

Oxton and Prenton

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

15th February 2006

Maxine Joynson, 0151 691 8266 or

maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk

Section One

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising Page 3 - 20

Section Two – Local updates

Cohesive & Sustainable Communities Page 25 - 38

- Neighbourhood Policing – Project update
- More power for Wirral to tackle Anti Social Behaviour
- Play like Brazil!
- Family Safety Unit
- Results from consultations carried out in 2005
- Oxton Society
- PTRA & Prenton Partnership
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in the Wirral
- Eaton Place – (former College site)

Worklessness Page 39 - 40

- Wirralbiz
- Access to Learning & Employment Project

Access and Equity Page 41 - 43

- Disabled Person's Independence
- Interpreting and translation service
- Wirral Transport Museum, Virtual Tour

A Quality Environment Page 44 - 50

- Letssalvage it!
- Wirral Independent Re-Cycling Enterprise (WIRE)
- Environment Agency Action Earth
- Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Operators

Section 1 **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

Section Three

Community Initiatives Funding Page 51 - 53

Section Four

Local Area Plan Page 54 - 55

Section Five

Youth Update Page 56

Section Six

Streetscene Page 57 - 62

Section One

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes - Area Forum (Oxton and Prenton) Meeting - 12 October 2005

Present	
Chair	FM Doyle
Councillors	Mrs F E F Anderson , A Bridson , SA Holbrook , SE Kelly
Community Representatives	Alan Dollery (Prenton Tenants & Residents Assoc.) , June Foster (Wirral Fed. of Tenants & Residents Assocs.) , Patrick Toosey
Lead Officer	Bob Beresford (Deputy Director of Housing & Environmental Protection)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Maxine Joynson
Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT	Katy Kidd (Exec. Board Member)
Merseyside Police	Inspector Mark Smith
Council Officers	Gary Cummings (Area Streetscene Manager) , Mike Walker (Community Safety Officer)
In attendance:	Margaret Davies
Apologies	Terry Hall (Wirral Youth Service) , Alan Stennard (Director of Regeneration) , Cllr Mrs Patricia Williams

Index to Minutes

- Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies
- Minute 2 - Minutes of the last meeting / matters arising
- Minute 3 - Correspondence
- Minute 4 - Area co-ordinators report
- Minute 5 - Area Plans
- Minute 6 - Community initiatives fund
- Minute 7 - Primary Care Trust update
- Minute 8 - Public question time
- Minute 9 - Borough Road site update
- Minute 10 - Anti Social Behaviour update
- Minute 11 - Presentation: Working together for Wirral's Children & Young People
- Minute 12 - Dates of future meetings
- Minute 13 - Any other business

Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies

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 and a

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

microphone was available should anyone wish to use it. He also asked the meeting to note the death of Canon Alan Poulter and expressed regrets on behalf of the Forum, and introduced the forum members.

There were approximately 22 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 have been included 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 address this under public question time.

Cllr Doyle explained that if answers to any points raised could not be given on the night, Maxine would follow these up, in writing, before the next meeting and would include details in her Report at the next meeting.

However, there were a couple of matters raised by Mrs Colbreck at the last meeting that Maxine Joynson (Area Co-ordinator) wished to bring up under this item.

- i. Concern over the noise levels on the Durley Drive Estate and in particular with regard to Oxtou Windows. She reported that a Council official was visiting her earlier that morning and hopefully this would lead to a satisfactory resolution.
- ii. Concern over pavements behind the shops in Prenton Hall Road. She had been in correspondence with Alan Dollery and had explained to him that the problem lay with Wirral Partnership Homes who needed to ensure that the roads were adopted and hopefully this would happen shortly and the necessary repairs undertaken.

Minute 3 - Correspondence

Maxine informed the forum that she had received correspondence on the following:

- i. The financial loss that the organisers of this summer's Merseyfest had incurred. Rob Beresford explained that the Merseyfest issue would be raised at a meeting of the Leaders of all Merseyside Councils and he will report back following the discussions with the other Merseyside Councils.
- ii. Oxtou Conservation Area raised by Mr Lennon, who was present at the meeting. Mr Lennon was asked if he was satisfied with the response received. Mr Lennon felt that he had not received a satisfactory reply and Cllr Doyle suggested that it be dealt with under Item 8 - Public Question Time.
- iii. Future Committees and a Police incident raised by Mr Dowling, who was present at the meeting. Mr Dowling was asked if he was satisfied with the response that he had received. He was happy with the information received regarding future committees however, wished the Police incident to be addressed in more detail. Cllr Doyle suggested this be addressed

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

under Item 10 'Anti Social Behaviour update' by Inspector Mark Smith.

iv. Site on Elm Road North and its possible development into more flats raised by Ann Carter via e-mail. Maxine reported that no planning application has been submitted and it is not known what the proposed use will be, and has responded directly on this.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Rob Beresford to report back on Merseyfest once further discussions with the other Merseyside Councils has taken place.

Minute 4 - Area co-ordinators report

Cllr Doyle thanked Maxine for her detailed report and the work she had put into it. The report included:

- An update (page 33) on the former college site meeting which had taken place on 23rd June.
- An update on the Storeton Fields play area
- A report on the annual Older Persons Conference taking place on 13th October.
- Detailed reports from the Oxton Society and the Prenton Tenants and Residents Association.

Mr Neale asked for a comment (Page 28/29) on parking issues in Woodchurch Road and the recent headline article in the Wirral Globe suggesting that civil servants were going to charge for residents parking.

Cllr Bridson replied that at a recent meeting at the Town Hall, there had been discussions concerning the Residents Only parking scheme and the Tranmere Rovers scheme. She explained that the Tranmere Rovers scheme works very well and there was no intention to change that. She also explained that Cllr Doyle and herself had spoken at the meeting in support of the residents and that the majority of the public present appeared to have come from the Prenton area. She explained that the Wirral Globe report was very biased and a Liberal Democrat motion passed at that meeting called for monies raised from fines to fund a review of all the affected roads.

Cllr Holbrook said that he hoped that the resolution passed at that meeting would not be left in limbo and would be passed on to Cabinet for action as soon as possible.

Cllr Doyle said that along with most things to do with the Council, there were cost implications in implementing the resolution.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Maxine be thanked for her report.

Minute 5 - Area Plans

Maxine explained that one of the key tasks for the Area Forum is the development of a specific local area plan that reflected the needs and priorities of the Area Forum. 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.

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Abhi Mantgani. The first meeting has been arranged for 17th November 2005. Maxine invited members of the Forum to become involved and to contact her if they wished to do so.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that any members wishing to join the Area Plan sub group contact Maxine on 0151 691 8266.

Minute 6 - Community initiatives fund

Maxine reported that the Assessment Panel had met on Monday, 5th September to discuss the allocation of awards. For 2005/06 there is a budget of £12,882.66 in the Community Initiatives Fund, £3000 in the Community Safety Fund and £1500 in the Local Agenda 21 Fund. £7650.05 is still left in the Community Initiatives Fund, £550 in the Community Safety Fund, but all of the Local Agenda 21 Fund had been allocated.

A member of the public asked if new applications could be made and Maxine confirmed that they can, and it is anticipated that the next round of applications will be take place late November / early December. She also confirmed that the limit is normally £1000, but this figure can be exceeded if the Panel agree. Cllr Doyle explained that in the current round of applications, the Prenton Tenants and Residents Association had received a grant of £3500 towards four computers and two playstation consoles, etc.

Minute 7 - Primary Care Trust update

Cllr Doyle reminded the Forum that it had been decided to move the Primary Care Trust update further up the Agenda and handed over to Margaret Davies from the Wirral NHS Trust and Dr Kidd from the Primary Care Trust, for an update on Access To Services.

Margaret gave an update on car parking at Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals, with the latter now having nearly as many problems as Arrowe Park. They are:

- In the process of implementing the green transport plan at Arrowe Park, which will include encouraging alternative means of transport for staff and visitors.
- Having talks with local public transport companies with the aim of introducing more buses to Arrowe Park Hospital.
- Re-investing in the park and ride scheme to enable the present system to continue.
- Negotiating with Mersey Travel, with the aim of providing improved and cheaper bus services.
- Aiming for staff and visitors parking to be more conveniently located, together with disabled drivers. This will include aim to provide better access for disabled drivers, better security, clamping of inconsiderately parked cars, and promote car sharing amongst staff in order to reduce parking problems. The Patients Advisory Liaison Service are aware of these problems, especially regarding disabled patients.
- Ploughing the proposed charges into the park and ride scheme and increased security staff. It will be a pay-on-exit by a barrier system which

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

is to commence in the near future.

- Displaying a free-phone taxi number at the front of the hospital.

Margaret invited comments from the floor and advised that members of the public could ring the freephone hotline or the PALS service.

Q. Mr Carl Reeley (member of the public) - expressed his disgust that staff on low wages should have to pay to park and also queried the park and ride scheme and questioned whether the car parking charges are just a way of obtaining revenue.

A. Margaret - domestic staff will not be paying the same rate as senior doctors and charges will depend on salary, with revenue being used to fund the park and ride scheme.

Q. Mr Garrett - asked about the proposed new bus services with Mersey Travel.

A. Margaret - it is hoped there will be more evening services and that the existing park and ride service will continue. A park and ride scheme from Tranmere Rovers F.C. is still under negotiation and the bus shelter is being extended.

A member of the public said they felt that the park and ride scheme is not advertised or publicised enough.

Cllr Holbrook commented that he hoped that other subsidised services would not be dropped in order to fund services to the hospital and wondered whether the PCT would be paying towards this.

Q. Alan Dollery - commented that the car parking situation is not getting any better and asked if there were any plans to change visiting hours?

A. Margaret - they have reduced visiting hours to afternoons and evenings, but it is mainly the nursing staff that has trouble parking.

Mr Morgan (member of the public) commented that he was involved with the original planning of the hospital site and anticipated problems then, and feels that the public are not listened to on this subject. Also the location of supermarkets and the local cemetery have escalated the problems.

Cllr Doyle drew this discussion to a close as the Oxton & Prenton Area Forum was not a decision making body and could only pass on the public's concerns to the Hospital, which hopefully Margaret Davies would do.

Dr Katie Kidd from the PCT informed the Forum that there is going to be a reconfiguration of Primary Care Trusts over the Wirral, with the aim of trying to reduce the amount that is spent on management costs. It is proposed that the Birkenhead & Wirral PCT and the Bebington and West Wirral PCT will become one. This proposal has been put forward and discussions are taking place. The Department of Health is holding a national liaising exercise to see what people want from health and social care in the community and she had ten copies of the NHS consultation document if anyone wanted to take one, and copies are also available on-

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

line.

There is also a new choose and book service for elective hospital treatment, e.g. surgical procedures, where a GP will provide information on different hospitals allowing people to choose where and when they will receive their treatment. There are plans to continue having the cataract surgery mobile unit at St. Catherine's, and enabling patients to choose more convenient care. It is hoped that under the new arrangements, primary care services will be extended to near where people live. She invited questions from the floor but there were none.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- i. Margaret Davies and Dr Katy Kidd be thanked for their updates
- ii. Margaret Davies be requested to pass on the public's concerns to the Hospital

Minute 8 - Public question time

Cllr Doyle suggested that questions related to law and order and police issues be taken under Item 10 on the Agenda, Anti-Social Behaviour Update, and asked if there were any other questions.

Q. Cllr Doyle raised a question on behalf of Mr J. Fryer concerning the Oxtou Festival - Will the festival be repeated again in view of the complaints from local residents.

A. Cllr Doyle - it will, subject to getting approval, if someone applies to organise it.

Mr Fryer, who was present, replied that local residents objected to the level of noise and wanted assurance from the Council that it would not be taking place again.

Cllr Kelly confirmed that it was allowed to go ahead this year, as the organiser had redesigned his proposals to the satisfaction of enforcement officers. It was difficult to see on what legitimate grounds the Council had to refuse the application. The event only lasts for two days of the year on a green space open to everybody, which would make it difficult to prevent it taking place. There are similar community events held at public open spaces in Birkenhead Park and New Brighton (Wirral Show) and that such events should be supported.

Mr. Fryer replied that the level of noise was the main concern.

Mr Reeley, the organiser of this event, apologised to local residents for the noise but said that 10,000 people attended this non-profit making event. It only takes place on two days a year, and as it is a music event a certain level of noise is expected. It is held on a public space that is there to be used by the public, not just for dog-walkers. Mr Reeley said that he is planning to hold next year's event in July, the week before the Wirral Show.

Cllr Doyle said this would have to be negotiated at a separate time. Inspector Mark Smith commented that health and safety objections were

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

raised the previous year, e.g. sanitation. He confirmed that the Police would have no objections to the event if basic health and safety regulations were met.

Q. Mr Mark Breeley (member of the public) - also complained about the noise and asked what the proper procedure is to make a formal complaint.

A. Cllr Doyle - write to Carole Jackson, Tourism and Marketing, north Annexe, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED.

Q. Cllr Doyle raised a question on behalf of Mr Morgan - concerned that the Council continue to overspend and under-estimate costs, with particular reference to the work at Charing Cross and the Cheshire Lines building, and asked if it was still leased.

A. Cllr Kelly confirmed that it is on a 25-year lease, and that there are many other buildings that are leased. Cheshire Lines was leased because it could accommodate a call centre and this is the main way of providing contact with the public and is the cheapest option.

Mr Morgan had also questioned the cold temperature in the Floral Pavilion and Maxine agreed to take this up and report back to him. Gary Cummings, Streetscene Manager, said that the work at Charing Cross was not being undertaken by the Council but by United Utilities and is being completed as quickly as possible.

Q. Mr Reeley – Can anything be done to revoke the licence extension granted to the Shrewsbury Arms in Oxton? Patrick Toosey (Oxton Society) reported that he had attended the licensing meeting and they had been granted an extra hour on Fridays and Saturdays. There is a public meeting on 7th December at St. Saviour's Church Hall and invited Mr Reeley and other interested parties to go to that meeting.

A. Rob Beresford - local authorities can only make decisions on the basis of evidence of problems, not what people think might happen. The licence can only be changed and/or reviewed on the basis of that evidence. Cllr Holbrook said that since the responsibility for licensing hours has been transferred to the Council, councillors have been disappointed that they have been given limited opportunities to get involved in the objection process. They have to get written permission from somebody who lives near the pub to speak on their behalf. The legislation appears to give the licensee the benefit of the doubt when setting up their own hours but they must be accountable. He is worried how evidence is going to be used when reviews are being held and evidence may have to be recorded.

Cllr Anderson thanked Patrick Toosey and Rob Beresford for their contributions. She has received many complaints over the years from residents near the Shrewsbury Arms and feels we need the opportunity of a review. She suggested people should make a note of times, dates, etc. as it is an ongoing problem with pubs near houses. She recommended that people keep a personal note of anything they are worried about and contact the Council with these.

A member of the public said that in his experience, the Police do not do anything about it. He put in a complaint in August but has only had one e-

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

mail in reply.

Inspector Mark Smith said he would speak to him separately about evidence.

Mr Reeley asked what people can do about fighting, etc. outside the pub, and was advised to attend the meeting at St. Saviour's on 7th December.

Inspector Smith emphasised that the presentation of evidence at that meeting is important.

Alan Dollery reported that he had attended an informative conference regarding a scheme in Liverpool where problems caused by late night drinking are reported to their own District Judge who will then monitor what is going on; he hoped this scheme could be extended in other areas.

Cllr Doyle raised the issue from Mr Lennon, received under correspondence, and asked what additional information was required from the Conservation Officer on this matter. Mr Lennon considered the reply to be ambiguous, and wanted to know whether or not the Oxton Society's offer of money was dependant on the Oxton Conservation Area extension plans going ahead.

Cllr Doyle said his understanding of the reply that it wasn't. Cllr Holbrook said that if a developer objected to the boundary, the Council would not allow financial aspects to come into consideration. Cllr Doyle said that Maxine would clarify the position with the Council Officer concerned and ensure Mr Lennon was given a clear reply.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- i. Maxine contact the Floral Pavilion and include the response in the next Area Co-ordinators report
- ii. Maxine contact the Conservation Officer in response to Mr Lennon's enquiry and request that he make contact with Mr Lennon directly
- iii. Patrick Toosey report back on the meeting to be held on 7th December regarding The Shrewsbury Arms

Minute 9 - Borough Road site update

This had been covered under the Area Co-ordinator's report and it was decided not to have any further discussions on this matter.

Minute 10 - Anti Social Behaviour update

Mr Dowling (member of the public) said he was not happy with the position regarding contacting the Police via their call centres during hours when many small Police stations are not manned. He gave details of an incident involving his property in which he had had great difficulty obtaining a Police response. He followed this up with a letter to the Senior Police Officer of Wirral, but had not as yet had an answer or a visit. When he had rung up, the incident could not be traced on the Police computer.

Inspector Smith said 999 calls are given priority and he accepted that it can be difficult to get in touch with the Police because of the volume of

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

calls. In respect of the incident concerned, a log number should have been created from the moment the Police reported it and should have been recorded. Inspector Smith agreed to respond directly on this.

Mrs McCarthy brought up the issue of ongoing problems of allotment fires on the Mount Estate.

Inspector Smith said they would be trying to work with the problems. However, this area is covered by Ian Shaw and agreed to pass on his phone number so that she could speak to Ian direct.

Inspector Smith reported the major development of the Section 30 Dispersal Order, which is new legislation dealing with anti-social behaviour. This allows the Police to effectively break up groups of two or more people and will be effective in dealing with the groups of youths who congregate in The Arno.

Alan Dollery wondered why this had not been extended to the Prenton Dell area and Inspector Smith said he would be working with his colleague, Inspector Shaw, to ensure that these powers are enforced in his areas as well.

June Foster commented on her difficulties in contacting the Police and stated that she would have liked a representative from Upton Police Station to attend the Area Forum.

Maxine explained that the Police role is rotated between both Inspectors with them attending alternative meetings; Inspector Shaw will therefore be attending the next meeting.

A member of the public asked what was being done about the problem of motorbikes in The Arno.

Inspector Smith - there is new legislation which allows them to seize bikes like mopeds which are being driven irresponsibly.

Inspector Smith also reported on a dispersal order which will come into effect from 17th October and will cover Woodchurch Road, Storeton Road, Ingestre Road and Holmlands Way. Police will have the power to move on groups of two or more people, ban people from the area for up to 24 hours and take home under 16's found after 9.00pm. This will be enforced until 3rd January 2006. It can be subject to refinement of a larger area if displacement is identified.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- i. Inspector Smith contact Mr Dowling regarding his enquiry
- ii. Inspector Smith to give Mrs McCarthy contact details of Inspector Shaw
- iii. Inspector Smith be thanked for his update

Minute 11 - Presentation: Working together for Wirral's Children & Young People

Cllr Doyle invited David Griffith from Educational and Cultural Services to give the Forum a short presentation on the proposed changes in the way services for children will be organised in Wirral. The changes will enable

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

the Council to comply with 'Every Child Matters' the new green paper set up following the death of Victoria Climbié, that forms part of the Children Act 2004. This instructs all services to work together to deliver the following five key outcomes for children in Wirral:

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

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

The services must integrate into one strategy. Now we have one single plan for children and young people, which all agencies will work to and work together on. It has been agreed that from April 2006 there will be one department – Children's Services. The Cabinet member dealing with this area of work will be Councillor Phil Davies. There is also a Director Designate, Howard Cooper.

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

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

Copies of a consultation paper were available at the meeting and we would welcome your comments on this and at the back of the consultation paper there is a form to fill in (it is also available online). It is important that people should be aware and provide feedback.

After the presentation he invited questions from the floor:

Cllr Kelly said that he hoped that the Police, who were an integral part of the new set-up, would be re-organised along the lines of the eleven Area Forums as opposed to the eight current Police areas.

Mr Griffiths said that he did not envisage that this would happen but there were already very good lines of communication with the Police.

Mike Walker said he had left a handout entitled Safer Wirral for the public to take with them as they left the meeting and the statistics in that pack suggest that Wirral is a safe place to live.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that David Griffith be thanked for his presentation.

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Minute 12 - Dates of future meetings

The date of the next meeting has been agreed as Wednesday, 15th February 2006 and will be held at Woodchurch Road Primary School at 7.00pm.

Minute 13 - Any other business

Possible future presentations on offer to the Forum are the Development of a cycle network and Wirral Healthy Communities. Cllr Doyle reported to the meeting that Steve Maddox, Chief Executive intended coming to the next meeting. Cllr Doyle then thanked the audience for their attendance and looked forward to seeing them at the February meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Matters Arising

Anne Carter, local resident contacted me on 9 October via email enquiring if any plans had been put forward in respect of the old petrol station site opposite Elm Road North on Woodchurch Road. There did seem to be a bit work going on by clearing the site but now nothing is happening. She was concerned that it may be destined for development of more flats.

Lee Walsh responded with the following and this information was sent to Ms Carter on 11 October:

I've checked the planning history and as yet a planning application has not been submitted. Therefore, I can not advise you as to what the proposed use would be. The demolition of the garage and clearance of the site would not require planning permission.

Mr Lennon contacted me via email on 4 October with regard to a letter to the Oxton Society for a financial contribution towards the cost of a Character Appraisal, the aim of which was to determine whether the Oxton Conservation Area should be extended.

Graham responded with; *The pressure for extending the Oxton Conservation Area comes from the Oxton Society itself. As I recollect it, Mr Chape had indicated that the Society might be able to contribute and my letter only indicates an understanding of the offer. In the event the size and complexity of the area has led to a quotation for a figure over double the amount and I am exploring ways in which it may be reduced. If it cannot be reduced then other consultants will need to be approached to tender as the sum is over £5,000. In addition, there is not a budget sum to cover the amount so far quoted.*

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Mr Lennon's questions seem to be on the basis that the Council had instigated a request for funds. This is not the case for Oxton and has not been applied elsewhere. Whilst a contribution would assist the Council the lack of it would not be the primary reason for delay in carrying out the appraisal. The Oxton Society's wish to extend the Conservation Area produces the need for an appraisal and this has to be prioritised in the light of other pressures for the designation of Conservation Areas elsewhere and funds available.

This response was sent to Mr Lennon on 5 October. At the forum Mr Lennon stated he was not satisfied with this and I requested that Graham Arnold contact Mr Lennon directly to discuss further.

Graham Arnold has since spoken to Mr Lennon. Mr Lennon seemed to be happy with Graham's reply in that it corrected a misunderstanding that Mr Lennon thought that the Council was requesting a contribution rather than responding to a potential offer. It appears that Mr Lennon was wanting the area forum, councillors and council to comment on the appropriateness of requesting funding from voluntary bodies.

Alan Dollery raised the issue of damaged road and kerbs in Goldsmith Road. This is ongoing and the Streetscene Manager responded with the following:

Funding has been secured for the major works involved in reconstructing the footway in Goldsmith Road following it's transfer to Technical Services as part of the housing stock transfer. However, works cannot begin until the legal adoption of the highway has been completed. This process is ongoing and works will commence shortly after.

This was reported to Alan on 5 October and subsequently, Shaun Brady has been in close contact with Alan on this matter.

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

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

In-Vessel Composting:

The completed site at Bidston will include an in vessel composting plant that can convert waste food into high quality garden compost. During March and April 2006, Wirral Council will be converting 20,000 households across the Borough from garden waste bags to the new organic waste bins. Parts of Oxton and Prenton will be

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

included in the first phase of conversions. The new organic waste bins will be similar to existing wheeled bins and they will be for the disposal of garden waste and food waste together. Households will be supplied with a small lidded, kitchen caddy container to collect food waste prior to disposal into the organic bin. The mixed waste will be collected fortnightly and taken to Bidston where it will be mixed with wood waste and processed through the composting plant. The conversion process will take around two weeks and the plant has the capacity to process around 10,000 tonnes of waste per year. The finished product will be suitable for use in the horticultural industry and for landscaping and will be marketed as a growing medium and soil improver. This scheme has the potential to divert around half a tonne of waste per household per year away from landfill and to convert it into a useful product.

Garden Waste Collection:

This is set to continue through Autumn and Winter. An update on recycling is included later in this report.

Durley Estate – Derek Howard & Rob Beresford met with Mrs Colbreck on Wednesday 12 October with regard to noise pollution. Derek agreed to ask the planners for confirmation as to the planning status of the units concerned i.e. what planning category they have.

They will probably have been given a general 'light industrial use ' category when they were built approx. 25 years ago. Derek had previously suggested Mrs Colbeck spoke to planners because she is aware of what they were told at the time planning permission was granted. She has tried but did not get any sense out of planning.

Derek has emailed Lee Walsh (Planning Enforcement), asking him to advise on the current status of these units, bearing in mind the age of the permissions, they may not be on computer, but most likely a paper record and it may take them some time to come back to respond to Derek. He also asked whether there aware any relevant planning conditions imposed to restrict/minimise the impact of the use of the units on the residents. There may have been a very general comment/ condition included, which in the past Derek has been told by previous planners sounds good but is difficult/impossible to enforce.

Mr Dowling – Police matter concerning an incident that took place in the vicinity of Woodchurch Road / East Bank. Insp Smith gave his personal assurance this would be dealt with.

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

John Morgan – Floral Pavilion (very cold) and overspend/underestimating costs eg Cheshire Lines

Rob Smith responded with the following and this information was sent to Mr Morgan on 4 November 2005 via letter.

'Although we try to maintain a fairly constant temperature for our patron's comfort, the nature of the building, and its age and exposed location, does tend to cause difficulties due to seasonal temperature changes and even changes in wind direction. In more modern buildings some of these issues are addressed by improved construction methods, draught exclusion, thermal insulation, automatic temperature monitoring and even air conditioning which is becoming more commonplace. The proposed refurbishment of the theatre as part of the Neptune regeneration scheme for New Brighton has taken account of these factors, and, assuming a successful outcome of the Neptune scheme with regard to the Floral, the patron's experience at the theatre will be much improved'.

Changes to licensing – extension of opening hours / beer garden at the Shrew – Patrick Toosey stated a meeting is to be held on 7 Dec, 7.30 pm at St Saviours Hall. Insp Smith will be in attendance. Patrick reported as following:

A very well attended meeting took place with all three Landlords from the Village pubs, the North Area Manager for the Spirit Group, representatives from the Police, 3 local Councillors and about 80 local residents. The meeting was ably Chaired by Cllr Kelly who stressed the need to find consensus and the way forward to live together.

The residents made their case stressing the fact that Oxtun Village is a residential area and late night anti-social behaviour must be eliminated/reduced to a minimum.

The Landlords and Spirit Group stressed their desire to operate as Neighbourhood pubs and to work with residents to solve problems. They also made the point that other establishments also sold alcohol and/or food until late hours.

All concerned agreed that the way forward was to have a mechanism for dialogue to discuss problems brought up by residents or businesses.

Subject to Committee approval in January, the Oxtun Society will form a small group, probably 4 in number, to meet with all the pubs, take-aways, restaurants, clubs and off licences in the Village. Hopefully the initial meetings will take place in January where mutual problems can be discussed face to face.

All concerned felt it was a productive meeting as stated by Cllr Kelly in closing the meeting.

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Woodchurch Road parking / Residential Parking Schemes – following the meeting that took place on 18th July with local residents, shopkeepers, Council Officers and Cllr Doyle, a report went to Cabinet on 20th October. Minute and decision below with an update from Keith Rodgers.

Minute 284 - TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEMES AND TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER REVIEWS Minute Text :

The Cabinet considered a recommendation from the Environment and Transportation Select Committee (minute 50 (12/9/05) refers). The Select Committee had called for a further report on the issue of resident parking schemes and the traffic regulation order review, and the Director of Technical Services had suggested a number of options for the Committee's consideration. The Committee had also heard the views of a number of members of the public on the the problems that they were experiencing as a result of non-residents parking in their streets or from increased enforcement activities.

The Select Committee had recommended that the Cabinet establish a mechanism to review the operation of those parking restrictions where there were significant levels of dissatisfaction among those local residents directly affected; also that it identify funding to carry out the review and that the income from fixed-penalty notices be used for that purpose. The Committee had reaffirmed its opposition to charges being made on residents for the operation of residents' only parking schemes.

A decision was required in respect of the Select Committee's recommendation.

The Cabinet Member for Transportation and Infrastructure welcomed the report. There was a large demand for residential parking - currently some 370 requests had not been dealt with - but no resources. The fact that some schemes were already in place complicated the situation, but he felt that they should not be taken into account in approaching the outstanding requests. Current applicants could be asked if they would be prepared to contribute to the costs, both of introducing schemes and for ongoing maintenance. The Cabinet could then make judgement on how to proceed in the light of the survey. With regard to traffic regulation orders, he stated that he had been promised a review of the operation of double yellow lines, as a result of his concerns about the new enforcement regime. He suggested that some funding might be available as current expenditure on arrangements for The Open ceased to be necessary; also work priorities within the Technical Services Department could be re-aligned to undertake the exercise. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety highlighted the fact that many requests for residents' parking schemes related to deprived areas, and residents there might lose out because of inability, rather than reluctance, to pay.

The Chair and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group each submitted motions for consideration by the Cabinet. Minute Decision :
Resolved -

(1) That the views of the Select Committee be noted.

(2) Cabinet recognises the large demand throughout the Borough for residents-only parking schemes. It also acknowledges that there is no budgetary provision to enable it to meet this demand. Although residents parking has an impact on road safety, Cabinet acknowledges that other initiatives, e.g. traffic calming, have a greater direct impact on improving our performance against LPSA Target 7 (reducing death and serious injuries on roads).

(3) Cabinet therefore agrees to ask the Director of Technical Services to carry out a

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

survey of residents whose streets are on the waiting list for residents-only parking schemes in order to ascertain

(a) whether residents would be prepared to pay for the introduction of such schemes; and

(b) a broad approximation of how much residents would be prepared to pay.

(3) That the Director take steps to resolve problems within current residents' parking schemes where increased enforcement is causing problems for local residents.

(4) That Cabinet reaffirms its promise to review other parking restrictions where problems are being reported by local residents as a result of increased levels of enforcement arising from decriminalisation and therefore instructs the Director to reprioritise activities across all of the traffic-related budget headings to release the equivalent of 1FTE specialist traffic officer, to be allocated for the remainder of 2005/06 and for 2006/07 on dealing with the backlog of requests for review.

Keith Rodgers summarised the outcome as follows:

Since that meeting, in order to meet resolution 3 of the Cabinet decision regarding requests for new schemes, I have written to the lead petitioner of each petition requesting a new resident parking scheme submitted in the past two years with a form for them to fill in and return. Once I have the results of these consultations, they can be collated and a further report prepared for Cabinet to enable them to make a decision on how to proceed in the light of the survey.

As far as timescales go, the forms are due back to me by the end of the month and it will probably take another month to write a report. So we could be looking at a further report to Cabinet in January or February of next year.

As regards existing schemes where amendments have been requested, this falls under resolution 4 of the Cabinet decision. The Divisional Management Team is currently considering how best to restructure the Division and reprioritise the workload to free up an officer to enable investigations to be carried out. I expect the process of reprioritising / restructure to take several weeks to complete before any work can commence on the significant outstanding list of enquiries.

Play area – provided by Jackie Smallwood, Senior Landscape Architect

The scheme has now gone out to tender. The work is programmed to start (on site) mid January and be completed by the end of March 2006.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Jackie either by e-mail or tel: 637 6214.

Presentations

Wirral Healthy Communities

Opportunities in Waste Recycling – Ben Parker provided the following background information prior to the presentation to be given:

Phase 1- Kitchen and Garden Waste Collections

Fortnightly collection of kitchen and garden waste in selected wards (yet to be finalised). A brown 240 litre wheeled bin will be provided for the collection of this waste from the kerbside. The material will be taken to an in vessel composting facility at the Bidston Moss Materials Recycling Facility.

Trial - Alternated Weekly Collection of Dry Recyclables

Selected residents in Oxton/Claughton area will be provided with a container (type yet to be finalised) to collect dry recyclables (types of materials included yet to be finalised). The dry recyclable container will then be collected fortnightly on alternate cycles to the green refuse wheeled bins. The recyclable materials will be taken to Bidston Moss Materials Recycling Facility for sorting then sent on for reprocessing.

Any Other Business

Oxton Festival – it was brought to the forum's attention on 23 January that an outline application to hold this annual event has been submitted in principle. The forum has requested that a report and/or presentation be given. Jim Lester and Roger Calvert will be in attendance and will address this item under 'Any Other Business'

Future meetings

The date of the next area forum is Monday 12th June 2005

Section Two

Local Updates

GENERAL INFORMATION

AREA FORUMS

One of the main tasks of the area forum has been to produce an area plan that reflects the needs and issues of local people. The Plan has been in circulation for some time. The boundary changes that took place meant the information contained in the core section of the plan was not complete and truly reflective of the new forum areas. In addition to this, a review of the Community Strategy produced a refreshed version that changed their eight themes into four revised crosscutting themes.

These 'refreshed' themes are now included in the Area Co-ordinator's reports under local issues. The next steps were to then 'merge' the issues section of the area plan to reflect the new themes within the Community Strategy. However, with Wirral's involvement in the Local Area Agreement (LAA) pilot, the Local Strategic Partnership has agreed to merge its Community Strategy with the themes of the LAA (which are very similar in nature to the LAA and the LAA will now in effect become the delivery plan of the community strategy) and we will work towards aligning the area plans with this.

As part of the Government's drive to increase Vibrant Local Leadership, Citizen Engagement and Public Services, we are continuously looking for ways in which we can improve area forums, how they operate, the outcomes they deliver and the number of people involved in local decision making.

Ideas/suggestions

- Identify 2 or 3 groups within each ward and visit them to promote the work of the area forums (parents & tots groups, schools/colleges, disabled groups etc) via Councillors and WVCSN
- Promote area forums more effectively including area plans (libraries, One Stop Shops, estate agents, Woodside Tourist Centre, doctors etc)
- Community Planning to be included in Councillors mailing list (ie: newsletters) so that they are more aware of the issues local people are raising with their ward councillors and feeding this information into the area plans
- More involvement in the Police Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG) and assessing how these can be effectively linked to the area forums

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

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

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

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

AREA PLAN

By modifying the area plan to include the LAA themes it will become in effect a 'mini LAA' and it is anticipated from April 2007 this will be used in the Council's planning process and work will be undertaken to ensure that they influence the plans and strategies of partner organisations. The aim is for the priorities within the area plan to 'influence' key decision makers when they are planning budgets for the coming year. It will also feed into the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) overarching Community Strategy/LAA.

Ideas/suggestions for inclusion in the plan

- Info on ward based CCTV
- Updated recycling info
- Safer Wirral update (Sept 05)
- Census info, need to specify/include more about sample 2007 and 2009
- Include relevant CIF applications in issues section showing how funding has contributed to priority areas
- Full profile of ward members / key partners of the forum
- Include feedback from Councillors surgeries in area plan

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND

Once the area plan is complete, and following further work and gaining Cabinet approval, it could be that a proportion of CIF is allocated to 'target' areas / projects that the forum feel would contribute to progress and improve the quality of life for local people. Another way to support groups could be by 'goodwill / in kind' gestures which would further support the achievement of priorities identified within the area plan. For example, if the forum identified areas where trees, benches, bins etc were needed and could then obtain these by way of 'donations' from Technical Services - we could then commission a local group in that area to place / plant them. Once again, this idea will require further work, particularly through liaising with departments and partner organisations to put this into effect, but the area forums thoughts on these proposals is sought prior to advancing this further.

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 area 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

Neighbourhood

Project Update

Introduction

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

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

Project Objectives

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

National Drivers

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

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

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

Neighbourhood

Project Update

Benefits to Public and Partners

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

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

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

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

21 September 2005

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

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

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

Home Office Minister Hazel Blears said:

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

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

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

Steve Maddox, Chief Executive of Wirral Council, said:

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

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

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

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

'PlaylikeBrazil' are collaborating with local schools and community groups across Wirral to help build strong and positive relationships and promote a sense of belonging, including Wirral Wardens, Beechwood Community Centre and representatives from Wirral Borough Council, Community Sports Development Unit.

For further information about the PLAYLIKEBRAZIL product offer, go to their website at [Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.](#) or contact Allan Maldon on 0151 630 2368 or John MacCarfrae on 07939 201206.

Family Safety Unit Open Day

17 November 2005

The Community Safety Team are using Amnesty International Day on 25th November to formally introduce the Family Safety Unit to Wirral.

The Family Safety Unit has been designed to provide a co-ordinated “one- stop shop” for survivors of domestic abuse. This multi agency initiative, which employs both Police and Council staff, is aimed at encouraging victims to report domestic abuse and provides support through every step from initial reporting of abuse to prosecution of offenders.

The Family Safety Unit works with statutory and voluntary Domestic Violence organisations already in existence in Wirral and aims to bring all the relevant services together, tailor-made to suit the requirements of survivors.

On 5th March 2004, in the lead up to International Women’s Day, Amnesty International launched a global campaign to Stop Violence Against Women. The ‘Stop Violence Against Women’ campaign will focus on ending violence against women in the family and in conflict/post conflict situations, two of the most dangerous environments for millions of women throughout the world. The creation of a world in which women and girls are afforded their basic human rights is our ultimate goal.

The Open Day will be held at Wirral Family Safety Unit, Old Court Building, Manor

Road, Wallasey, starting at 10am to 3pm. All are welcome. There will be an opportunity to talk to staff and to see how the work of the Wirral Family Safety Unit will co-ordinate and complement the existing excellent domestic abuse projects in Wirral.

For more information about the day or The Family Safety Unit email familysafetyunit@wirral.gov.uk or call 0151 606 5440.

Further information on the 'Stop Violence Against Women' campaign can be found at www.amnesty.org.uk

"Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation, and it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development, and peace."

Results from consultations carried out in 2005

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

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

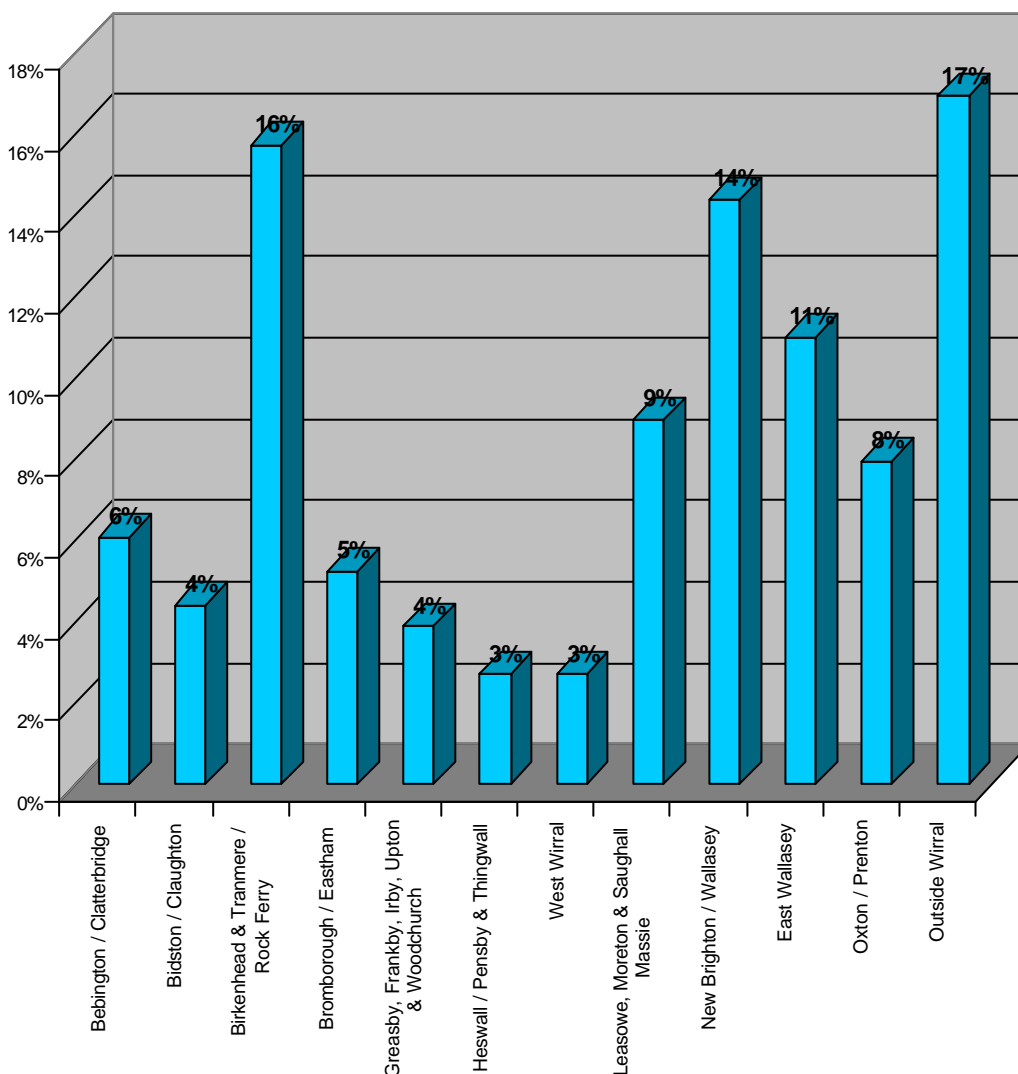
9% of those completing the questionnaires requested further information on community representatives, and 20% requested information on area forums.

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

% of age groups completing questionnaires



% of questionnaires completed by the forum areas

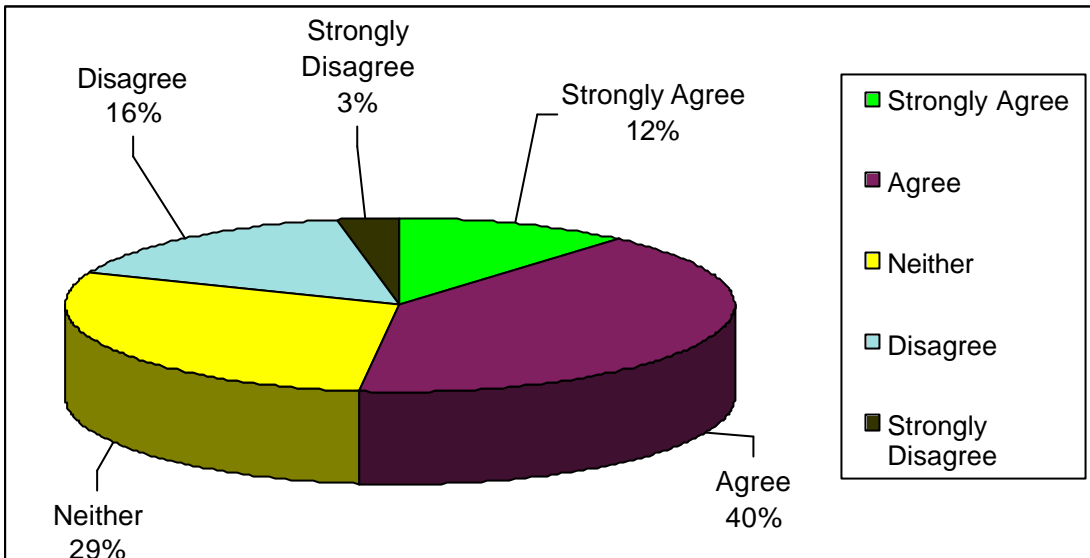


Results of questionnaires, for all age groups, to the following:

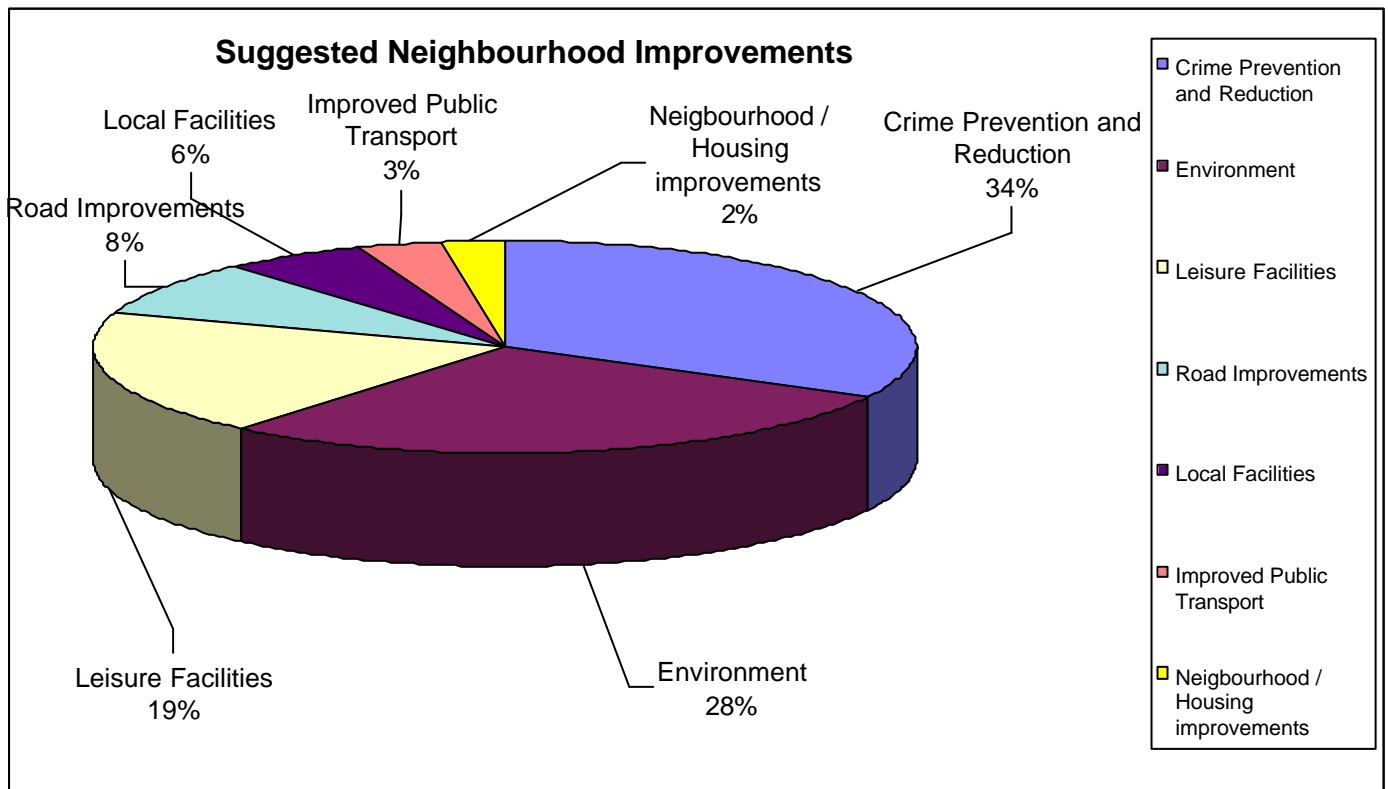
How well do you think the area where you live (within 10 minutes walk of your home) is for....

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

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



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



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

<i>Under 20 year olds</i>	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Transport (buses and trains etc.)	29%	64%	7%	0%	0%
Local Services (shops, libraries, doctors etc.)	43%	50%	7%	0%	0%
Jobs and Training (access to local jobs, variety of training courses available etc.)	8%	31%	38%	23%	0%
The Environment (parks, open spaces, clean streets etc.)	29%	50%	7%	14%	0%
Your Safety (crime levels, anti-social behaviour, road safety etc.)	14%	57%	7%	14%	7%
Community Facilities (playschemes, youth clubs, luncheon clubs etc.)	7%	50%	14%	14%	14%

20 – 64 year olds	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Transport (buses and trains etc.)	32%	52%	3%	13%	0%
Local Services (shops, libraries, doctors etc.)	38%	56%	0%	3%	3%
Jobs and Training (access to local jobs, variety of training courses available etc.)	3%	47%	31%	16%	3%
The Environment (parks, open spaces, clean streets etc.)	16%	50%	13%	19%	3%
Your Safety (crime levels, anti-social behaviour, road safety etc.)	13%	28%	13%	44%	3%
Community Facilities (playschemes, youth clubs, luncheon clubs etc.)	13%	31%	16%	38%	3%

Over 64 year olds	Very Good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Transport (buses and trains etc.)	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Local Services (shops, libraries, doctors etc.)	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Jobs and Training (access to local jobs, variety of training courses available etc.)	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
The Environment (parks, open spaces, clean streets etc.)	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Your Safety (crime levels, anti-social behaviour, road safety etc.)	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Community Facilities (playschemes, youth clubs, luncheon clubs etc.)	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Oxton Society – update from Patrick Toosey

Public meeting on new Licensing laws – Wednesday 7 December, 7.30pm St Saviours Parish Centre. See under matters arising for full update.

HSBC Bank in Oxton Village – The bad news has been received that this branch will close on February 10th. Everyone is very upset with this news and a large petition is being organised by local traders with a huge number of signatures from Businesses, local residents, both Oxton Society Members and others. However, being realistic it is unlikely to influence a huge multi national organisation like HSBC.

A local resident who is not only a people peer, but is also on the Board at HSBC. He had not been asked whether there is any chance of a reconsideration of their position and failing this, whether HSBC would be prepared to sell or lease the site to the Community on favourable terms. This might enable the Community to design a project for the site that would benefit the community.

The only good news out of all this is the HSBC have stated they will maintain a cash point in the Village.

Christmas lights in Oxton Village – Saturday November 26th, 4pm. The Mayor of Wirral, Cllr Mrs C Meaden, joined the all aged party of approximately 400 folk to watch most of the light strands come on and more or less at the same time, no one is perfect!

It was a splendid occasion with Carols being sung to the Rock Ferry Salvation Army Band. The kids carousel was in constant use and there were offerings of mulled wine, mince pies, roast chestnuts and hot dogs to the cold at bay. The only real failure was the sound system not being powerful enough but you have to learn from your mistakes!

The 6th secret gardens at Oxton will take place on **Sunday 14th May between 10 – 5pm**. More than 20 gardens will be open and many other events will take place such as pony rides, Punch and Judy, Barrell organ, music galore, refreshments, arts fair and other surprises!

The Mayor of Wirral will visit the gardens on her very last day in Office.

Prenton Tenants and Residents Association & Prenton Partnership – Alan Dollery

After a very positive “Vision of Prenton Day” held earlier in the year in the Saddle Club the PTRA along with the Prenton Partnership have made positive moves in providing after school activities for some of the children in the Prenton area.

At the meeting were representatives from the Rehabilitation Centre which is situated in Prenton Hall Road. The centre is used daily and managed by Mr E Clabby who has since offered the PTRA & Partnership the use of his premises of an evening. With the acceptance of their kind offer Alan Dollery & Sue Mearns who belong to both committees have made inroads to the offer and are on the brink of bringing it to fruition.

Having had quite a few meetings with different organisations and agencies, and loads of individual help too many to mention, but thanks to one an all for all your advice we now see light at the end of the tunnel. We have been successful in our bid for funding for this project, and further funding from the Prenton Partnership is imminent.

But unfortunately and I mean unfortunately, the whole project could become a white elephant, not through choice, but through the lack of support in the way of Volunteers.

The committee members we have now are committed to other things and I appreciate their valued time, so we need more volunteers to help Sue and I run the proposed “club”.

The plan is to open the “club” two nights a week for 8 to 18 year olds (time and days yet to be decided by the youth committee) and will cater for approx 20/30 youngsters; this could change if we get more volunteers.

The “club” is a start to help keep our children safe and off the streets. We all know of the problems around the Prenton Area and to be fair all the youngsters that hang around the shopping area’s are not all bad, all they are after is somewhere to meet their friends and talk after school or college, this “club” will be a start to giving some of them that somewhere to meet.

We have well over 200 eligible youngsters in the area that could use the “club” but obviously we can not accommodate that many all at once so we will have to have some sort of rosta. However with more Volunteers we might be able to increase our opening days to allow others to attend.

Although becoming a volunteer is not all that simple nowadays, as we have so many rules and regulations to contend with, but it is with good intent that these rules and regulations are there.

If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer please allow me to inform you that you will need to be police checked and to have knowledge of the child protection laws, we will assist you at our expense to obtain clearance and knowledge, so please

do not be put of by these obligatory regulations, just think of the enormous help you will be giving to the children of the Prenton Area.

Your time with your children is one of the most important times in your child's upbringing, children playing and talking together is important and educational, volunteers for our association is IMPORTANT and VITAL.

Please contact the PTRA at their Community centre shop, next to the Post Office on 608 0077/ 609 1851, Mon, Wed, 10-30am - 12-30pm Fri 10-00am - to 1-00pm.

Thank you

Regards Alan Dollery (chair PTRA & Prenton Partnership)

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in the Wirral

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

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

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

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

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

Birkenhead Community Fire Station:

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

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

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

And we have set up a partnership with Tranmere Alliance.

Upton Community Fire Station:

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

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

Wallasey Community Fire Station:

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

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

Bromborough Community Fire Station:

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

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

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

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

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

Eaton Place – (former College site) – Ian Sumner, Wimpey

The demolition works to the GLENDA JACKSON will be complete the first week of February, the brick hardcore pile is starting to be reduced from tomorrow (Thurs 19th Jan) with approx. 10 loads going off site with more to follow. The apartments are already underway with 62 due for completion this year, the houses will commence construction mid to late Feb with approx 15 to 20 due for completion this year. The remainder of the road construction will start in Feb to complete the internal site road layout. At present within the site we are having no security issues reported from our on site security. I hope you find this of some use for your meeting.

Worklessness

Wirralbiz - Open for Everyone 22 September 2005

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Access to Learning & Employment Project

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

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

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

For more information call the ESF Project Team on 0151 652 8373

(some eligibility restrictions may apply)

Access and Equity

Over one hundred people attend event to promote disabled people's independence

21 October 2005

Over one hundred disabled people and decision-makers gathered for the final event of a programme of activities designed to promote disabled people's independence.

The event was funded jointly by the DARE Foundation, a registered charity whose aims are to work with disabled people to promote social inclusion for disabled people, and Wirral's Social Services Department.

The aim of the event was to give disabled people the opportunity to work together as equal partners with health and social care providers from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

Presentations were made by six teams of disabled people and service providers who worked together for six months, to explore the challenges disabled people face in their everyday lives. The presentations focused on how disabled people can overcome challenges and make services more accessible.

The presentations were followed by a spontaneous re-enactment of disabled people's experiences of working on the project by the Play Back Theatre Group.

An invited audience including Wirral's Mayor – Cllr Chris Meaden - local policy-makers and local businesses attended the event at the Highcroft Day Centre in Wirral on Tuesday, October 18.

The presentation day marked the end of the first stage of this unique workshop programme. However this is not the end of the story. The work will continue in order to influence change in Wirral and beyond.

The Director of Wirral Social Services, Kevin Miller commented: "As a service-provider, events like this play an important role in ensuring the council fully understands the challenges disabled people face when they are trying to use services many of us take for granted.

"This has been an excellent collaboration with the DARE Foundation and I am really pleased that Wirral was invited to host this event".

DARE's Chief Executive, Jill Fardell, was delighted with how the day had gone: "It's been fantastic. Disabled people who hadn't felt confident enough to speak out in the past, have found their voice.

This programme has been a model of successful partnership working between service-users and providers with some excellent projects. They have the potential to make a real difference. This is a tremendous achievement in such a short time".

Kathy Byrne is a service-user who has made extensive use of various services in

Wirral and has played an active role in this event: "This event has given me a chance to teach others directly from my personal experiences.

"As a disabled person, I have been denied opportunities and quality in my life but now feel that society is changing. It is exciting to know that my life has already changed through the DARE Foundation approach. I feel that people are beginning to take an interest in disabled people".

To find out more about this event, please phone Tom Walker in Wirral Council's Press Office on 0151 691 8388 or email tomwalker@wirral.gov.uk

Quick and easy Interpreting and translation service available to all departments

November 2005

All of Wirral Council's departments are now able to access translation and interpreting services through the National Interpreting Service.

This will enable us to respond more effectively and improve the quality of our communication with all of Wirral's residents.

Cards and posters are available for 'face to face' contact to assist with language identification. For contact by telephone the highly skilled interpreters are able to quickly identify the language required. Connection time to an interpreter should take about 30 seconds and over 150 languages are available.

Each department has been issued with a unique reference number which allows staff to access the service.

For more information on using the service or to obtain your reference number please contact your departmental representative:

Corporate Services
Jan Evans (691 8064)

Regeneration
Ian Grindrod (691 8341)

Education
Sylvia Comer (666 4246)

Cultural Services
Boo Stone (666 5580)

Finance
Pete Collins (604 3624)

Technical Services
Angela Cullinan (606 2091)

Social Services
Breda Dutton (666 3626)

Wirral Transport Museum, Virtual Tour – Ged Smyth

The virtual tour is 15 minutes long, it was designed for disabled people who have an interest in transport and may have difficulties moving a round the building and the taking a trip on a tram, there are sub-titling for hearing impaired people. The DVD shows the route the trams use to day and has an interview with the Chair of the tram historical society, about the trams and how they developed over the years in Birkenhead. The virtual tour is the first part of a continued programme of improvements for disabled people in and around the museum.

A Quality Environment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DON'T TRAVEL TO TIP – SURF TO SALVAGE!

November 9 2005

LETSSALVAGEIT.COM SAVES UNWANTED ITEMS FROM BECOMING UNNECESSARY LANDFILL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Because letssalvageit.com is internet based, its audience is national, providing for a wide variety of items and a massive amount of potential salvagers. The site is not an internet messageboard, and protects its users' privacy, ensuring that only the potential salvager contacts the advertiser.

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

Wirral Independent Re-cycling Enterprise

Furnishing Lives...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Environment Agency Action Earth 2006 1st January – 30th June 2006

Environment Agency Action Earth 2006

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

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

Planning an Activity

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

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

We offer

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

Make a Promise for World Environment Day

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

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

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

So what are you waiting for?

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

If you do not get a response within 3 weeks of sending your registration form then please call 0121 328 7455. If you have any questions or wish to discuss project ideas then please contact Naseem Akhtar on 0121 328 7455 or email naseem@csvgenvironment.org.uk

Organised by



Supported by



METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

February 2006 – Eddie Fleming

Area Forum

Proposed Supplementary Planning Document **Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Operators**

1. Introduction

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

2. The Proposed Supplementary Planning Document

- 2.1 It is intended that the draft SPD will be structured to provide advice under six main topics:
 - Legal Background;
 - Policy Context & Objectives
 - Siting, Appearance & Design;
 - Health Issues;
 - Pre-Application Discussions & Consultation; and
 - Information to be submitted with Applications.
- 2.2 The first two sections would identify the legal parameters, the policy context and local objectives that would be relevant for determining proposals by mobile phone operators.
- 2.3 The section on siting, appearance and design would provide advice on how the policy requirement for keeping the environmental impact to a minimum would be implemented.
- 2.4 National planning policy in relation to health issues is outlined. The Government's firm view is that the planning system is not the place for

determining health safeguards. Nevertheless, applicants will be expected to certify that all new base stations would comply with guidelines set by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection.

- 2.5 The SPD would also identify information that should be produced by operators for pre-application consultation and when an application is made.

3. Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report

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

4. Strategic Environmental Assessment

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

5. Consultation Arrangements

- 5.1 When the draft SPD has been prepared, all addresses on the Council's Local Development Framework data base will be contacted, along with members of the Area Forums, local amenity societies and the telecommunications operators.
- 5.2 There will be a local press advertisement and a six week period will be given for public comment in writing.
- 5.3 The results of the public consultation will be used to inform the process of preparing the final document and reported to the Council before adoption of the SPD is approved.

Section Three

Community Initiative Funding

The assessment panel met on Thursday 19th January to consider the CIF applications. The panel consisted of:

Cllr Ann Bridson
Cllr Freda Anderson
Alan Dollery
Patrick Toosey
Maxine Joynson (advisory role)

The allocation available for the remainder of 2005/06 is £5,782.61. This consists of £5,232.61 (CIF) and £550 (Community Safety funding).

The recommendations made by the panel will go to Cabinet on Thursday 2 March with all applicants being informed of the decision made on Thursday 16 March.

Oxton / Prenton

Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
£1,000.00	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 - December 2005: The sports, recreational initiative for Friday Nights has been well attended, with an average of around 30 young people each week for the three month duration. The football tournament was very popular, along with table tennis, basketball and badminton.
£750.00	Prenton Pre-School Playgroup	To improve the outdoor learning facilities by purchasing new outdoor play equipment and a secure storage facility.	Report received from Prenton Pre-School Playgroup Association - September 2005: We have purchased the outdoor toys and these are in daily use. We anticipate that storage shed will be completed in January.
£625.00	Youth Federation	To fund additional training for young people aged 14-16 undertaking voluntary work within youth organisations on Wirral, specifically Oxton and Prenton.	Report received from Youth Federation - November 2005: Young people from the forum area attended training sessions on Drug and Alcohol Awareness; Volunteer Rights and Responsibilities; First Aid; Bullybusters; as well as DJ Training.

Oxton / Prenton

Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
£1,000.00	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 - December 2005: The sports, recreational initiative for Friday Nights has been well attended, with an average of around 30 young people each week for the three month duration. The football tournament was very popular, along with table tennis, basketball and badminton.
£750.00	Prenton Pre-School Playgroup	To improve the outdoor learning facilities by purchasing new outdoor play equipment and a secure storage facility.	Report received from Prenton Pre-School Playgroup Association - September 2005: We have purchased the outdoor toys and these are in daily use. We anticipate that storage shed will be completed in January.
£625.00	Youth Federation	To fund additional training for young people aged 14-16 undertaking voluntary work within youth organisations on Wirral, specifically Oxton and Prenton.	Report received from Youth Federation - November 2005: Young people from the forum area attended training sessions on Drug and Alcohol Awareness; Volunteer Rights and Responsibilities; First Aid; Bullybusters; as well as DJ Training.

13 December 2005

Section Four

Local Area Plan

The first meeting of the area plan sub group met on Thursday 17 November.
Members of the group are:

Maxine Joynson, Cllr Doyle, Alan Dollery, Richard Neale, Patrick Toosey, Tony Garrett, Rob Beresford, Insp. Mark Smith, Dr Mantgani

AREA PLAN MEETING

SUMMARY OF NOTES

Date: 17/11/05 **Time:** 5.30pm **Venue:** Town Hall, Wallasey

Subject: Oxton / Prenton

Present: Cllr Frank Doyle, Maxine Joynson, Alan Dollery, Richard Neale, Patrick Toosey, Tony Garrett

Apologies: none received

HEADING/SUB HEADING	NOTES	ACTION BY
Background info	<p>Maxine circulated a general document about the area forums/plans/CIF and Local Area Agreements (LAA's). She explained one of the main tasks of the forum is to produce an area plan that reflects the needs and issues of local people.</p> <p>The area plan has been in circulation for some time however, with the boundary changes the census information is not truly accurate. The subsequent refreshment of the Community Strategy produced 4 revised themes which are now included in the Co-ordinator's report. More recently, Wirral has been chosen as a pilot area for the next round of LAA's and this has led to identifying 4 priority areas (known as 'blocks') which are: Safer & Stronger Communities, Healthier Communities & Older People, Children & Young People and Economic Development & Enterprise. We now need to modify the issues section of the plan to reflect these blocks.</p>	
Priority theme	The group decided to focus on Safer & Stronger Communities initially, as this is a cross cutting theme.	All
Ideas/suggestions for the plan	<p>Maxine suggested the inclusion of all successful CIF awards for this financial year in an additional column headed 'progress / development'. Ward based info on CCTV and alleygates, updated and more details on recycling and an annual Safer Wirral could also be included.</p> <p>She asked how the group felt about the inclusion of profiles of ward members, Police, PCT etc. This was agreed</p>	<p>MJ</p> <p>MJ</p>

HEADING/SUB HEADING	NOTES	ACTION BY
	<p>The group were asked to identify badly lit areas and gaps where CCTV, alleygates and signages would be beneficial (subject to current guidance and policy) and to map out provision in their area ie: youth provision (Shatfs etc) smaller groups not necessarily linked/associated to anyone, parents and tots etc, luncheon clubs etc.</p> <p>Tony circulated some documents relating to transport. Reference on progress/update will be referred to in the issues section.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>MJ</p>
<p>Ways of improving the area forum</p>	<p>Promote the forums more effectively by visiting local groups as identified above and circulating the plan on a wider basis (estate agents, tourist centre etc).</p> <p>Community Planning Team to be included in distribution list of Councillors mailing (newsletters) and to get feedback from Councillors surgeries.</p> <p>Cllr Doyle suggested alternating the forum on a ward basis and identifying other suitable venues other than Woodhurch Road Primary School.</p> <p>He also suggested allocating the whole of CIF for next financial year to one major scheme (subject to full forum approval)</p>	<p>MJ</p> <p>Cllrs/MJ</p> <p>All</p>
<p>Next meeting</p>	<p>To be held on Thursday 12th January – 6.00pm at Prenton Tenants & Residents Shop.</p>	

The second meeting took place on Thursday 12 January. The action points from the previous meeting are currently being worked on. It was agreed that the group would look at the issues section of the area plan now it had been aligned with the Local Area Agreement blocks and would feedback to Maxine by mid February.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15 March - 6pm at Prenton Drop In, Dickens Ave, Prenton.

Section Five

Youth Update

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CRIME:

VICTIM INCLUSION PROJECT

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

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

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

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

Youth Inclusion Support Project

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

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

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

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

Section Six

Streetscene update

Arrowe Park roundabout scheme

Reasons behind the scheme

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

Why does the roundabout need to be replaced?

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

Benefits of a signal controlled junction

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

Landscaping

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

Traffic management

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

Scheme costs

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

New powers to tackle street trading

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

‘Zero tolerance’ approach to litter dropping

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cycle network expands

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

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

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

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

Plans to remove footbridges

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

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

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

Vital funding is secured for transport schemes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Walkers have access to more than 70 miles of public footpath in Wirral. A Merseyside-wide forum has now been established to help make the countryside more

accessible and enjoyable. The Local Access Forum meets every three months and includes representatives from the local authority, land managers and user groups.

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

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