Lance Farlam agreed that play areas do not make the problem any greater or any less.

Mrs Gill Edwards, a local resident who lives on the boundary of the playing fields, said that she felt there would be problems with vandalism and youths and questioned whether 35 replies was a true representation of local opinion.

Lance Farlam offered to meet with her separately to discuss her concerns.

A member of the public said she had collected a number of signatures on a petition from people who were opposed to the project and said that many people do not want it, again stressing the problem of youths.

Cllr Pat Williams said people have been asking for a play area in the Oxton area for many years, it has been well publicised locally and she is hoping that the youth service will get involved to help young people in this area.

Cllr Simon Holbrook pointed out that it would be wrong to allow the bad behaviour of a few people stop us doing something that would benefit local people and that we need to deal with the root cause of the problem.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - that Lance Farlam to meet with Mrs Edwards to discuss potential problems with vandalism and youths at the play area.

.

#### **Minute 9 - COMMUNITY SAFETY QUESTIONS**

In view of the fact that many community safety questions had already been addressed at the meeting, it was decided not to take any further questions as the meeting had already overrun its scheduled finishing time.

#### **Minute 10 - PRIMARY CARE TRUST UPDATE**

Richard Jones of the Primary Care Trust reported that the main news was the decision to close Wards 6 & 7 at Victoria Central Hospital on 7th June. It has been opposed and is going to the Secretary of State for a final decision. He also reported that they are currently awaiting the outcome of the Healthcare Commission review of the star rating. We are the only PCT in the area with a three star rating and Wirral Hospital Trust also has three stars. As it is the last year of star ratings, they would like to meet this target. The Trust has run a successful smoking cessation service, they are the first PCT in the country to hold a General Practices Award and Wallasey Heart Centre won an award for treatment and prevention of heart disease. He reported on investment plans for Victoria Central Hospital to move G.P. practices into a new building near the new walk-in centre and that there is continuing investment on this site.

## Section 1

### Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Cllr Frank Doyle thanked Richard Jones for his report and it was agreed that the PCT report should be higher up the Agenda for the next meeting.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved that:

- i. Richard Jones be thanked for his report.
- ii. The Primary Care Trust update be placed further up the Agenda for the next meeting.

#### **Minute 11 - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates of the next two meetings have been agreed, and are as follows:

Wednesday, 12th October 2005  
Wednesday, 15th February 2006.

#### **Minute 12 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Possible future presentations included the Children and Young Persons department, Development of Cycle Networks and Wirral Healthy Communities.

However, following tonight's meeting, it might well be that law and order is taken as the only presentation because of the high level of questions which appear to be coming up at public question time.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Listed below are the issues that were raised prior to the last forum (June). Unfortunately some of these could not be raised in detail on the night given the time constraints.

**Name: Alan Dollery**

**Subject: Noise pollution**

Noise/Pollution problem from traffic using the M53 Roundabout and Roadway adjacent to the homes of some of the residents living in and around the Durley Drive Estate, Mr Mrs J Cannon have highlighted this problem on more than one occasion, but they feel that they are not getting the right attention this problem deserves.

Mr & Mrs Cannon hope to be able to attend this meeting along with a few residents of the Durley Drive to add a bit of weight to this concern, I would like it brought up to the attention of the meeting on the PTRAs behalf and any solutions to the problem be sent to us. Our position is that we feel that more can, and should be done to see what the effect the problem is having on the residents, we feel that the noise pollution is detrimental to Health, and adding some Trees would cut down some of the noise factors.

Technical Services are liaising with the Highways agency on a M53 strategy which is road accident led. Officers are aware of the concerns at this major road junction and will build into their considerations these particular views. It is worth pointing out that the situation will require a significant resource to solve.

**Name: Alan Dollery**

**Subject: Pavements**

The condition of the Pavements and roadway behind the shops in Prenton Hall Road mainly behind the paper Shop & Chippy. For over three years the council have been making good the kerb repairs .They get damaged on a weekly basis the initial outlay on repairs must be in it's thousand by now, and the road way is like a moon crater, some one soon is going to have a nasty accident and hurt themselves by falling into one of the divots, these problems belong to WPH I think since the transfer I have not been able to establish as to the ownership. We need a full revamp of this Area sooner rather than later, can the Forum add their weight to our problem and get the people responsible to take some action.

This issue has been passed to Streetscene Manager but unfortunately no response has been received due to him being off sick.

**Name: Mr Grainger**

**Subject: Parking Issues at Lookers**

Steve Atkins responded with: A request for parking enforcement on Kings Mount via a Councillor was made on behalf of residents of Kings Mount. NCP have been requested to keep a regular eye and patrol this area. I also pass this location on a daily basis to and from work and there has been nothing significant to report back and only a couple of penalty charge notices have been issued. If Mr Grainger is aware of particular times/days when parking is at it's worst, I would be happy to arrange for parking enforcement in line with this. Obviously, we can only enforce yellow line restrictions. Any inconsiderate parking which causes obstructions etc can only be enforced by the Police as we do not have the powers to take any action.

**Section 1****Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising****Name: Mr Dowling****Subject: Selection procedures for Grammar Schools**

Selection procedures for Wirral Grammar School how do they work? Wishes to know particularly about study leave granted in Grammar Schools and how the national SATS correlate with WBC selection for Grammar schools.

John Bulmer, Senior Inspector has spoken directly to Mr Dowling and has given him direct phone number if he has any other queries.

**Name: Mrs Stott****Subject: Arno**

Mrs Stott contacted Cllr Kelly with regard to young people congregating in the Arno causing disruption and in some cases, vandalism/damage to residents properties.

Police to respond at area forum

**Name: Andrew Taylor****Subject: Traffic calming figures**

Andrew is unable to attend the forum but contacted Maxine with the following:

Can we see figures which compare per capita expenditure on traffic calming by Wirral Council with other local authorities. Furthermore, could we have the expenditure comparisons made separately for Government funded schemes and for Council funded schemes.

David Rees, Principal Assistant Engineer responded with; Based on latest available population figures (mid year 2003) – spend per capita on traffic calming is £0.574. All funding is from the Capital Transport Allocation and Neighbourhood Renewal Funding.

If the Council have no such comparisons, who has?

David Rees responded Wirral Borough Council does not have information relating to traffic calming funding in other local authorities. We are not aware of any central repository of such information other than individual authorities. In making comparisons some account should be made to compare like authorities.

Maxine has passed this information to Andrew who will convey this to his Committee. He wished to thank David for his response.

**Name: Mr Neale****Subject: Parking issues**

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Maxine contacted Derwent Derbyshire with regard to the enquiry about issues raised in Prenton. Ian Ramsden responded directly to Mr Neale with the following:

In the case of possibly extending the Tranmere Residents Parking Scheme to cover Elm Road/ St Stephen's Road currently no new schemes or amendments to existing schemes are being progressed. The particular roads mentioned have been added to the list that we keep for consideration should this situation change.

Turning to the junction of Waterpark Road with Storeton Road this is not in a current programme for improvement. We have as a result of the recent residential development at the junction, managed to reserve some land to improve the radii on the left hand side whilst exiting. This would not result in a full widening of the approaches but if achieved would assist movements at the junction. There are significant issues regarding statutory services at this point which would have to be addressed before any future scheme could be undertaken.

**Name: Richard Neale**

**Subject: Impact of privatisation on council services**

What successes or otherwise can be recorded in the period since Wirral BC allowed for outside contractors to carry out services.

New School buildings ( JARVIS)

Day to day cleaning and maintenance of some schools ( JARVIS)

School meals (was METRO catering)

Waste collection (ONYX)

Street cleaning (ONYX)

Public car parking (NCP)

Residential parking (NCP) (since controls taken over from Merseyside Police)

Public bus services ((Arriva) following 1986 deregulation and sell off of M P T E bus company)

Maxine emailed the following to Mr Neale in reply

Graham Rossiter provided the following:

School meals (was Metro)

Metro Catering Services is the Councils DSO 'in-house' school meals provider and is not a private contractor. We currently supply services to the majority of Primary, all Special and two secondary schools serving approximately 18,000 meals daily. Most secondary schools have private contractors supplying their school meal service including all schools in the PFI group.

The below schools we DO NOT provide a service for your reference.



## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

### Primary

Our Lady of Pity Catholic  
Dawpool  
West Kirby  
Greasby Infants  
St Bridgets  
Brookdale  
Leasowe Primary (PFI)

### Secondary PFI Schools

Hilbre  
Park High  
Prenton High  
South Wirral High  
Wallasey School  
Weatherhead  
Wirral Grammar Girls  
Bebington High

### Secondary – service provided by alternative provider

Mosslands  
Pensby High (Boys & Girls)  
Plessington  
Rock Ferry High  
6th Form College  
St Mary's College  
West Kirby Grammar  
Wirral Grammar Boys  
Woodchurch High

### Tom Quigley provided the following:

#### New School Buildings (JARVIS)

"The PFI Scheme has brought in £60m of new investment and PFI was the only way of securing that investment. When construction work is complete, Wirral BC will be provided with:

1 new primary school  
1 new secondary school  
7 re-modelled secondary schools

plus 6 new Sports Halls, various ICT Suites, Science Labs and Design Technology Rooms.

The wider community will also benefit, as various facilities will be available for hire.

The construction period was always going to be challenging. We are on a new footing, with Jarvis no longer being a key player and are now finishing the construction programme at no additional cost to the Council."

#### Day to day cleaning and maintenance of some schools (JARVIS)

"WBC has a 27 year PFI Contract, which includes cleaning and maintenance. This is not yet fully in place, as building works are unfinished. As such, it cannot be judged if standards are better or worse. However, for the first time, schools can receive cash refunds for failure to perform.

The majority of other schools, public buildings and libraries are cleaned by the Council's Metro Cleaning

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Services."

### **School Meals (was METRO CATERING)**

"The provision of school meals is included in the PFI Contract. The service is currently provided by Jarvis. However, the company is up for sale and it is likely that Wirral will have a new provider by August of this year. All schools have benefitted from having new kitchens, costing around £1.5m in total.

At all other schools, the provision of meals is decided by the Governing Body."

### **Chris Lomas provided the following:**

#### **Waste collection/street cleaning (Onyx)**

We externalised our refuse collection and street cleansing services in the early 1980's when Compulsory Competitive Tendering was introduced. It is impossible to compare the services we receive today as we do not have comparative data from the 1980's to refer to. However I think it would be safe to say that the introduction of Best Value and Performance Indicators for key services ensure we critically assess them and plan to improve where failures are highlighted. This is something that didn't happen back in the 80's when the services were run in house. It is therefore my supposition that the services we provide are more cost effective and efficient than they used to be as we are regularly audited by the Audit Commission through their Best Value Reviews.

### **Phil Black provided the following:**

#### **Public car parking**

The provision of car park enforcement within Wirral has always been carried out by outside contractors. This function has never been carried out by Council employed staff. Prior to NCP, it was Euro Car Parks and before them British Legion. NCP have met all service level and quality standards within the original tendered price.

#### **Residential car parking (NCP)**

As above however prior to NCP this function was carried out by Merseyside Police. From residents feedback and the number of PCN's issued it is obvious that parking attendant presence within the residents parking schemes is far greater than when Merseyside Police undertook this function. NCP have met all service level and quality standards within the original tendered price.

The service level and quality standards relate to items such as meeting standards for frequency of locations visited, accuracy of information, issuing errors, quality of data and photos etc. It should be noted that neither NCP as an organisation or individual attendants receive any financial or other benefits from the number of parking tickets issued.

The provision of on-street enforcement through Wirral Council is still relatively new. Working with NCP we are continuing to review working practise to deliver an efficient and responsive service.

## Section 1

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

# Matters arising

**M53 and Durley Drive** – Derek Howard has spoken with his Divisional, Cliff Jones, with regard to this issue and stated the following. Their view is that they cannot see the benefit of planting trees or carrying out the monitoring because what will it achieve? If equipment was installed and we came back with a particular noise level, what do we do with that or who do we give the information to? Technical Services have said they have no budget to plant trees and even if they did, there isn't any land to plant them or provide a fence because such a fence/trees will cause a traffic issue because it would reduce the drivers view. (see Alan Dollery's enquiry above also).

**Jean McCarthy re: rats** – Rob Beresford passed this on to Pest Control. I have not yet received an update

**Mrs Colbeck – noise due to business on Durley Estate** – Rob Beresford passed this on to be dealt with. Steve Martin has attempted to make contact and left calling card. Neighbours reported the family were on holiday.

### **Derwent Derbyshire re: review collection of recyclable waste -**

Roger Calvert is meeting with Mrs Edwards on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September with regard to their concerns over the new play area. (Update on this is too late for this report)

**Statement from Sgt Garthwaite** - On Friday 10th June 2005 at about 19.30 hours, Merseyside Fire Service where called to the allotments at the rear of Mendip Rd. There were a number of Pigeon lofts alight within the allotments. Initially Police where called to set up a cordon to stop worried allotment tenants from entering the area to check the welfare of birds. It was then realised that there where a number of gas bottles in the very close vicinity of the fire and M.F.S asked that a number of houses backing onto the allotments be evacuated due to the risk of explosion. A number of homes where evacuated in Mendip Rd. At around 22.00 M.F.S said the area was safe and the residents were allowed home.

## Future Presentations

Cathy McNulty has contacted the Community Planning Team and would like to give a presentation at the next area forum, details as follows ;

### **Development of Cycle Networks in Wirral**

Proposals are currently being developed for the implementation of cycle networks in Wirral. A working group formed of council officers, local users, local and national cycle groups and Members have developed a quantitative process to determine where best to focus resources to build cycle networks. In the past, the council has delivered some excellent cycle routes, but have failed to create urban networks allowing people to make local journeys by bicycle. Almost 50% of all car journeys are less than 2 miles – the equivalent of a 10 minute bike ride.

The presentation will cover current cycle policies, dispel myths about cycling and explain the process which has been developed to deliver cycle networks. Officers will also be seeking local and Member views on the proposals.

## Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting of the Oxton & Prenton area forum is Wednesday 15 February 2006. It is anticipated that all meetings will be held at Woodchurch Road Primary School.

# Section Two

## Local Updates

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

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

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

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

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

**• Cohesive and Sustainable Communities****EXTENDED SCHOOL PROSPECTUS**

**Education Secretary Ruth Kelly announced the publication of the Extended Schools Prospectus which sets out the Government's vision on what schools could offer their communities.**

She also revealed local authority funding allocations for the development of Extended Schools.

Schools will be able to offer high-quality childcare from 8am-6pm all year round with a varied menu of activities such as homework clubs; sport (at least 2 hours a week beyond the school day for those who want it); music tuition; clubs such as chess and first aide courses; opportunities to visit museums and galleries; learning a foreign language; volunteering and business and enterprise activities.

Ruth Kelly said:

"This prospectus sets out how schools can develop additional services for families. Schools are at the heart of our communities and it makes sense to extend the services they offer beyond the traditional school day. By 2010 all children under 14 who want to, could have access to breakfast and after-school clubs offering exciting activities from 8am to 6pm. These would give them the opportunity to keep fit and healthy, to acquire new skills, to build on what they learn during the school day as well as have fun.

"I want parents to shape how extended services develop in their child's school and I want schools to ask for their ideas. We're not expecting teachers to deliver these services but for schools to work with providers in the voluntary and private sectors, support staff and other children's services to develop their local provision."

"Extended schools will not only help children in their education, but also support hard working families to manage their home and work life."

The Prospectus sets out a menu of extended services which for primary schools will include:

- childcare from 8am - 6pm;
- a range of before and after school activities;
- parenting support and family learning opportunities;
- referral to a wide range of specialist support services such as speech and language therapists.

Secondary schools will include:

- opening 8am - 6pm all the year round;
- a range of interesting activities for young people;
- access to other services for young people and their parents;
- providing wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities.

1. The extended schools prospectus sets out the Government's vision for extended schools. The document can be found at:

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/extendedschools>

## Section 2

## Local Updates

2. A total of £680 million over 2 years. This is in addition to the £160m already spent on developing additional services in schools. Of the £680m, £430m will be distributed to schools via local authorities who are best placed to prioritise need and plan the development of services across their area. All LA's received letters detailing their funding today. £250m will go direct to schools so that all schools can start to develop extended services.
3. The Government wants all schools to offer extended services by 2010, with half of primary schools and a third of secondary schools doing so by 2008. Building on the experiences of those schools already delivering extended services, the core offer for mainstream and special schools is:

High quality wraparound childcare provided on the school site or through other local providers, with supervised transfer arrangements where appropriate, available 8am - 6pm all year round;

- A varied menu of activities to be on offer, such as homework clubs and study support, sport (at least 2 hours a week beyond the school day for those who want it), music tuition, dance and drama, arts and crafts, special interest clubs such as chess and first aid courses, visits to museums and galleries, learning a foreign language, volunteering, business and enterprise activities;
- \* Parenting support including information sessions for parents at key transition points, parenting programmes run with the support of other children's services and family learning sessions to allow children to learn with their parents;
- \* Swift and easy referral to a wide range of specialist support services such as speech therapy, child and adolescent mental health services, family support services, intensive behaviour support, and (for young people) sexual health services. Some may be delivered on school sites; and
- \* Providing wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities including adult learning.

4. The National Remodelling Team (NRT) has been appointed to support schools and local authorities in developing extended services. The NRT have led on the work with schools on reducing teacher workload. Their appointment will ensure that the development of extended services complements that strategy. More details on the NRT can be found at <http://www.remodelling.org>
5. The announcement was made at Millfield Primary School, Hackney which already provides a range of extended services, including after school activities and childcare.



## Section 2

## Local Updates

### **RACE / HATE MONITORING FORM LAUNCHED TO SPEED UP RECORDING OF CRIME IN WIRRAL**

Wirral's Community Safety Team launches its re-designed Race / Hate Monitoring Form this week (18th July) making it easier to record incidents of hate crime, including domestic violence.

The Inter-Agency Monitoring Form (IAMF) will be supported with an improved, more robust database and the new procedure will be on the web allowing for the recording of incidents via the internet. This will revolutionise the system by speeding up the processing of reports and actions.

Cathy Newman, Violent / Hate Crime Reduction Coordinator, said: "Procedures for recording Race / Hate Crime have been in place for several years and work has been ongoing for more than a year to improve the form and the database. The launch is a celebration of the good work and achievement of best practice in the field of recording race / hate crime in Wirral. With the launch of the re-designed race / hate monitoring form and database we are building on this, particularly around information sharing and data collection."

The new form has been designed using the Merseyside Police Reporting form with the intention of ensuring that the new system complements the Police. The form also provides an opportunity for monitoring and taking action on other forms of hate crime such as domestic violence or violent incidents against gay men or lesbian women.

Chief Inspector Leonard Gill, said: "The launch of this re-designed form will hopefully reassure the public that the reporting of race / hate crime is something all of the community safety partners in Wirral including the Council and Merseyside Police take very seriously. If people report an incident of hate crime, be it the use of racist language or an incident of domestic violence, it will be recorded and acted upon. The database can also be used as intelligence gathering so if there is a persistent perpetrator of racial abuse, homophobic crime or domestic violence, they will be identified and dealt with accordingly."

If someone is a victim of a hate crime they can report it at any One Stop Shop, housing office, library or leisure centre where there are trained staff who will record the information on the IAMF and pass the information onto the Race Hate Task Group.

Local Authority staff and other partner agencies will be able to access the form online and send it across to Wirral's Violent Hate Crime Reduction Team on a secure website which is password protected. Alternatively, paper copies are available at the designated offices.

The launch of the IAMF will take place on Tuesday, 19th July, 12 –2pm at Wirral Multi-Cultural Centre, Conway Street, Birkenhead and will be attended by Wirral Council Chief Executive, Steve Maddox and Area Commander Alan Jones.

The new IAMF will 'Go Live' on 1st August 2005 at [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)

## Section 2

## Local Updates

### **OLDER PEOPLE INVITED TO SHAPE FUTURE OF LOCAL SERVICES**

12<sup>th</sup> September 2005

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jamie Anderson, Senior Manager, Support Services, Age Concern Wirral.

t: 0151 666 2220 f: 0151 650 0212 M 07968 545857

e: [jamieanderson@ageconcernwirral.org](mailto:jamieanderson@ageconcernwirral.org)

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Older Persons Conference is being part funded by Awards for All.

Age Concern Wirral exists to promote the well being of older people in the whole of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral helping to make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.

We believe that each person has a right to a life, which maintains their personal independence, safeguards their privacy, offers genuine and informed choices, and

## Section 2

## Local Updates

provides opportunity for them to enjoy and contribute to the community as fully as possible, and meet their social, spiritual, cultural and individual needs.

We attempt through our work to fulfil our purpose in line with these beliefs by:

- Promoting effective care for older people
- Encouraging choice and opportunity for older people
- Tackling issues and informing policies which affect older people
- Promoting positive attitudes towards older people and ageing

Age Concern Wirral provides these services:

Information & Advice	Day Care
Handyperson Service	Home Support
Advocacy	Carers Support Club
Senior Citizens' Forum	Lunch Clubs
Active Age Centre	Charity Shops
Classes	Day Trips
Leisure & Learning	Insurance Services
Therapies	Energy Services

### **OXTON SOCIETY – Patrick Toosey**

Summer has almost come and gone. After the huge turn out at the SECRET GARDENS when nearly 4500 folk visited Oxton, other items have been the focus of attention. The Oxton Society in co-operation with Olivers Gift Shop arranged for 2 new benches to be placed in the Village Centre. This year the display of hanging baskets and baskets on all Lamp posts has far exceeded the display of previous years. A splendid group of Lady Volunteers have worked tirelessly to achieve these results. The flower bed in the Village Centre has been a source of constant pleasure through the Summer. H.S.B.C co-operated with the Oxton Society to place a brand new notice board in the Village centre.

Now our thoughts are turning toward the Christmas Lights and it is wonderful to know that the Lighting Contractor who suffered such a major accident last year that he could not help us has staged such an amazing recovery that he will help us this year. We aim for a bigger and better display which should be switched on with Carols, Mince Pies , Roast chestnuts etc on Saturday November 26th, hopefull with the Mayor in attendance

## Section 2

## Local Updates

### **PRENTON TENANTS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Update provided by Alan Dollery

We the PTRA have a Summer Play Scheme running again with the help of the Wirral Play Council it runs from 25th July to 26th Aug, Mon to Fri 10.00 12.00 and 1.00 to 3.00pm. Last year was our first and was well supported by the children of Prenton.

All children had to register before joining, we had different activities each day and Sue Mearns who organised the event was pleased with the children's behaviour, hopefully this year will equal last years or we may even better it, if the first days attendance is anything to go by we could on our way to another successful event.

On Sunday the 28th August the PTRA are having a Fundraising Day in the DELL HOTEL car park, 11.00am to 4.00pm, we will have Bric-A-Brack stalls, beat the Goalie, Fire Engine, Police bike or car, Bouncy Castle/Slide and loads more. Money raised will go to the running of the PTRA shop. And last but not least and this is top secret we have been told that due to Father Christmas enjoying his stay in Prenton Dell last year he is to return on Monday 12th December at 4.30pm only well behaved children are to attend!

### **WOODCHURCH ROAD PARKING**

A meeting took place on Monday 18th July with Ian McGregor, Mr Thompson, Alan Lucas (local traders) Richard Neale (local resident) a Supervisor of NCP, Cllr Frank Doyle, Steve Atkins and Keith Rodgers (Technical Services) with regard to parking problems outside local shops and residential parking.

Currently, the operation of the bay is no waiting Mon to Sat (8am – 6.30 pm) except you can wait for up to 1 hour between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm on a Mon to Thurs or between 9.30 am – 3.00 pm on a Fri/Sat). The sign is governed by the department for transports regulations and cannot be changed in any way. Local traders would like the hours of operation of the bay to be extended and for the signs to be less ambiguous but all agreed that yellow lines are needed. Traders felt that the number of wardens that patrol the area are excessive and this affects their business. Usually 2 patrol the area but on some occasions there had been up to 4. Steve Atkins agreed with Ian that the number of attendants would be restricted to a maximum of 2 whenever possible and that they would concentrate on the bus lane and side roads before enforcing by his shop. He is aware that an attendant cannot ignore a vehicle parked in contravention.

Mr Neale spoke on behalf of local residents, particularly in Cambridge/Cecil/Elm Road North and felt that residential parking schemes should also be taken into account in support of local traders as shoppers tend to park in the side roads.

Cllr Doyle stated that if it was proven that this area has the highest number of tickets being issued which perhaps was out of the ordinary in comparison to other areas, then Members for this area would press for the area to be a priority.

After much discussion, Keith reiterated that no investigations will be carried out into individual locations until an appropriate resolution is made by Committee (hopefully on the 12th September) and Committee are likely only to consider policy and

## Section 2

## Local Updates

priorities, not individual locations. However, if changes are to be made each road would have to be looked at individually to determine existing restrictions.

The following was received from Keith Rodgers following Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> September:

The Committee resolution is as follows;

1. Committee recommends that Cabinet establish a mechanism to review the operation of those parking restrictions where there are significant levels of dissatisfaction from those local residents directly affected.
2. Committee also requests Cabinet to identify funding to carry out this review and recommends that the income from fixed penalty notices be used for this purpose.
3. Committee reaffirms its opposition to charges being made on residents for the operation of residents only parking schemes.

A copy of the Ctte report from 12th September can be found at;

<http://10.107.1.50/minute/scripts/viewer/viewagenda3.asp?mtg=1781>

Currently there are a considerable number of sites which have been raised with me and identified for further investigation and I have added your request to that list.

I can advise you that the subject of requests for resident parking schemes, including visitor permit provision, and provision or amendment of waiting restrictions, has been reported to the Environment and Transportation Select Committee on several occasions, the most recent being a report on 12th September 2005.

At their meeting, the Committee recommended that Cabinet establish a mechanism to review the operation of parking restrictions where there are significant levels of dissatisfaction from those directly affected and that Cabinet identifies funding to carry out this review. The Committee also reaffirmed its opposition to charges being made for the operation of resident parking schemes. In the meantime, in line with previous Committee resolutions, I am continuing to maintain a list of requests for resident parking and review of waiting restrictions and administer the existing schemes, but no new schemes are currently being introduced.

At this time I am unable to indicate when Cabinet is likely to consider this recommendation, what their decision will be, or when any of the sites on the list, including the location you have raised, will subsequently be investigated in detail.

### MERSEYFEST WIRRAL PROJECTS

AREA	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	Contact
Oxton/Prenton	Christchurch, Birkenhead (Tue)	Afternoon raising awareness of Door Step Crime – music and refreshments.	Janice Gilbert/ 653-9461
	Woodchurch Rd & Bowness Ave (Mon & Tue)	Environmental – clean up – litter picking, painting, planting, graffiti removing etc.	Tim Parkinson/ 653-3197
	Holmlands Drive Shops,(Wed)		
	Nature Trail off Melford Drive (Thurs)		
Duck Pond Lane (Fri)			

- **Access and Equity**



**WIRRAL PATIENT & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORUMS**

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

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

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

**Birkenhead & Wallasey Primary Care Trust  
Bebington & West Wirral Primary Care Trust  
Clatterbridge Centre of Oncology NHS Trust  
Wirral Hospital Trust**

By joining a Forum:-

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

**FOR AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION AND FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:  
LYNDA DENMAN OR KAREN PRIOR  
AT THE FORUM SUPPORT ORGANISATION: WIRED  
ON 0151 670 1500/Email: senppico\_ord@btconnect.com**

### **VOTING REGISTRATION FORMS**

**7 September**

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

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

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

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

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

For more information on the revised electoral list, please go to [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)

### **HAVE A SAY ON RIGHTS OF WAY**

WIRRAL Council is encouraging more residents to 'have a say' about the Rights of Way network in the borough. Walkers have access to more than 70 miles of public footpath in Wirral.

A Merseyside-wide forum has now been established to help make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable. The Local Access Forum meets every three months and includes representatives from the local authority, land managers and user groups.

Director of Technical Services at Wirral Council David Green said: "Together, with land owners, the Council shares a joint responsibility to look after Wirral's Rights of Way network.

"We already have good contacts with the Ramblers Association and the British Horse Society - and through this new Forum we hope to reach wider audiences and encourage more people to make use of the many countryside footpaths we have here in Wirral."

"We welcome feedback from members of the public to register concerns over surface conditions, overhanging trees and hedges, mud and water problems, blocked ditches or obstructions. This helps our Rights of Way officer to identify if we need to take enforcement action or include a maintenance scheme in our improvement plan."

## **Section 2**

## **Local Updates**

Anyone who wants to report a Rights Of Way matter or attend a meeting of the new Merseyside Local Access Forum can phone the Streetscene contact centre on 606 2004 for more information.



## • A Quality Environment

### PLAY AREA – update provide by Lance Farlam

Our Landscape design team have started looking at the play area design in more detail. Before fixing an exact position within the zone proposed at the last forum, some drainage and topography investigations have been carried out. I have agreed that once the position has been finalised that we would inform Councillor Williams.

The Landscape Architects are currently costing various options with play equipment manufacturers to deliver a robust scheme with lots of play value within budget. It may not be possible to complete the scheme before the end of the financial year but it is hoped it will at least be started with completion for early summer 2006.

### FORMER WIRRAL COLLEGE SITE MEETING

**Date:** 23/06/05      **Time:** 16.00am      **Venue:** Oakdene Road

**Present:** Derek Howard (WBC – Environmental Health), Maxine Joynson (WBC – Community Planning), Cllr Pat Williams, Ian Sumner (Production Manager – Wimpey), Dave Walsh (Site Manager – Wimpey) Eric Dade, Violet Dade, Annette Millington, George Ho (local residents)

**Apologies:** Matthew Davies

HEADING/SUB HEADING	NOTES	ACTION BY
<b>Building works</b>	<p>Residents enquired when build would actually commence and how long it would take to complete.</p> <p>IS reported that pegs are being put down now and work will start on the first block of apartments on 27th June. To complete the development will take approximately 18 months. In total 51 houses would be built in addition to the apartments.</p> <p>AM raised concerns about there being no signage indicating that a development was taking place. Her house is for sale but potential buyers were being ‘put off’ viewing her property because of the mound of rubble. She had contacted Wimpey’s head office to this effect.</p> <p>IS stated this would be done and a George Wimpey sign would be erected on the wall imminently.</p> <p>ED asked for confirmation that the Glenda Jackson Theatre had been stripped of asbestos and further requested sight of the certificates. This was also agreed.</p>	<p>IS</p> <p>PW</p>

## Section 2

## Local Updates

HEADING/SUB HEADING	NOTES	ACTION BY
	<p>Unfortunately they could not leave copies of the plans brought today but these could be obtained via Matthew Davies ref 010/PL01 revision H. Cllr Williams agreed to contact Matthew to obtain copies.</p>	
<b>Security of the site</b>	<p>Residents asked if they could have a contact number for Site Manager, Dave Walsh. His works mobile number is 0786 753 8846.</p> <p>Currently, there is 1 security guard on site. IS increased this for a week given the problems brought to his attention by residents. If needed, this will be increased again.</p> <p>DW reported that security have a log book which is checked regularly by a supervisor. All the incidents brought to their attention by residents have been included in the log.</p>	
<b>Official working times</b>	<p>DW confirmed that official working times are 8.00am to 4.30pm with the occasional Saturday.</p> <p>Residents have been disturbed outside of these times and DH suggested that the developers spoke to their suppliers to ensure these times were adhered to.</p>	
<b>Boundaries</b>	<p>Residents asked if special arrangements for major access points (bottom gate at Oakdene, back of entry at Highgreen and fence along Borough Road) could be taken into account.</p> <p>Borough Road has been secured with fencing and IS said he would look into the other 2 access points to see if anything can be done.</p> <p>They are waiting for the co-ordinates for the retaining wall and trellis fencing but this most likely will not be before 27th June. With regards to the roads, sewerage work has now commenced.</p>	IS/DW
<b>Noise/dust pollution</b>	<p>DH had placed some plastic linings in number 10 to ascertain the amount of dust being collected within the property.</p> <p>Residents could not open their windows and had covered vents in an attempt to reduce the amount of dust getting in. VD asked if any cleansing of properties inside and out could be done at an appropriate time.</p> <p>IS said he would look into the possibility of this.</p>	IS

## Section 2

## Local Updates

HEADING/SUB HEADING	NOTES	ACTION BY
	<p>IS stated that 8k cube of rubble had been left by Encia instead of 4k but this had only been brought to his attention recently. They currently had 12 wagons on site to reduce this to 2.5 – 3 metre level within the next week/ten days. Some of this will be used for the roads and he had asked permission from Matthew Davies a fortnight ago to see if some of this could be moved to the POS (public open space) site but had received no response as yet. He intended to damp down and cover the mound with sheets.</p>	
<p><b>Surveys</b></p>	<p>IS had visited GH property earlier that day to look at the cracks that had appeared in his property. IS agreed to contact their Engineers to investigate further.</p> <p>ED is concerned that vibrations made by the removal of the ramp may disturb the foundations to his property. He has requested that a survey be undertaken prior to and after this is done.</p>	<p>IS</p>
<p><b>Progress reports</b></p>	<p>Residents were keen to be kept up to date with developments and asked if progress meetings could be arranged.</p> <p>IS agreed to this and every 3 months was suggested. This would tie in well with the next Oxton/Prenton area forum in Oct. DW can be contacted more frequently than this on a day to day basis if needed.</p>	

Ian Sumner, Production Manager – George Wimpey provided the following update 23 August 2005:

- Sub-station currently being fitted out, should have a date this week for the sub-station to go live. Once it is live, the sub-station under the Glenda Jackson Theatre will be de-commissioned and demolition will start.
- Retaining walls to the rear boundary due to start 30/08/05
- Apartment blocks to front of site are currently under construction
- Full time security are currently on site.
- Spoil piles have now been reduced
- Fint phone of road due for completion within the next 2 weeks.

### **PARK IT!**

Looking for 12 community group partners to put on park events next summer

Would you like to hold an event in your park next summer? Would you like funding, help, advice and guidance to make this possible?

## Section 2

## Local Updates

If you're interested, then you can make a submission now to become part of GreenSpace's Park It! programme for 2006. GreenSpace are currently looking for 12 parks and community groups around the UK to work with next summer to help organise community-led events in parks.

If you'd like to work in partnership with us and your local authority to put on an event between June and September 2006, then you can make a submission now.

Submissions can be made at [http://www.green-space.org.uk/parkit/sub\\_gen.htm](http://www.green-space.org.uk/parkit/sub_gen.htm) now in the quick and easy form on the website. All applications must be submitted by 31st October, 2005.

What is Park It!?

Park It! is about getting people into parks and green spaces. It's about raising awareness of the value of these spaces. It's about developing the skills and confidence of community groups and Friends groups. But most of all, Park It! is about people having a good time outside, in fantastic parks and green spaces.

Park It! is a series of community-led events taking place regionally in parks throughout the UK. Held over three years, this project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and organised by GreenSpace in partnership with local community groups.

What events took place this summer?

This summer has seen 12 fantastic events take place in town centre parks, cemeteries, country parks and town squares as part of this exciting three-year HLF funded programme.

We've worked with a whole range of community groups and local authorities in the first year of the project. By working closely together, we've helped to put on 12 unique events, ranging from small community-focused fairs attracting several hundred to regional musical events bringing in over 10,000 people. But what each event has in common is that they are about the community who use the park.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like to find out more about the Park It! programme, please give one of the team, a call on 0118 946 9060. You can also find out more about the programme at [www.park-it.org.uk](http://www.park-it.org.uk). Here you will be able to find out details of all of the fantastic events which took place this summer.

I hope you are interested in becoming part of this fantastic programme next year.

**INTERPRETING SERVICES – COUNCIL ONE STOP SHOPS AND CALL CENTRE**

24 August 2005

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

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

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

Contact Wirral Council on:

All departments and general enquiries: 0151-606 2000

Housing Benefits or Council Tax: 0151-606 2002

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

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

General information and advice: 0151-606 2020

# **Section Three**

## **Community Initiative Funding**

## Section 3                      Community Initiative Funding

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

Stanley Special School PTA	To raise funds for the replacement of the school minibus. The bus is used to take the children to therapeutic activities such as horse riding and swimming.	Report received from Stanley Special School PTA - July 2005: The minibus, which will be used to take the children to therapeutic activities such as horse riding and swimming, has been ordered from the Variety Club of Great Britain.
Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability (WIRED)	To purchase two manual wheelchairs due to increased demand for Birkenhead shopmobility service, and funding for scooter and powerchair parts.	Report received from Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability - August 2005: We have purchased two wheelchairs and scooter and powerchair parts. These purchases have improved the choice for people using the Shopmobility service and improved the reliability of the equipment used.
Wirral Tuesday Club	To help cover costs associated with running the club, including transport costs, hall hire, and trips etc.	Report received from Wirral Tuesday Club - September 2005: Your generous award has enabled the club to reduce charges for our members, send volunteers on an emergency first aid course, purchase a bingo machine and confidently plan future activities.
Shaftesbury Youth Club	To fund a youth worker and materials / consumables in order to provide an opportunity for young people to participate in sporting/recreational activities on Friday evenings.	Report received from Shaftesbury Youth Club - September 2005: The Friday Sports Night Project is due to run from 23 September to 9 December and should attract around 50/60 young people.
Glenavon Junior Football Club	To contribute towards providing secure storage containers.	Report received from Glenavon Junior Football Club - September 2005: Thanks to the funding we have been able to provide secure storage for our equipment and clean, dry changing facility for the young people playing at our club.

### Section 3

### Community Initiative Funding

Wirral Women & Childrens Aid	To provide training for staff and volunteers and educational and development courses for women, to help them break the cycle of domestic violence.	Report received from Wirral Women & Childrens Aid - September 2005: We have run staff training courses, set up a resource library and formed a group for residents / ex residents on self esteem to raise awareness and build confidence.
Mount Estate Woodland Trust Fund	To continue with the refurbishment of the woodland.	Report received from Mount Estate Woodland Trust Fund - September 2005: The work on the woodland is due to start on 25 October 2005. This will include planting trees and wild woodland flowers.



### **Section 3            Community Initiative Funding**

For the 2005/06 financial year, each area forum will be responsible for allocating the following specific funding streams:

**Community Initiatives Fund** - small grants available for voluntary and community groups to support local projects and initiatives in line with area forum agreed priorities (£11,000 per forum);

**Community Safety** - specific funding ringfenced for initiatives dedicated to tackling crime and nuisance (£3,000 per forum);

**Environmental Funding** - specific funding, provided through Local Agenda 21, for community based projects aimed at improving or maintaining the local environment (£1,500 per forum).

As in previous years, each area forum will be responsible for setting their own priorities and processes for agreeing and allocating funds.

#### **2005/2006**

The forum has a carry forward of £1,882.66 and allocation of £11,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund; and allocations of £3,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund (for community safety projects) and £1,500.00 from the LA21 Fund (for environmental projects). This gives the forum a total of £17,382.66.

The assessment panel met on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September and consisted of:

Cllr A Bridson, Cllr F Anderson, Alan Dollery, Patrick Toosey, Maxine Joynson (advisory)

The total amount spent on

- CIF \*£7,650.05 leaving a balance of £5,232.61
- Community Safety \*£2,450.00 leaving a balance of £550.00
- LA21 \*£1,500 leaving a balance of £0.00

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

## Section 3 Community initiatives Funding

ID	Bid No	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Comments of Panel	Community Initiatives Fund	Community Safety Fund	Local Agenda 21 Fund
<b>Budget</b>							<b>£12,882.66</b>	<b>£3,000.00</b>	<b>£1,500.00</b>
740	1	£1,000.00	£500.00	Wirral Tuesday Club	To help cover costs associated with running the club, including transport costs, hall hire, presents, trips and providing / updating music.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 specifically towards the Christmas and Easter outings from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00
780	2	£1,000.00	£500.00	Stanley Special School PTA	To set up a Parent / Carer Resource Unit.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00
789	3	£1,000.00	£1,100.00	Tranmere Harris Allotment Society	To purchase equipment to enable members to recycle and regenerate all green waste back to compost.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund for this, plus an additional £100.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund to purchase safety equipment, such as goggles, gloves etc.	£100.00	£0.00	£1,000.00

### Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

873	4	£500.00	£500.00	Wirral Local Agenda 21 Forum	To run a community exchange day.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £500.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund on condition that the panel receive any promotional material of the event to take place within the Oxtan / Prenton forum area to allow forum members the opportunity to attend.	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00
874	5	£2,100.00	£1,000.00	Arch Initiatives	To contribute towards the refurbishment costs of one bedroom in Birchwood residential treatment unit.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,000.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.  Panel requested that the applicant be advised that can apply to other forums as well as this one as organisation covers Wirral.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
875	6	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Friends of Oxtan Play Area	To install two Spicas at the play area to be sited on Storeton Playing Fields.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
876	7	£1,000.00	£500.00	Heswall Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) / Arrowe Park Hospital Outreach Project	To maintain a minimal outreach service whilst carrying out an expansion and reorganisation of the service.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards the promotion of the new service from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00

### Section 3 Community Initiative Funding

877	8	£1,000.05	£1,000.05	1175 (Prenton) Squadron Air Training Corps	To purchase two new radios and accessories.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.05 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.05	£0.00	£0.00
878	9	£500.00	£500.00	Wirral Cultural Diversity Group (WCDG) - part of Partnership for Racial Equality	To run and support various multi-cultural events.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £250.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund and £250.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	£250.00	£250.00	£0.00
879	10	£2,500.00	£1,000.00	Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	To publicise the organisation and its services on Buzz FM Radio over a 12 month period.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	£0.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
880	11	£3,500.00	£3,500.00	Prenton Tenants and Residents Association	To purchase four computers, two playstation 2 consoles, various board games, garden equipment and to install CCTV in order to set up a centre for youngsters in the Prenton area.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £2,300.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund and £1,200.00 from Community Safety Fund on condition that advice is taken from Ian Lowrie (tel: 0151 606 5493) from the Community Safety Team with regards to the CCTV.	£2,300.00	£1,200.00	£0.00
A Dollery declared an interest in the above application and left the room whilst this was considered.									

**Section 3**

**Community Initiative Funding**

929	12	£325.00	£500.00	Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	To train all victim support staff and volunteers, and to cover travel expenses for volunteers, to conduct home visits to support victims of domestic violence.	Panel agreed to consider this application despite it being received after the closing date, and agreed to award £500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund, in acknowledgement that the organisation may not be successful in other forum areas.	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total Spend</b>							<b>£7,650.05</b>	<b>£2,450.00</b>	<b>£1,500.00</b>
<b>Total Carried Forward</b>							<b>£5,232.61</b>	<b>£550.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

# **Section Four**

## Local Area Plan

## **Section 4**

## **Local Area Plan**

The purpose of this report is to provide forum members with an update of progress made in relation to the development of area plans and to suggest possible next steps for the forum to implement which will support the achievement of priorities identified locally for action.

One of the key tasks envisaged for all area forums since their introduction in 2001 was the development of specific local area plans which reflected the needs and priorities of the area forum. The area plans form a key element of the overarching community strategy - developed through Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership - which sets out how the council and its partners will work towards improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of all communities in Wirral.

### **Area plans are designed to:**

- Identify the needs and aspirations of the local community;
- Identify significant social, economic and environmental trends through establishing an overall demographic picture of the area;
- Promote initiatives that will address the identified local needs and priorities;
- Provide a work plan for the area forum;
- Provide a more local perspective to the overarching community strategy through identifying 'common' issues and needs across the area forums;
- Feed into the service planning cycles of the council and its partners to ensure that the identified local needs are influencing business plans and strategies.

The Area Plan sub group has now been formed and consists of:

Cllr Frank Doyle, Alan Dollery, Patrick Toosey, Tony Garrett, Rob Beresford, Inspector Mark Smith, Richard Neale and Dr Abhi Mantgani.

The Group will meet on 17 November to begin looking at refreshing the plan and will continue to hold regular meetings and report back to the February forum.

# **Section Five**

## Youth Update



## Section 5

## Youth Update

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

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

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

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

### Next meeting of youth forums

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

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

- The development of a pack to skill up young people to be involved in club forums, management committees etc.
- Raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities of young people
- Provide resources to increase participation
- Plan the youth conference
- Plan the UKYP elections

## Section 5

## Youth Update

- Involvement in a range of initiatives including hear by rights strategy, Beacon Status bid, Children's Plan consultation and regional and a national participation networks.

### **WIRRAL'S ANTI LITTER CAMPAIGNING SHORT-LISTED**

6th September 2005

WIRRAL COUNCIL has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award – in recognition of its achievements with anti-litter campaigning to teenagers.

The X:CELL4WIRRAL campaign has seen innovative partnership working between the Council, secondary schools, Radio City and Tranmere Rovers FC. Last year all were involved in the co-ordinated targeting of anti-litter messages at school children using the web, radio advertising, live stage shows, text messaging and community litter picks.

The campaign has been deemed so impressive that it has been shortlisted for the annual Association of Public Service Excellence awards taking place in Glasgow on Thursday, September 9.

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

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

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

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

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

# **Section Six**

## Streetscene Update

## Section 6

## Streetscene Update

The last co-ordinators report for this forum detailed the Councils preparation for the Open golf championship in 2006. Whilst Hoylake will become the centre of interest, it is important not to forget the remainder of the borough, as no doubt many visitors will take the opportunity to explore the area.

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

The Government has set local authorities the target of ensuring there are no roads left, requiring structural maintenance by the year 2010. A challenging target, however not one we are going to shirk.

Whilst most of you will be aware that reporting simple highway faults can be carried out through the Streetscene call centre (606 2004), it may of some interest to describe the detail behind the structural maintenance programme.

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

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

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

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

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