

Oxton and Prenton

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

12th June 2006

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Section One

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes - Area Forum (Oxton and Prenton) Meeting - 15 February 2006

Present	
Chair	FM Doyle
Ward Councillors	Mrs F E F Anderson , SA Holbrook , SE Kelly , Mrs P M Williams
Community Representatives	Alan Dollery (Prenton Tenants & Residents Assoc.) , June Foster (Wirral Fed. of Tenants & Residents Assocs.) , Patrick Toosey
Chief Executive	S Maddox
Lead Officer	Bob Beresford (Deputy Director of Housing & Environmental Protection) , Alan Stennard (Director of Regeneration)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Maxine Joynson
Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT	Richard Jones (Birkenhead and Wallasey Primary Care Trust)
Merseyside Police	Inspector Ian Shaw , Inspector Mark Smith
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Keith LePoidevin (Station Manager, Birkenhead Fire Station)
Council Officers	Roger Calvert (Principal Officer, Parks & Open Spaces) , David Green (Director of Technical Services) , Jim Lester (Senior Inspector, Cultural Services) , Mark Traynor (Streetscene Manager) , Mike Walker (Community Safety Team)
Apologies	Councillor Ann Bridson

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Minute Decision :

Cllr Doyle welcomed Steve Maddox, Chief Executive for Wirral MBC to the meeting, who wanted to speak briefly about the area forums.

Steve Maddox introduced himself, emphasising that the Local Authority is committed to the process of developing area forums. Forums are an effective way for people to access the Council and its elected members, and the Authority want to continually develop and improve them. He has undertaken to visit each of the area forums at least once a year to monitor how they are developing, and would like the public's views on what they think we should and should not do. He invited members of the public to speak to him at the end of the meeting, if there were any issues they wished to bring up. He also invited people to let him have any comments at the Town Hall or through their local councillors. He stated that he will be producing a report of his visits to the area forums with a series of recommendations. He stressed that the views of individuals do make a difference and that he wanted both positive and negative comments.

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. There were approximately 42 members of the public present.

Cllr Doyle introduced Keith LePoidevin from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, a new member of the Forum, to the panel. The Service will be represented at all of the area forums and are warmly welcomed as a valuable asset to the forums, as are already undertaking work within the community.

Cllr Doyle also pointed out to the public that a questionnaire had been left on their seats titled Equal Opportunities in Area Forums. He asked if they would complete the forms and pass them to Maxine at the end of the meeting.

Minute 2 - Minutes of the last meeting / matters arising

Cllr Doyle explained that the issues raised and matters arising from the previous meeting have been dealt with in the Area Co-Ordinator's Report under Section 1. He explained that members of the public would have an opportunity to comment on these later in the evening, under public question time.

A member of the Public, Mr Lennon said he wanted to challenge the minute on page 12 of the co-ordinators report. He had not said that what had been minuted. He had said that:

"The basis of concern was the likelihood that any decision by the Authority to conduct an investigation into an extension of the Oxton Conservation Area would be either influenced or dependant on the offer of a financial contribution by the Oxton Society towards the cost of such an investigation."

It was agreed to amend the minute to the wording provided by Mr Lennon.

Maxine explained that since her report had been compiled she had received an update on Eaton Place (the former site of the Met College on Borough Road). Mr Dade was unable to attend the meeting but had contacted Maxine on several of the issues raised, most of which have now been resolved.

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Minute Decision :

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Area Forum held on 12 October 2005 be confirmed, following the amendment to the wording requested by Mr Lennon.

Minute 3 - Correspondence

Maxine Joynson, Area Co-ordinator explained that she had received correspondence, as questions submitted in advance of the meeting, and it was agreed that they be dealt with under Public Question Time.

Minute 4 - Area co-ordinators report

Cllr Doyle said he wished to thank Maxine Joynson, Area Co-ordinator, for her detailed report and the work she had put into it.

Maxine referred to local updates on pages 25-50, particularly those from the Oxton Society, Prenton Tenants and Residents Association and the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.

With reference to the Community Initiative Fund, this funding has been fully allocated for this financial year; the next allocation will be available from mid-April. If anyone wishes to receive an application pack please give your details to Maxine who would arrange this.

The Local Area Plan sub-group has met twice and is working to align the issues section of the document with the identified four priority areas within the Local Area Agreement. These are:

- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Children and Young People
- Economic Development and Enterprise.

Cllr Doyle asked if there were any questions on Maxine's report but there were none.

Minute Decision :

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

Minute 5 - Public question time

Cllr Doyle explained that if full answers could not be given on the night, Maxine would follow these up in writing before the next meeting and include details in the next Area Co-ordinator's Report.

The following questions / issues were raised:

Alan Dollery - explained that he had raised the issue regarding drivers making U turns into Palmwood Close at the Forum 12 months ago. Part of the problem was due to lack of signage in the Asda supermarket and the refusal of a right-hand turn out of the carpark. He wondered if, as part of the Arrowe Park roundabout improvement works the possibility of a right turn out of Asda could be looked at again, as circumstances have not changed.

David Green – commented that he was disappointed to hear that, despite the alterations already made, circumstances have not changed. He agreed to contact ASDA and discuss this issue further.

Mr Richard Neale – raised issues concerning parking in the Woodchurch Road shopping and residential areas. He explained that retail businesses in Woodchurch Road are

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closing down (two since November and one in March) and that there are two for sale. He asked why the wardens only operated in a restricted area and asked if something was going to be done about this. He had personally seen the NCP wardens waiting to issue tickets, and feels that the local businesses have been penalised by their activities. Some leeway has been given with the proprietor of the newsagents, but this problem is continuing to cause a downward trend in this shopping area.

Cllr Doyle - explained that Maxine had also received an issue from a local shopkeeper, Mr McGregor, re: a recent incident where NCP wardens were booking cars whilst an armed robbery was taking on Woodchurch Road.

David Green - stated that there is nothing to suggest that NCP wardens are victimising people, they are just enforcing regulations. Although he is aware that local shopkeepers and residents do not agree with these regulations. For a number of years the Council has wondered how to come up with a solution, and now has clear directions from the Select Committee. A list of 400 requests is being prioritised and has identified funding for a full time traffic officer to undertake a review.

He did not agree that NCP wardens were standing around while a robbery was taking place and did nothing about it. They were unaware that this was happening, as it was on the opposite side of the road. He informed the Forum that he had photographs, at the time of the incident, of members of the public walking past the pizza shop, themselves unaware that an armed robbery was taking place.

Inspector Ian Shaw - confirmed that the Police do not have any information regarding traffic wardens being aware of the robbery and they are not in any case in radio contact with the Police. He reported that an armed response vehicle was deployed from Liverpool, an arrest was made and there has been a review of this incident which has not yet been completed.

Mr Neale thanked the Inspector for giving that explanation. He then commented further on residents parking, stating that in the road where he lives there are two different signs, which lead to confusion, and that the whole matter needed resolving.

Mrs Percy (member of the public) – commented that the pizza shop owner was a personal friend of hers and expressed her gratitude for the handling of the situation, but wondered why an armed response vehicle had been deployed from Liverpool.

Inspector Shaw - the vehicle normally located in the Wirral was assisting in the North Liverpool area, due to ongoing armed offences that had been happening there.

Mrs Percy asked what would have happened if there were four separate armed incidents in Wirral at one time.

Inspector Shaw - if required four vehicles would be deployed from Liverpool.

Cllr Holbrook - agreed with Mr Neale's assessment of the parking problems, due to the three separate systems in place within a few yards of each other. The Council has failed to get a grip of this problem and it will continue to be an issue until it is dealt with, and feels that this is a problem which should be placed near to the top of the list of priorities.

Cllr Doyle - commented that he had attended the Select Committee when the matter of the parking had been discussed, and there were many members of the public present from the Prenton area who were looking for a solution to the problem.

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Mr Lennon had submitted two questions via Maxine:

- i. it has recently become common practice for supporters of Tranmere Rovers to use the footway in Downing Close, off Fairview Road, as a car park. Is this an offence and possibly subject to a fixed penalty notice?
- ii. he enquired about the proposed use of the now closed HSBC bank in Oxtan village, and wondered if the General Practice operating on the busy Storeton Road/Woodchurch Road junction could consider relocating there?

- i. Inspector Ian Shaw - explained that he is often the duty inspector on match days at Tranmere, and this was the first time that this issue had been brought to his attention. He would ensure that officers would be deployed to review the situation and, if necessary, issue penalty notices. Cllr Williams stated that this problem has been referred to her in the past, although not recently.
- ii. Patrick Toosey - explained that he had asked his neighbour, who is a doctor from the practice, about this and he explained that it was not possible as they were close to locating to new premises in Townfield Lane. He added that it is hoped that the site can be used for some form of community use.

Pat Boyd had contacted Maxine about the proposed re-development of the Ingleborough Road playing fields by Tranmere Rovers F.C. It is their intention to develop their training ground at Ingleborough Road and she reported that the local residents have had meetings with Peter Johnson, Chairman of T.R.F.C. The plan incorporated daylight level floodlighting, with the training ground in use seven days a week, and car parking spaces on the field. They already experience problems with the training ground and wondered how the area would cope with these new proposals.

Cllr Holbrook replied that he had been invited to attend a meeting of the residents committee at which these proposals were outlined, and gave them some advice on:

- the processes and procedures that T.R.F.C. would have to go through to get approval for this development
- the planning policies which such an application would have to satisfy to go ahead.

At the moment T.R.F.C. are unwilling to share any information on this; they may have been sounding out local reaction before submitting an application. However, a planning application would be needed and, from his knowledge of the local planning policies, there would be considerable policy difficulties to overcome for a development of that scale and scope. Cllr Holbrook stated that it is difficult to say much more, as until an application is received from T.R.F.C., it is only speculation. If and when an application is made, then all the plans will come into the public domain and there will be an opportunity for everybody to put forward their cases. From the scale of the proposals, he believes that a development of that scale would be difficult to achieve, but may be scope for a modest application. T.R.F.C. are currently trying to upgrade their youth service; however, he reiterated it is only speculation at this stage and all we can do is wait for T.R.F.C. to make a planning application and deal with it when it arises.

Andrew Taylor, from the Tranmere Hall Estate Tenants and Residents Association, stated that T.R.F.C. had only consulted the residents because there was a covenant on the playing fields saying they must do so. The proposals meant that the field would be floodlit until ten o'clock at night seven days a week. In a secret ballot of local residents, 384 residents had voted against the proposals and only two were in favour. He emphasised that local residents are extremely angry by the proposal and that the Club's staff working on the site has not been told anything. They are due to meet again on 20th February and are hoping to get the Club to drop the proposal. He said there is no other sports field with floodlights on Merseyside in such close proximity to residential housing. The proposals included the widening of Ingleborough Road, the destruction of trees and

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a war memorial; The trees have only recently been planted by the Council and the pavements have only recently been repaired. T.R.F.C. are going to submit their plan on the basis that it will benefit the whole of Wirral, and the local residents are worried about this argument.

Mr Neale - wondered whether T.R.F.C. could upgrade their current facilities at Raby and use that. He also asked whether the current sponsorship of Tranmere Rovers by the Council would create any problems.

Steve Maddox - replied that this problem should be directed to the elected members.

Cllr Holbrook - said that everybody in the Borough would be happy to have this facility, but it would have to be located in a position where it would not cause any problems to local residents.

Steve Maddox - stated that the integrity of the planning system is important. Wirral Borough Council deal with planning issues solely on planning grounds. The sponsorship of Tranmere Rovers exists because of all the benefits and enjoyment which it brings to the Wirral. However, any planning application would have to take into account the impact that such a development would have on local residents.

Mr Taylor - complained that if a petition is given to the planning officers, it never reaches the Councillors.

Steve Maddox - offered to discuss this with Mr Taylor after the meeting, explaining that if the planning officers receive a petition, the substance of that petition is passed to the appropriate committee.

Cllr Doyle - reported that that was the end of the pre-submitted questions and invited questions from the floor:

Mr Dowling - queried the recent increase in charges to use the Council's leisure facilities. He had recently been charged £1.90 to use the Woodchurch swimming pool (instead of the usual £1.40). He wondered why there has been such an increase at a time when the public is being encouraged to exercise. He also commented that a member of his family, who works for the Council, has only received a 2.3% annual pay increase.

Cllr Kelly explained that the Council have to set a balanced budget and, although people tend to think in terms of wage rises and the rate of inflation, a large proportion of the Council's expenditure is in other areas. He also stated that the leisure services budget is overspent by £11,000,000 and the Council has had to take measures to correct this. He also pointed out that swimming pools are expensive to heat and that he was expecting to receive a report to bring energy costs under control.

Mrs Percy - queried the £30,000,000 budget for staff wages as displayed in the Council's budget literature.

Steve Maddox - explained that in the pie chart she was referring to, 85% goes on the workforce. The Council ensures that its workforce receive the nationally agreed rate of pay, this is necessary to secure the best people for the jobs or and to ensure retention of good staff.

Mr Higgins (member of the public) wondered if the increase in sports facilities across the Borough was being used to fund the cost of works to accommodate traffic for The Open golf tournament in the summer.

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Mr Jim Lester - replied that prices have risen above inflation to meet a deficit in the budget. The increase of around 38% was a difficult decision to make but it has increased income. Other measures taken have included staff reductions and cuts in staff working hours. He explained that leisure facilities raise £8,000,000 per year and is aware that they are in a competitive market.

Mr Higgins - pointed out that a large proportion of the people using the leisure services are pensioners.

Mr Lester - reiterated that the price increase had been a difficult decision but that this is the first year that there has been a rise above inflation.

Mr Alan Dollery - stated that a new youth group is due to open on 2nd March in Prenton Dell, thanks to the Community Initiative Funding. He also commented on the state of the area around the Prenton Dell shops (a problem he has raised previously). It is an unadopted area and the Council have not had the money to restore it to an acceptable standard. Wirral Partnership Homes are taking this over and it will be adopted but he wondered how long this is likely to be?

Mr David Green - it will be in the near future but am unsure of exactly when. It will cost approximately £500,000 to bring the area up to standard and inspectors will be recruited, to take over responsibility. This will be implemented in the next few months.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that:

- i. David Green to
 - contact Asda for further discussion regarding ongoing issues at Palmwood Close
 - keep the forum informed of developments about the transfer of the Prenton Dell area;
- ii. members of the public be requested to contact their local ward Councillors regarding areas of concern about TRFC;
- iii. Steve Maddox to liaise with Andrew Taylor over submission of petitions.

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

Richard Jones from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) gave a presentation on the consultation arrangements in Wirral on the new PCT arrangements. He explained that following a government announcement in July 2005, Strategic Health Authorities had asked PCT's to look at new arrangements for their future set up. PCT's in Cheshire and Merseyside have proposed to reduce from 15 down to 7. The consultation period runs from 14 December 2005 till 22 March 2006.

He explained there were 3 options for Wirral:

Option 1 – no change

Option 2 – a new PCT covering the Borough of Wirral

Option 3 – a combined PCT for Wirral, City of Chester, Crewe & Nantwich, Ellesmere Port & Neston and Vale Royal

Option 4 – a new PCT covering Wirral and the County of Cheshire

He explained that the preferred option was a new PCT covering the Borough of Wirral. Depending on the outcome a new organisation will be established between 1 July 2006 and 1 October 2006.

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He explained that the public could make their views known by completing the form in the consultation document, several copies of which he had brought with him. In addition there were consultations on the future of the Strategic Health Authority and Ambulance Trusts and he gave information on their proposals for change.

Members of the public raised the following questions:

What difference will this make to patients?

Richard - there would be considerable cost savings, of approximately £250 million, across the board, which could be fed back into patient care, choice, etc. There will also be greater powers for G.P.s in commissioning services.

How will this maximise patient choice?

Richard - there is a national strategy around patient choice, which will be at G.P. level.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Richard Jones be thanked for his presentation.

Minute 7 - Opportunities in Waste Recycling

Cllr Doyle introduced Geof Kaufman, to give a presentation on recycling.

Geof explained that these were very interesting times for the people of Wirral, and that we were at the forefront of recycling on Merseyside. He pointed out that the current recycling target for Wirral is 26% by 2006, and that if this is not met then there will be financial penalties for Wirral.

Recycling is currently being carried out in Wirral and includes:

- Tranmere Box Scheme – covering 15,000 households where the waste is sorted at the kerb-side
- Borough wide Paper Scheme
- 95,000 Sack Garden Waste Service
- 21 Bring Sites
- 45 Bottle Banks

He explained there is a short-term strategy starting with a pilot scheme, that will include parts of both the Oxton and Prenton wards, which will begin on 18 April 2006, and a medium-term strategy, covering the same area, starting in September 2006.

The short-term strategy includes the start of Bio-bin Phase 1 (kitchen/garden waste) and involves

- 20,000 properties
- 16 Service Rounds
- An additional 240 litre wheeled bins (brown) – opt in
- No change to collection day
- Kitchen-caddy provided
- Material to feed In Vessel Composter (IVC)
- MRF facility.

He explained that the IVC is a means of speeding up the way green waste decomposes, and that the MRF is a means of sorting glass, plastic, paper, cardboard and metal - dealt with at Bidston. There is also an educational centre for the public and schools.

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The medium-term strategy will include alternate weekly collection of Dry Recyclables & Residual Waste, including 240 litre wheeled bins for dry recyclates and no change to collection day.

Dry recyclates include

- Paper
- Glass
- Cans
- Cardboard
- Plastics

The medium-term aim is to:

- Extend the bio-bin service to a maximum 40,000 properties
- Replace all sack collections of green waste to 55,000 properties
- Introduce new dry recycle collections to 150,000 properties
- Provide approximately 120,000 wheeled bins
- Provide approximately 30,000 boxes

It is therefore very important that the pilot is a success, and every effort will be put in to advertising and promoting it. Hopefully, as a result of all the measures being taken, the recycling figure will be in excess of 30%.

Geof then answered the following questions from members of the public:

Has the Council looked at other authorities when deciding on their own scheme (have recently moved to the area - in previous area the recycling bins were bigger than the non recycling bins).

Geoff - confirmed that other areas had been looked at. He welcomed this information and explained that this would hopefully be Wirral's longer-term aim.

Alan Dollery - what would happen at flats that had communal bins?

Geoff - explained that the aim initially is to deal with the majority of households, followed by a scheme for the flats.

Andrew Taylor - asked for comments on the large queues at the Clatterbridge waste site, which he feels is due to its poor design. He has seen cars leaving the queue and wondered where they are going to leave their rubbish.

Geoff – I am unable to answer this as am new to the Borough; however, I am in regular contact with the Waste Disposal Authority and will take this issue up with them. He offered to take Mr Taylor's full details and promised to get back to him.

Cllr Doyle - explained that there would be extensive advertising to help promote the scheme to the public, including visits to local schools.

Geof – commented that there would be information in the local press, radio and area forums. He also stressed that it should be a two-way communication, not just about telling people but about listening to people's views.

Denise Realey (member of the public) - queried why pubs and clubs are not recycling

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their glass bottles.

Geof - they are being encouraged to recycle but that the commercial side could do much more. Commercial waste is dealt with by the private sector; and feels that the Government could do more to pressurise the private sector to do more to recycle.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that:

- i. Geof Kaufman be thanked for his presentation;
- ii. an update be provided to the forum at the next meeting about the scheme;
- iii. Geof Kaufman to liaise with Andrew Taylor over the issue at Clatterbridge

Minute 8 - Wirral Healthy Communities

It was agreed not to cover this item as no one from Wirral Healthy Communities was at the forum.

Minute 9 - Community Safety Questions

Mike Walker informed the forum that literature on Community Safety would be made available at the end of the meeting. He said that Wirral is still a safe place to live.

Minute 10 - Dates of future meetings

Cllr Doyle pointed out that there was a typing error in the co-ordinator's report which read the next meeting was to be held on Monday 12th June 2005 not 2006.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th June 2006 at Woodchurch Road Primary School.

It was agreed to have two presentations, from the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and on Youth Participation through the Area Forums and New Children's Services.

An update on the Recycling scheme would also be welcomed.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that presentations on Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and the Youth Participation through the Area Forums and New Children's Services be arranged.

Minute 11 - Any other business Oxtton Festival

Cllr Doyle announced that on the following weekend the Rangers Service are giving away British native trees free of charge, whilst stocks last. He gave out two phone numbers for information purposes.

Cllr Doyle informed the forum that he had received one item of any other business concerning the proposed Oxtton Festival.

Mr Jim Lester confirmed that an application has been received for a two-day festival on 1st and 2nd July 2006. He is aware that there have been complaints about this in the past therefore it was suggested that this issue be brought up at the Area Forum. He has also received a letter, signed by some local residents, objecting to the proposal, with a request for feedback. He feels a decision should be made on this as soon as possible.

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Cllr Doyle asked if anybody wished to comment on the proposal.

A member of the public (from Storeton Road) - stated that is affected by the noise. There is strong feeling from other people living in Storeton Road that it is the wrong location for that level of noise.

A member of the public - asked if an alternative location could be found?

Mr Realey - replied that he wants to create a music and art event, which will give people access to art forms that they would not normally go to see. The original application was to hold the event in the quarry area of The Arno, but that was objected to. And it was suggested it be moved down to Storeton Road – leading to the Storeton Road playing fields being chosen. He feels it has worked well, as it is in a good central position, with good access for public transport, its only other use is for dog walking, and it only has houses on one side of the road. He accepts that it can cause some disruption but asks for tolerance. He has done what he can to rectify previous complaints, for example, the toilets. He requested that a decision be made on this soon to enable the event to be planned.

Jim Lester replied that there are a number of sites across the Borough and that there would be no problem holding the festival in Birkenhead Park.

Mr Poole (member of the public) said that he believes that the noise is cited too close to the houses and suggested it be moved further down the field away from the houses.

Mr Realey said there were half hour intervals between bands, denying claims of constant thumping. With regard to the suggestion of holding the festival in Birkenhead Park, he stated that he doesn't think it would work in Birkenhead Park and feels that an Oxton Festival should be held in Oxton.

A member of the public wanted it minuted that the mobile phone mast at the Shaftsbury Club has now been removed, thanks mainly to the Mount Residents and Tenants Association petition and all concerned who objected to the company who put up the mast without permission. Perhaps in the future, the powers that be should consider that the ordinary members of the public should be listened to.

As there was no further business Cllr Doyle closed the meeting at 9.10 p.m.

Matters Arising

The following issues were raised prior to the last forum but unfortunately too late to be included in my last report.

Eaton Place (former site of College, Borough Road) – Mr Dade contacted me about problems with the following:

1. Wimpey sign (in tatters)
2. Boundary treatments (wanted to know when this would be finalised)
3. Unsecured gate (keeps getting left open allowing young people to enter the site at night)
4. Slope/ramp – when will this be removed and how

I spoke to Dave Walsh, Site Manager. He has since contacted Mr Dade directly and faxed me further information on the issues raised. The ramp has now been removed without risk to nearby properties, new banners and flags have been ordered. The gate is now locked and will be checked every night. Site boundary details have yet to be finalised, as soon as more info is available Dave will contact Mr Dade directly and also George Ho whose property may also be affected.

Alan Dollery - issue originally raised 12 months ago re: drivers making u-turns in Palmwood Close due to poor signage at Asda. Can Technical Services please re-visit if traffic lights can be put in. Technical Services have attempted to resolve this somewhat by approaching Asda requesting for improved signs to be erected and also by narrowing the road.

Alan also referred to the poor condition of the area around the Prenton Dell shops which has also been raised previously.

Dave Green was at the area forum and responded to these on the evening but also agreed to contact Asda for further discussion regarding the ongoing problems at Palmwood Close and to keep the forum informed of developments about the transfer of the Prenton Dell area. His response is as follows:

In relation to Asda, Geoff Bell advises that he has been in contact with their agents in the last couple of weeks and they are at long last arranging a sign in the service yard to give improved directions to the M53 North and South routes and use of the M53 junction 3 roundabout. It is not feasible to introduce additional altered traffic routes in the Asda junction layout owing to physical constraints and the potential congestion that would ensure for traffic exiting the M53 or travelling along Woodchurch.

In relation to the second point about devt transfer of the Prenton Dell area and the pavement behind the shops, Mark Traynor advises me that the area behind the shops has in fact been resurfaced, but negotiations with WPH are still ongoing in relation to that area becoming adopted. A further two areas are due to be reconstructed, but due to programming difficulties we cannot give you an exact date at the moment, but the work is

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in hand. I further understand that improvements may be limited due to the fact that they may include expensive diversion work due to statutory undertakers apparatus in the area.

Richard Neale - Woodchurch Road shopping/business area - Retail businesses are closing down - two since November and one this March. Two others have 'For Sale' signs. Reasons include increased council business charges and NCP wardens' penalising motorists in the area.

Which comes first in the order of priorities - local community interests, maintenance of traffic clearways, or funding Wirral Borough Council?

Why is it that for the entire length of Woodchurch Road NCP wardens seem only to operate in the small area of that shopping/business area between Bryanston and Elm Park Roads?

Steve Atkins has responded to Mr Neale however Dave Green was in attendance at the forum and responded directly.

Ian McGregor – phoned me regarding ongoing concerns with NCP wardens and the recent armed robbery that took place on Woodchurch Road. Again, Dave Green and both Inspectors responded on the evening.

Alfred Lennon emailed me on 01/02/06 with the following:

- 1) *There is an issue for which it may be appropriate for Merseyside Police to indicate, to the Area Forum, proposals to deal with the concerns arising. It has recently become common practise for supporters at Tranmere Rovers home games to use the footway in Downing Close off Fairview Road as a car park. I believe this to be an offence subject to the possibility of a fixed penalty notice. It is of course a concern to the Local Authority because of the potential to damage the footway incurring a cost to Council Taxpayers, not to mention the offence and inconvenience caused to local residents and other road users.*
- 2) *Following discussion with some other interested residents I have agreed to raise the issue of alternative uses for the HSBC bank site in Oxton village. It is now accepted that the bank will cease trading shortly.*

Currently many local residents are registered with the General Practice operating from converted residential premises situated at Storeton Road/Woodchurch Road. It is doubtful if many of the patients, or any of the households located adjacent to the Surgery premises, consider either the premises or its location as remotely suitable for a modern General Practice.

It may be possible and useful to float the idea with the local Health Trust representative on the Area forum for the site of the HSBC bank to be considered as

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

a more suitable alternative to the current premises from which the General Practice operates.

- 1) Mr Lennon's enquiry was sent to both Inspector's ahead of the forum and to the Chair for information.
- 2) With regard to GP premises, I emailed Richard Jones prior notice of this as he will be attending the next forum meeting. Patrick Toosey may also be in a position to address this further at the forum

Pat Boyd contacted me by telephone regarding the proposed re-development of the Ingleborough Road playing fields by TRFC following consultation leaflets being delivered by Tranmere Hall Estate Residents. I contacted Andrew Taylor who emailed me the following information:

On 30th January, Officers of Tranmere Rovers met with the Committee of the Tranmere Hall Estate Residents. They placed before us a proposal concerning Ingleborough field.

TRFC have made no planning application. They regard themselves to be at the stage of consulting local residents. We are in the processing of determining residents' opinion of the proposals by means of a residents ballot which is not yet completed. We will then meet with TRFC Officers again on 28 February to put resident's views to them.

Given the nature of Tranmere Rovers proposals, it is entirely understandable that an individual resident should make enquiries of you. However, we are in the middle of discussions with TRFC and both sides agreed not to make any formal approaches to the Council at this stage. Of course, it may be an entirely different matter after 28 February.

David Bird – Duck Pond Lane open space – questions received on night of the forum

- Who owns the land, if not the Council (also the Arno).
- Has the Council determined the 'land use' to continue as an open space.
- What was the result of the consultation around a year ago, on the building of a children's play area, are there any other plans in the pipeline.
- Is there a 'Friends of Duck Pond Lane' or alternatively have any local residents expressed an interest in setting one up?
- What is the planned routine maintenance for this areas eg; frequency of grass cutting, tree pruning and tending of the roses in the Arno. Does a 'volunteer tree warden' patrol the area. Do any trees have preservation orders on them eg the small copse adjacent to St Saviour's Primary School.
- Has a survey ever been done of the birds, trees and wild flowers found in the space

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An email was sent to Mr Bird on 16/02/06 with regard to the play area giving a link to previous reports with regard to consultation results and further updates including Friends of Oxtan Play Area who were successful in securing £1000 to install two Spicas at the play area to be sited on Storeton Playing Fields to complement the scheme.

Andrew Fraser, Principal Forward Planning Officer responded with the following:

Further to your query from Mr Bird, with regard to the land at Duck Pond Lane and the Arno, I believe that the land referred to is owned by the Council.

The land is designated as Urban Greenspace for protection from development in the Unitary Development Plan adopted in February 2000 (site reference GR2/17 - Holm Lane Recreation Ground and the Arno). The Urban Greenspace boundary includes the allotments but excludes the car parks to the rear of Kwik Save and Sainsbury's, which are shown as part of the adjacent District Centre.

UDP Policy GR1 provides the Council's land-use planning policy for land designated as Urban Greenspace:

Policy GR1 - The Protection of Urban Greenspace

On land designated as Urban Greenspace, facilities for visitors, sport or play will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposals would not:

- (i) prejudice the continued use of the site for open air recreation; or**
- (ii) prejudice the visual amenity, landscape character or nature conservation value of the site.**

Development for other purposes on land designated as Urban Greenspace, other than for the re-use of existing buildings, will not be permitted unless alternative provision of equivalent community benefit is made available.

Roger Calvert provided the following which was emailed to Mr Bird on 21/02/06

We do not have a friends of Duck Pond Lane, or for the sites themselves. There are two sites divided by Duck Pond Lane. To the east is Storeton Road Playing Fields and to the west Holm Lane Recreation Ground but we manage it as one site.

There has been no previous interest in forming a friends Group for this site but we would encourage and support any new group. If you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me.

The sites do receive routine maintenance, in particular the grass is cut approximately every two weeks in the Summer, litter picking once per week and tree work is undertaken when necessary.

You also ask about the Arno Rose Garden which receives additional attention to maintain the rose bed such as weed control, edging and pruning.

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There are no tree preservation orders on the trees.

As far as I am aware there has never been a survey of birds, trees and wild flowers.

Geof Kaufman agreed to liaise with Andrew Taylor over the issue at Clatterbridge where there are large queues.

Also to update the forum at the next meeting on pilot recycling scheme.

Richard Neale emailed me on 27 April with following:

Could you please pass on the following observation to those responsible for supervision and maintenance of the new playground at the foot of Duck Pond Lane.

It is pleasing to see the new facilities being enjoyed by young children. BUT I was concerned to see this morning a male adult sitting on one of the seats watching his child and who was drinking out of Carling Black Label can at the same time.

Is it possible for some advice to be placed asking that the playground area should be an alcohol free zone? I dread to think of the consequences should a bottle ever be broken within the grounds.

Roger Calvert responded with following on the same day

Thanks for your recent Email regarding the recently constructed play area. Unfortunately we have no powers to ban alcohol from the childrens play area. We do however make every effort to keep childrens play areas free of glass and other litter. Thank you for your interest and concerns about the play area.

Presentations

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service wish to have the opportunity to give a presentation about the innovative community safety initiatives they are delivering on Wirral and how they effect those particular areas. This will now be covered on a regular basis at each area forum by way of 'Partner Updates' which will also include the Police and Community Safety.

The Youth Service would like to give a presentation to the forum on '**Youth Participation through the Area Forums and New Children's Services**'.

An update on the Recycling scheme will also be given on the evening.

Future meetings

The date of the next area forum is Tuesday 17 October 2006 and possibly to be held at the Shaftsbury Youth Club as an alternative venue.

Section Two

Local Updates

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

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

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

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

SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES

New community police station opens in Wirral 30 January 2006

A new mobile police station opening in Wirral aims to make a positive impact on areas suffering high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Wirral's Community Safety Team has launched a new Community Police Station to help cut crime and anti-social behaviour. The aim of the unit is for the community to see and feel reassured about the reduction in crime and anti social behaviour in their neighbourhood when the community police station is present.

Funded by Wirral Council and staffed by Police Officers, Community Support Officers, Council Security Patrols - and soon to be the base of a Community Development Officer - the fully functional unit will be deployed into areas suffering high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The unit will be moved approximately 6 times during the year remaining in those communities long enough to make a significant impact on the quality of life of residents in the area.

The station is currently based in Highfield Road, Rock Ferry, following numerous complaints from residents about anti social behaviour in the area.

Acting Area Commander for Wirral, Superintendent John Young said: "We fully support this initiative, it ties into our style of neighbourhood policing in that we are able to move and site the community police station in areas we have identified through intelligence as being 'hotspots' for Anti-Social Behaviour. We want to reassure communities living in these areas that we are taking positive action to address local issues.

"Dedicated officers will work from the station, getting into the heart of the community to address and problem solve local quality of life concerns and issues. We want to encourage local residents to speak with the police officers and use the opportunity to communicate any concerns they have and pass on any information about those involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour activities."

The Community Police Station will bring the work of Wirral's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to the communities that need it most. Equipped with CCTV cameras producing high quality images, a public enquiry office and linked to networked computers, the alarmed unit has all the facilities of a modern office.

Leaflets will inform local communities of the unit's opening hours for public enquiries but the Community Police Station can be open at any time for use by the patrols working in that area.

The work of the Community Development Worker will be to build up public awareness and confidence so residents know where and who to turn to if crime levels rise once the Community Police Station moves on to its next location.

Wirral Council Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Councillor George Davies said: "We see this Police Station as another opportunity to bring the work of community safety into the heart of Wirral's communities and to tackle the local issues that are blighting our resident's quality of life."

Oxton Society – Patrick Toosey

Much time and effort has been spent recently by a large number of folk helping to get ready for Oxton's big annual Secret Garden Event. This year we hope for good weather on Sunday May 14th. To give some idea of what is involved it is hoped 24 gardens will open, two local churches will open their doors at least 10 groups of local musicians will be playing, around 300 volunteers will be performing 2 hour shifts on various duties, and there will be all sorts of other events going on like plant sales, refreshments, punch & Judy, Barrell Organ, Pony rides etc. This year for the first time the Mayor will be present on her very last day in Office. She will travel around the Event in the West Kirby Residential School mini bus, which was financed in large part by the Secret Garden 2004. We hope for a fine day and large crowds as this year we are supporting no less than 6 local charities.

There has been a great deal of local concern about the closure of the H.S.B.C. Branch in Oxton. A very large petition was sent to the Bank and a letter also went to the Chairman of H.S.B.C. Neither of these had any effect on the decision but at least we received a very detailed and courteous reply from the Deputy Chief Executive. This reply gave some pretty strong reasons for the closure. However there is some better news in that H.S.B.C. has promised to maintain the cash point in the village which is good news as the cash point is essential to the Traders in the village. Also H.S.B.C. have so far been very co-operative with regard to the sale and future use of the building/site. They have given every impression that they will vet the offers made for the site and try hard to accept the one that will produce some general benefit for the village. Blocks of flats and off licences do not seem to be on their agenda either.

Work has started on the possible project for a new Conservation area in Noctorum broadly around the Wirral Ladies Golf Club. The initial survey has been done but there is much further work still to be done - long term project.

There has been an incident in Devonshire Road of the theft of YORK STONE. It is felt this was a 'Steal to order' job but it is very sad. The theft was on the pavement in front of a listed building and of course it does not make Life easy for the Council to find suitable replacements from both cost and size perspective. However in discussion with local Residents, the Oxton Society and Councillor Pat Williams suitable replacements are being progressed'

A rash of car tyre slashing took place almost in the centre of the village and this will hopefully push people in the direction of considering CCTV in the VILLAGE CENTRE.

The three Birkenhead School Buildings on the corner of Shrewsbury Road and Kingsmead Road South have now been knocked down by the Developers and more flats will appear - what a tragedy.

Prenton Tenants & Residents Association – Alan Dollery

The "Dell Car" park project situated off Melford Avenue next to the Power station has been under heavy siege by Groundwork who are overseeing the work carried being carried out there, the PTRA are pleased with it's progress as to are the Residents of the Area. The final outcome will be a nature reserve come leisure area it will be a nice place to visit in the summer evenings were a picnic would not go amiss (this is not an invitation to the under age drinkers, or a toilet for dogs)

The opening of the "CLUB" in Prenton Hall Road is another achievement that has taken some time to get of the ground, Alan Dollery Sue Mearns, along with the Staff from the resource centre have worked very hard to achieve this outcome. The "Club" caters for the young/youth of Prenton and at this moment in time is only open twice a week, Monday 6-0pm to 8-0pm for the 8 to 12 year olds, and Thursday 7-0pm to 9-0pm for the over 13yrs, up to 25 can visit at a time on a first come first served basis.

The "Club is desperate for a helper for the Broadband Internet we need an experienced person to keep an eye on what the children are up to, if you can help please contact Alan Dollery 07931841981, indeed if you would like to help run the club please contact the same.

Shop Re-surface; After a long campaign the roads behind the shops in Prenton Hall Road have now been re-surfaced many thanks to the Staff at the WPH Woodchurch office for their constant help, and funding;

AGM: The PTRA held their Annual General Meeting on March 30th, Alan Dollery was re-elected as Chair, Alan Bell as Secretary, and Marjorie Allsop as Treasurer, all other committee members were re-elected.

Business plans for the coming year; try and get full funding for CCTV around the shopping area.

Get involved with the local school and their facilities, and supply after school activities for all the children of Prenton.

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE



Churches Together in Wirral

Representing christian opinion across the borough

Survey of Faith Community Activity in Wirral:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 April 2006

A report and DVD into the challenges faced by disabled people in Wirral will be launched on April 21 at the Lauries Centre in Birkenhead.

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

The report and DVD will be launched officially by Wirral's Mayor, Cllr Chris Meaden, and will feature presentations by six teams of disabled people and service providers who worked together for six months. The presentations focus on how disabled people can overcome challenges and make services more accessible.

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

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

- Making a film about access to public amenities entitled "A Great Day Out! (NOT)!"
- Exploring issues around people's perceptions of risk, and how this can limit disabled people's choices and independence.
- Exploring accessible toilets in the Wirral area.
- Producing a package to raise awareness of disability among primary school children.
- Assessing local venues, looking at access and attitudes.
- Focussing on "the words we use", which relate to disability issues.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And one positive change in Kathy's life is the DARE Foundation's Step up to Learning Course. The course is accredited by the Open College Network and aims to get disabled people back into education or employment.

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

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

24th April 2006

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

It will fund activities over the next two years for older people to access the borough's six swimming pools.

Wirral is one of only seven areas picked by the Amateur Swimming Association to take on the pioneering new scheme. The scheme, which has been funded by both the Council and Sport England, aims to look at the barriers to swimming and provide best practice examples to affect a culture change across the country. Wirral will now lead the way in encouraging older people into the pool for leisure, fitness and fun.

The Council's Head of Cultural Services Jim Lester said: "We are delighted to have been chosen as the pilot for the Everyday Swim campaign. "Our Everyday Swim project will focus on increasing the percentage of older people swimming and swimming regularly in Wirral. "We will seek to widen access for the increasing older population of Wirral through the introduction of targeted free sessions at each of our six swimming pools."

The seven successful authorities were whittled down from a list of more than 30 applicants and each pilot will focus on a different potential audience who could benefit from regular

swimming – including obese adults and children, disabled people and, as in Wirral’s case, older people.

Wirral’s pilot will be further developed over the coming weeks. Everyday Swim ambassador and Olympic gold medalist Duncan Goodhew believes the chosen pilots have real potential for making a difference:

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

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

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Life Education Centres (Wirral)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

During the school year which started in September 2004 the mobile classroom visited over 50 schools and provided a valuable learning experience to more than 11,000 Wirral children. In addition many parents have attended the unit and can offer enhanced assistance to their children. The value of the service we provide can be measured by the fact that schools have requested return visits for this current year. We are hoping to reach even more children this year.

Of course our service is not without cost. Each visit is highly subsidised by the Life Education Centre. In order to continue with this valuable work Life Education needs to raise £46000 annually.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE

Tourism partners announce plans for The Open Championship 2006

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Open Championship also represents an opportunity to showcase the area to potential inward investors. 11.5% of visitors come from overseas, 44% of overseas visitors from the United States. Activity will also be focussed upon bringing new investors to The Open Championship to experience at first hand what Wirral and the wider Northwest has to offer. Peter Mearns, Director of Marketing for the Northwest Regional Development Agency explained the significance of the Championship to the whole of the Northwest:

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

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

CROSS CUTTING

Wirral projects recognised in environmental 'oscars'

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

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

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

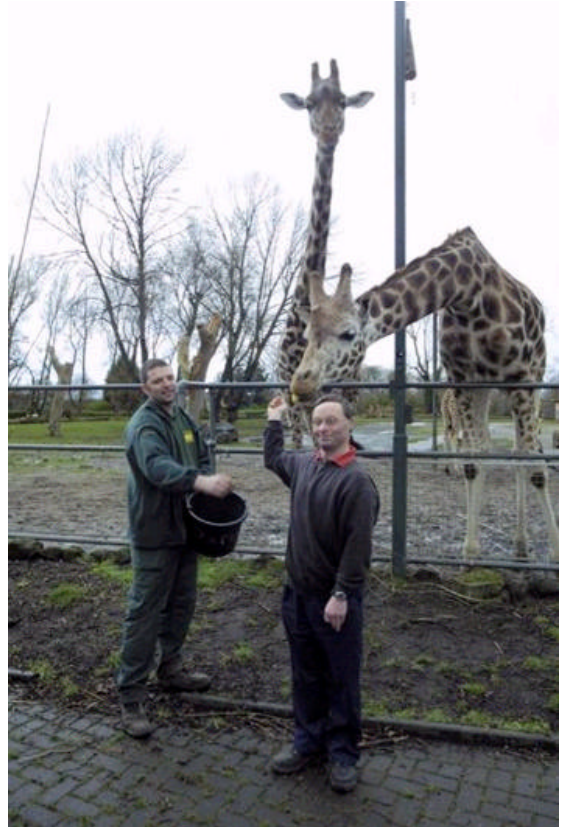
Chief Executive of Wirral Council, Steve Maddox said: "It is tremendously encouraging to see schools, communities and businesses in Wirral taking positive action in their local areas. Grove Street is a glowing example of a school that engages and inspires everyone to take responsibility for their environment,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

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

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

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

One of the most unusual projects to be honored was the Royden Park Project – a partnership between Wirral Council's Social Services, Friends of Royden Park and



Chester Zoo which provides gourmet meals for giraffes as part of a woodland management plan!

Local Agenda 21 Awards - Wirral Winners February 2006

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

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

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

Shortlisted projects over all categories were:

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

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

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

Thank you

Sue Weldon

Local Agenda 21 Co-ordinator/Metropolitan Borough of Wirral

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

Groundwork Merseyside Local Agenda 21 Awards February 2006 (Full List)

Community

The Knowsley Partnership Sustainable Health Award

Winner : Mansion House Kitchen Garden - Surestart Central (St Helens)
Runner up: Envigorise (St Helens)

Liverpool Culture Company Changing Places Award

Winner : Linear Park Community Project (St Helens)
Runner up: Scarecrow Festival – Thornton Hough Village Trust

St Helens Together Changing Lives Award

Winner: BNBEAG (Wirral)
Runner up: Planet (St Helens)

Groundwork Schools Physical Environmental Improvement Award

Winner: St Theresa's RC Primary School (St Helens)
Runner Up: Moss Lodge Community Environmental Centre (St Helens)

Liverpool City Council Sustainable Schools Award

Winner: Grove Street Primary (Wirral)
Runner up: St. Teresa's Primary (Devon Street St Helens)

Environmental Communication Award

Winner: Outreach for Older People (Knowsley)
Runner up: Fairtrade in Wirral- Local Agenda 21 Forum

Community Project of the Year

Winner: BNBEAG (Wirral)

Business Awards

St Helens Health Partnership Sustainable Health Award

Winner: Bum Deal Nappy Project (St Helens)
Runner up: Wirral Warm Homes

Changing Places Award

Winner: Taylor Park Restoration (St Helens)
Runner up: Graffiti Removal Service (St Helens)

MERBEN H, S & E Management for Public Sector

Winner: Sustainability Matters (Knowsley)
Runner up: Krafty the Kerbside Fox (Wirral - Road Safety Section)

NQA H,S & E Management Award for Business

Winner: South Liverpool Commercials
Runner up: LIS (North Western) (St Helens)

Environment Agency Energy, Water, Waste Management for Public Sector

Winner: Knowsley Energy Team
Runner up: Wirral Cosy Homes

Sefton Council Energy, Water, Waste Management for Business

Winner: WF Doyle & Co Ltd (Liverpool)
Runner up: LIS (North Western) (St Helens)

MBW Environmental Innovation & Technology Award

Winner: Eco Warrior Energy Monitoring System (Knowsley)
Runner up: Airpac- OMNIQ (Wirral)

Riverside Housing Community Stewardship for Public Sector

Winner: Safer Spaces Better Places (Knowsley)
Runner up: St Peter's Community Heritage Project (St Helens)

Knowsley Council Community Stewardship for Business

Winner: Wirral Independent Recycling Enterprise
Joint Runners up: Yew Tree Farm (Knowsley) and
Royden Park Project

Shell UK Oil Environment Communication Award

Joint Winners: Sefton Environmental Information Pack and
Knowsley Pride Campaign
Runner up: Knowsley Energy Play

St Helens Council Environmental Business of the Year

SME Winner: WF Doyle & Co Ltd (Liverpool)
Non SME Winner : Mayfield Construction Ltd (St Helens)

Royal approval for new park pavilion

HRH The Duke of Gloucester will officially open Birkenhead Park's new £1m pavilion on Monday (April 10).

The new pavilion is expected to attract visitors from across the UK and beyond when it opens to the public later this month.

It is intended as a modern day showpiece for the park - which been refurbished and renovated over the past two years, with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), European Regional Development Fund, Single Regeneration Budget and English Heritage.

The building will house a café, classroom and an exhibition gallery and will also provide educational opportunities for both school children and adults on historic and environmental issues.

Its glass design took inspiration from the park's original architect Sir Joseph Paxton who also designed the famous glass house at Crystal Palace.

The Duke, a former architect, has requested to see the building and talk to those who built and designed it.

Welcoming the visit, Steve Maddox, Chief Executive, Metropolitan Borough of Wirral, said: "We are delighted that HRH the Duke of Gloucester is to officially open the new pavilion at Birkenhead Park.

"The pavilion is an impressive centrepiece to this exciting regeneration scheme which will see the park restored to its former glory. As well as welcoming visitors and acting as a focal point for information about the park and its surroundings, it will be an important community facility, with meeting rooms and exhibition space for local people.

"We hope that the Duke, with his interest in architecture, will be as happy with the progress of this ambitious scheme as we are," he added.

The Duke will be given a guided tour of the park, including the lakes, Swiss Bridge, Boathouse and Grand Entrance.

He will also meet local children who will display artwork at the pavilion, before unveiling a plaque to commemorate the official opening.

HLF's regional manager, Tony Jones, said: "We've committed £7.4 million towards the restoration of the park and we are pleased to see work progressing to ensure the park reaches its full potential as a haven for local people."

Wirral Transport Users Association – Mr A T Garrett, Secretary

The Wirral Transport Users Association welcomed the opportunity to have had some input into the Oxton / Prenton Area Forum Plan.

Electrification of the Bidston (Birkenhead) – Upton – Heswall – Shotton – Wrexham Railway Line with at least a half hourly service.

Direct access to Birkenhead Shopping Centre (Conway Park) and around the Liverpool Loop to Liverpool Town Centre stations of James Street, Moorfields, Lime Street and Liverpool Central.

Installation of a new railway station at the railway bridge, Woodchurch Road, Prenton to serve the largest residential area would give quick access to employment opportunities both in Birkenhead and Liverpool but particularly on the Deeside Industrial Park, Shotton (22 minutes by train).

We believe the residents in this forum area are entitled to good bus / train services and facilities. The Merseytravel Policy Strategy Document should contain measures to control Wirral bus services.

Our Association hopes these schemes will be put into effect quickly during the Local Transport Plan 2.



Community Project Grants

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

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

Aims:

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

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

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

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

How to get involved:

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

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

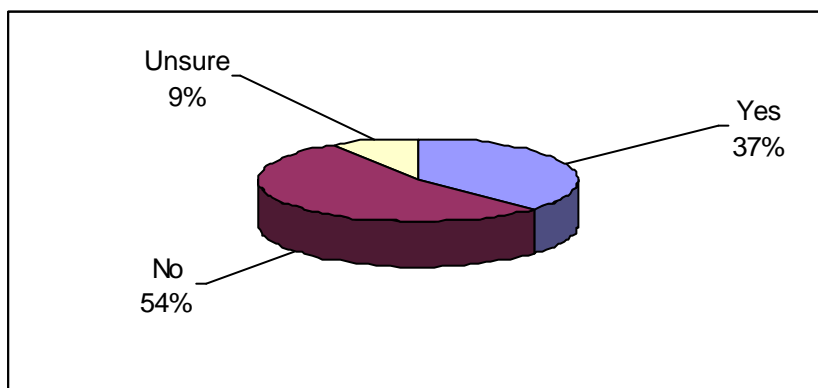
Results of Citizens Panel Consultation Questionnaire on the Area Forums and Community Initiatives Fund

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

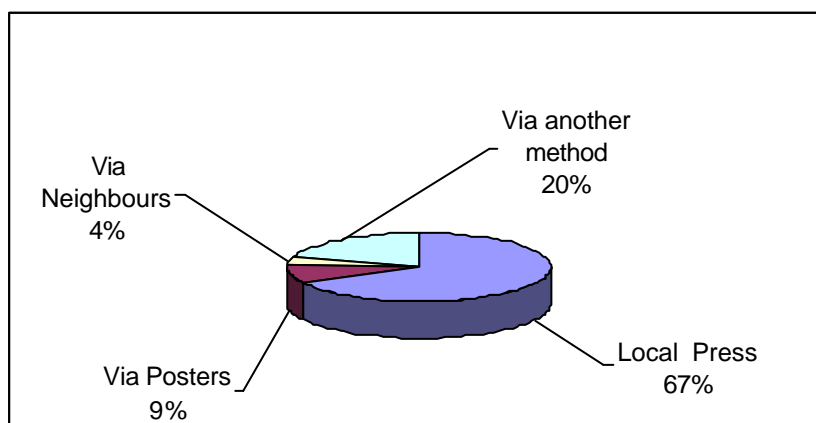
A questionnaire was sent to the panel members in October 2005 that included a number of questions relating to the Area Forums and the Community Initiatives Fund. Overall, 1155 questionnaires were returned from the Wirral Panel members, of the 2074 questionnaires sent out, giving a response rate of 55.7%.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

Area Forums – General

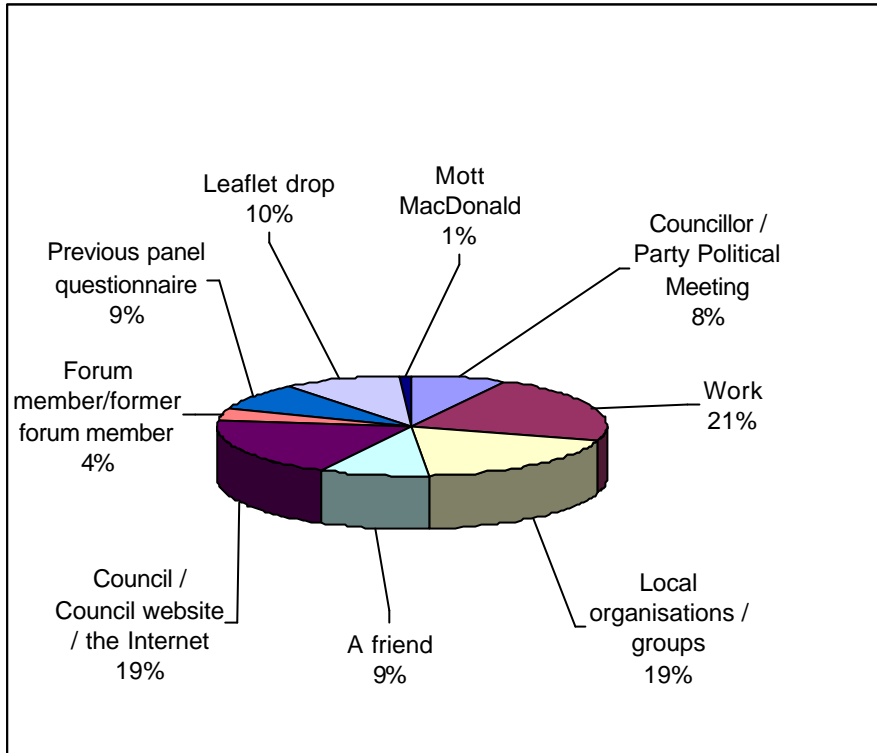
Had you heard about the Council's Area Forums before receiving this questionnaire?



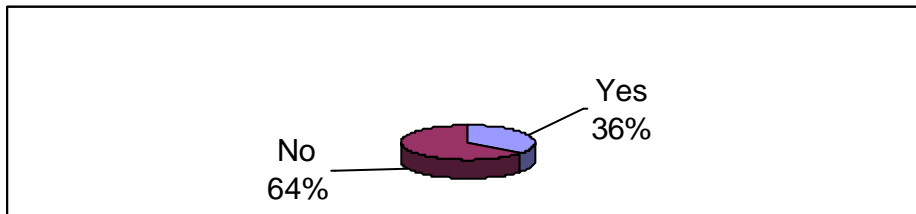
How did you hear about the Area forums?



How else did you hear about the Area Forums?

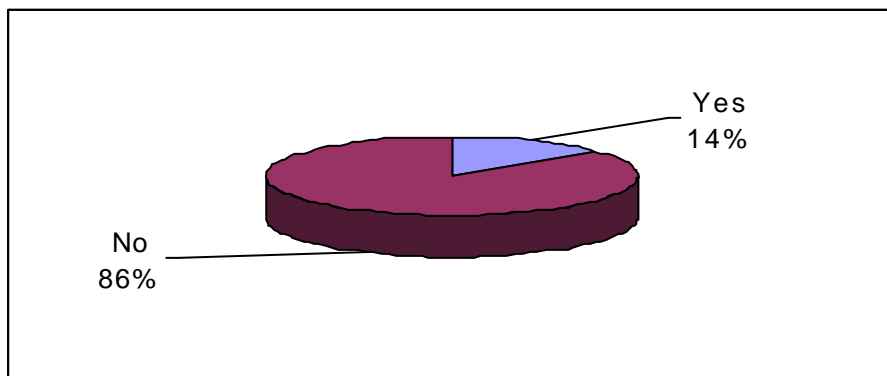


Are you interested in getting involved in decision making in your local area through Area Forums?



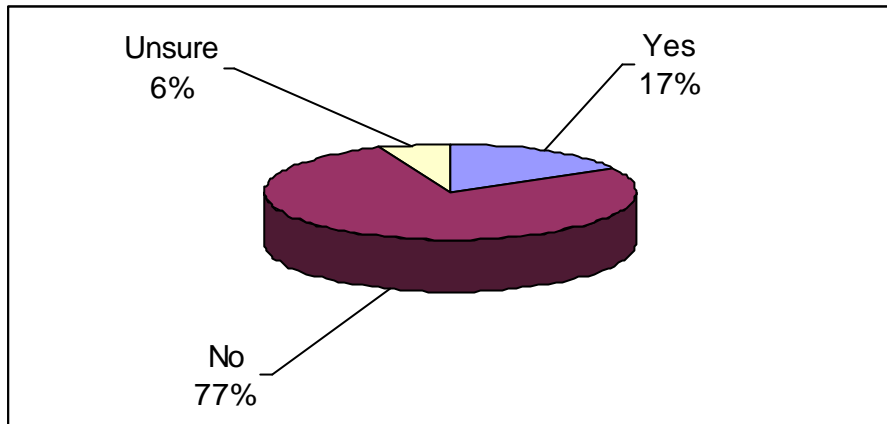
Area Forum - Specific

Are you interested in the Oxton and Prenton Area Forum?

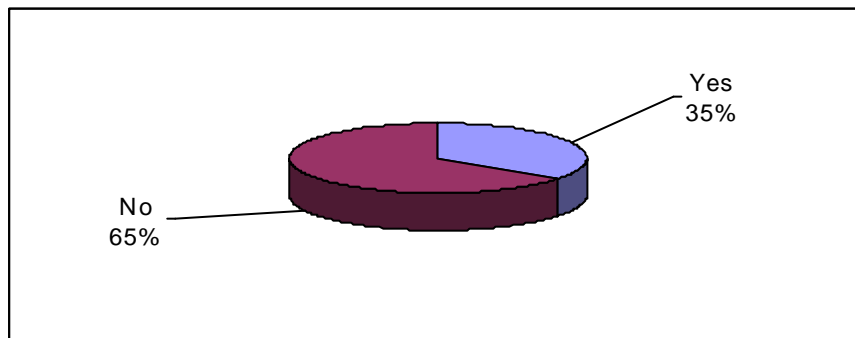


Community Initiatives Fund - General

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

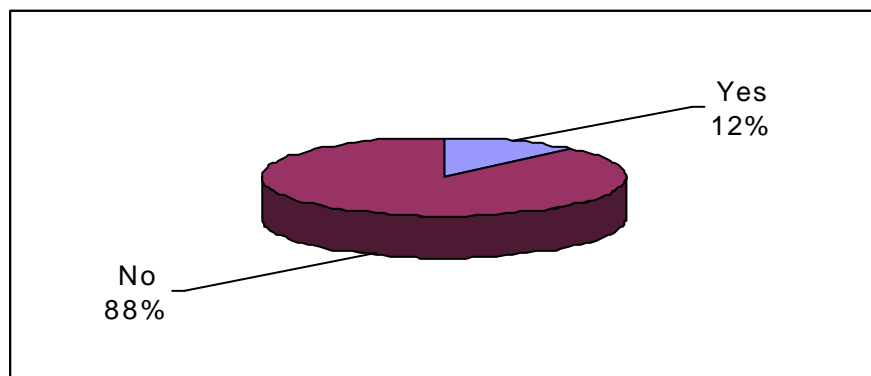


Are you interested in getting information on the Community initiatives Fund?



Community Initiatives Fund – Specific

Would you like to receive information about the Community Initiatives Fund for Oxtun and Prenton?



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 went to Cabinet on Thursday 16 March with all applicants being informed of the decision made on Thursday 30 March. All remaining funding was allocated.

For 2006/07 £11,000 has been allocated to Community Initiatives Funding (CIF), £3,000 for Community Safety and £1,500 for LA21 projects giving an overall total of **£15,500** for Oxtun / Prenton area forum.

In addition to this, £2,500 has been allocated to the Youth Forum

Adverts were placed in the Globe on 5th and 19th April with a closing date of Wednesday 17 May. The panel will meet on 8 June in order for a report to go to Cabinet on 29 June. All successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified on Monday 17 July (10 working days after Cabinet meeting).

ID	Bid No	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Comments of Panel	Community Initiatives Fund	Community Safety Fund	Local Agenda 21 Fund
Budget							£5,232.61	£550.00	£0.00
945	1	£1,000.00	£0.00	Wirral Local Agenda 21 Network	To run a community re>paint scheme on Wirral.	<p>Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as felt that a more detailed plan of scheme is required.</p> <p>Panel suggested that the applicant could choose one area to pilot this scheme and if this is successful then roll in out to other areas.</p> <p>Panel also suggested that the applicant could contact Bromborough Paints and Johnsons, Durley Drive for supplies of paint.</p>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
958	2	£209.00	£209.00	Fire Support Network	To provide an after-fire care service in Wirral.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £209.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£209.00	£0.00	£0.00
962	3	£573.35	£300.00	400 (Birkenhead) Squadron ATC	To purchase panel presentation stand with header panel to actively promote the aims of the squadron and gain more recruits.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £300.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00

982	4	£2,500.00	£500.00	Wirral Holistic Care Services	To replace patio area and provide wheelchair access and handrails.	<p>Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>Panel advised that if applying to more than one area forum for funding for the same project in the future then the total amount applied for should not exceed the full cost of the project.</p>	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00
994	5	£843.65	£0.00	1175 (Prenton) Squadron Air Training Corps	To purchase a display refrigerator.	<p>Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as it does not meet the criteria as well as other applications.</p> <p>Panel suggested that the applicant contact Premier Brands (tel: 677 7700) as they are selling off unwanted goods.</p>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
995	6	£350.00	£350.00	64th Birkenhead Sea Scout Group	To install a security alarm system at the Columbia Lane HQ	<p>Panel considered this to be a good project and were very impressed that the group had raised almost 50% from their own efforts. Agreed to award £350.00 from the Community Safety Fund.</p>	£0.00	£350.00	£0.00

998	7	£2,130.00	£0.00	The Green Community Shop and Centre	To fund a toy share and library worker / playworker, art group worker and materials and stationery.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not fund this as do not consider it is appropriate to fund salaries from this fund. Panel requested that the applicant be informed that a more suitable request would be to fund equipment or a specific project.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1032	8	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Wirral Life Education Centres	To contribute towards the costs of providing a mobile classroom at local primary schools.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
1033	9	£5,000.00	£0.00	PlayLikeBrazil Soccer School and Coaching Academy	A. To run Soccer Schools during the school holidays. B. To offer a three day structured coaching programme of learning, mentoring and skills development for 16-18 year olds.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1034	10	£1,000.00	£0.00	Wirral African and Caribbean Community Voice (WACCV)	To contribute towards costs and equipment required to provide musical and sporting opportunities for 8-12 year olds.	Panel considered this to be a good initiative, but do not consider it is appropriate to fund salaries for tutors from this fund. Panel requested that the applicant be informed that a more suitable request would be to fund equipment or a specific project.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

1035	11	£2,000.00	£400.00	South Birkenhead Neighbourhood Forum	To contribute towards costs of running a holiday club.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £400.00 towards this, to cover the cost of equipment only, from the Community Initiatives / Community Safety Fund. Panel also suggested that the applicant should apply to the other area forums.	£200.00	£200.00	£0.00
1060	12	£500.00	£250.00	Pets as Therapy - Wirral Branch	To provide specialist training courses for local members.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £250.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund. Panel requested that the applicant be informed that this actually falls within the Claughton ward and future applications should be made to the Bidston and Claughton Area Forum.	£250.00	£0.00	£0.00
1061	13	£4,980.00	£1,773.61	Mountwood Conservation Area	To provide hedging and low maintenance beds for ornamental trees and shrubs.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,773.61 towards the plantage, but not labour or design costs, from the Community Initiatives Fund. This funding is subject to confirmation that the residents on the opposite side of the slip road have been consulted with.	£1,773.61	£0.00	£0.00
1062	14	£1,000.00	£0.00	Oxton Festival / Wirral Community Arts	To contribute towards Oxton Festival by covering the cost of one marquee.	Panel considered this to be a good project, but did not support this as it did not meet the criteria as closely as other applications.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

1055	15	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Tall Ships Youth Trust - Merseyside and Deeside Branch	To contribute towards the cost of sending over 100 young people from Merseyside (aged 16-25) annually on voyages.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Spend							£5,232.61	£550.00	£0.00
Total Carried Forward							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

The below details are progress reports received from previous successful applicants

Oxton / Prenton

Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
£500.00	Wirral Tuesday Club	To help cover costs associated with running the club, including transport costs, hall hire, presents, trips and providing / updating music.	Report received from Wirral Tuesday Club - March 2006: Your very generous grant enables us to subsidise both transport and hall hire, enabling us to minimise what our members have to pay. We are also able to celebrate each members birthday and arrange outings and celebrations at Christmas and Easter.
£1,000.00	Arch Initiatives	To contribute towards the refurbishment costs of one bedroom in Birchwood residential treatment unit.	Report received from Arch Initiatives - March 2006: The funding was used towards re-carpeting four bedrooms at Birchwood, as we did not manage to secure sufficient funding to refurbish the one room as planned. This use of the grant meant that overall more people gained therapeutic benefit and the rehabilitation process was enhanced from the greatly improved appearance of their rooms.
£350.00	64th Birkenhead Sea Scout Group	To install a security alarm system at the Columbia Lane HQ	Report received from 64th Birkenhead Sea Scout Group - April 2006: The alarm system is now installed and operational, and has led to a 10% reduction in our insurance premium. Thanks to the contribution of funding we all feel more secure.

Amount Awarded	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
£1,000.05	1175 (Prenton) Squadron Air Training Corps	To purchase two new radios and accessories.	Report received from 1175 (Prenton) Squadron Air Training Corps - January 2006: We have purchased the radios and accessories and have begun to use them to train new cadets in the basics of radio communications and radio courses for senior cadets to enable them to achieve their ATC communicators badge.
£500.00	Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	To train all victim support staff and volunteers, and to cover travel expenses for volunteers, to conduct home visits to support victims of domestic violence.	Report received from Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside - April 2006: The grant has helped towards providing 28 training days covering the support skills required for handling domestic violence cases. Over a five month period we supported 169 domestic violence cases with over 700 contacts by letter, telephone, office or home visit.

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Section Four

Local Area Plan

What is an Area Plan?

The purpose of the area plan for the wards of Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry is to identify local issues and priorities and to support and guide the Area forum in working towards addressing these throughout the year. The area plan is a developmental document that will evolve over time as issues are addressed and new priorities emerge.

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

The Area Plan is currently based upon issues and priorities identified through a range of consultation activities with local people and agencies in the area. Area plans form part of a much wider agenda for improving local services across the whole of Wirral and will influence the work of the Local Strategic Partnership and the ongoing development of Wirral's Local Area Agreement.

Next Steps

Area plans have the potential to become valuable planning documents for all partners involved in the area forum, providing local intelligence and data from which priorities for improvement locally can be established.

Area plans will be refreshed on annual basis to take account of changing priorities and the changing policy environment within which our local services operate. It will be the responsibility of the area forums to refresh their area plan by March 2007 and to report on progress to their local community.

Area plans are designed to:

- Identify the needs and aspirations of the local community;
- Identify significant social, economic and environmental trends through establishing an overall demographic picture of the area;
- Promote initiatives that will address the identified local needs and priorities;
- Provide a work plan for the area forum;
- Provide a more local perspective to the overarching community strategy through identifying 'common' issues and needs across the area forums;

- Feed into the service planning cycles of the council and its partners to ensure that the identified local needs are influencing business plans and strategies.

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.

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 took place on Wednesday 15 March - 6pm at Wallasey Town Hall, those present were:

Cllr Frank Doyle
Rob Beresford
Maxine Joynson
Tony Garrett
Richard Neale
Patrick Toosey

It was agreed for members to look at the revised plan and any final amendments to be passed to Maxine by end of April.

The plan will be sent out to all members of the forum and sub group by the end of June for final approval.

Section Five

Youth Update

Oxton/Prenton

The area is served by Shaftesbury Youth Club, the largest Youth Club provision in Wirral, providing a junior section as well as a senior youth club. It runs several football teams and has been seen as a model of excellence in soccer development for many years.

Two outreach teams work in this area, one serving the Noctorum, Oxton and Holmlands Estate (Noctorum Young People's Project) and Deeside Young People's Project serving the Prenton Dell Estate.

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

Wirral Youth Theatre

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

Wirral Youth Theatre also works in schools in the area.

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

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

Section Six

Streetscene update

Review of disc zone parking

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Traffic ban for rural routes

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

The Order affects:

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

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

Road improvements along Saughall Massie Road

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

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

Overhaul of road signage

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

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

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

The scheme covers all priority routes in Wirral. Key 'A' roads that have already been reviewed and improved include Birkenhead Road, Market Street, Meols Drive, Grange

Road, Column Road, Telegraph Road, Barnston Road and Brimstage Road. Over the coming weeks traffic officers will be concentrating their efforts on main roads in Birkenhead and Wallasey. Faded and damaged signs are being replaced with those using the latest reflective materials. This reduces the need for illuminated signs and improves the Council's energy efficiency. Wherever possible, separate signs are being merged on to a single column. This minimises clutter along Wirral's pavements, and reduces the risk of signs creating an obstruction for people with disabilities.

New Food and Garden Waste recycling initiative

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

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

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

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

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

New roundabout for Leasowe Road / Gardenside

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

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

and will do their utmost to minimise disruption for the local community while it is carried out.”

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

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

A41 footbridges are removed

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

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

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

Upgrade to some of Wirral’s best loved promenades

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section Seven

Community Safety

Making Wirral Safer

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

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

C.C.T.V. developments;

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

What are we doing to reduce burglary (dwelling)?

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

- Alleygates continue to be installed in the more vulnerable areas for burglary across the Borough
- 167 properties target-hardened through Victim Support Service.
- Burglary campaign on road hoarding signs, buses, radio (Buzz FM & Community Radio – Leasowe).
- Burglary reduction marketing campaigns featuring Crimestoppers
- Property mark using Smartwater technology in homes and schools
- Smartwater leaflet distribution through Youth Offending Service and the Alleygating programme
- Financially supporting Victim Support (through Government funding streams) to improve security in vulnerable homes which has lowered repeat victimisation.

- The Joint Community Safety Team organised and hosted a conference entitled 'Friend or Foe' to highlight the issues surrounding doorstep crime, particularly targeting the elderly
- Operating closely with Merseyside Police 'Pier Project' which targets Persistent and Prolific Offenders.

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

What are we doing to reduce business crime?

The team works closely with Trading Standards, Business Crime Direct, the Wirral Chamber of Commerce and independent traders. Some initiatives include;

- The number of Pub / Shop-Watch schemes mushrooming with the latest areas of Hoylake, West Kirby and New Brighton coming on line.
- Radio Watch schemes also being established Wirral-wide
- Development of CCTV Broadband monitoring within Shop-Watch Schemes
- New Web-based Ringmaster which alerts businesses to crime trends
- CCTV Broadband monitoring system placed in two Birkenhead nightclubs which will also address violent crime linked to Council Control Room

What are we doing to reduce vehicle crime?

Vehicle Crime represents a further good news story in terms of performance against targets. During the period April - October 2005 the number of vehicles;

- Vehicles stolen have fallen by 40.8% compared to the same period last year and are 53.3% below our performance during the baseline year 2003/04. Against a quarterly target of 453 vehicles being stolen we have recorded only 278 incidents
- The numbers of vehicles broken into has fallen by 8.3% this year compared to the same period 2004/05 and has fallen by 22.3% compared to the same period within our baseline year. During the last quarter against a target of 510 vehicles being broken into we have recorded only 440 incidents.

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

- 'Roadshows' throughout the Wirral in which Neighbourhood Police Inspectors have assisted to raise public awareness of Car Crime through their staff.
- Marketing communications campaign, this was launched in November in line with the seasonal trend of increased offences for car crime. The campaign will continue until February 2006 when the Home Office Car Crime Campaign will commence.
- Tri-band signs erected on lamp columns in areas of greatest risk in order to remind people to lock and secure their vehicles and are careful with their property.
- CCTV placed on various buildings to link through Council Broadband systems, which monitor vulnerable car parks.
- Mobile CCTV cameras deployed to various locations to deter car crime.
- 'Talk Boxes' (which give an audible car crime reduction message) placed in four sites where they would have the maximum benefit.

- Signage in local 'beauty spots' where there have been sporadic thefts from vehicles.
- Crime reduction leaflets and posters distributed via Wirral Chamber of Commerce to businesses addressing car crime. This also includes leaflets given by retailers to customers at the point of sale when making purchases of items such as Satellite Navigation Systems.
- Leaflets with specially designed crime reduction message placed under car windscreen wipers distributed by Police, Community Support Officers and volunteers.

What are we doing to tackle anti-social behaviour?

Reported incidents of anti social behaviour have shown a 9% reduction during the last quarter. This quarter comprised Mischief and Bonfire nights both generators of high levels of anti social behaviour but this year,

- Due to the joint work between the JCST partners. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service saw a 35% reduction in calls on Bonfire Night compared to 2004/05.
- In the year to date we have also seen 12 Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) obtained against an annual target of 4 ASBO's.
- The CDRP is actively working through the Youth Service and voluntary agencies to engage young people resulting in the provision of diversion activity across the Borough
- New projects will address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) with the help of additional support from Government to target alcohol-related violence.
- More co-ordinated response to 'hotspot' areas. An important outcome of this work has been a steady fall in the number of incidents of disorder being reported. There were over 4,500 less incidents reported in 2004-05 compared to 2003-04.
- The above, together with joint support of new anti social behaviour legislation, has been evaluated as successful in reducing disorder in areas critically affected by such problems.
- Wirral's Youth Offending Service has been ranked 15th out of 155 authorities. This places the team in the top 10% of best performing youth services in the country.

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

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

- Over 150 warrants have been executed
- 180 persons arrested and charged for drug offences
- £120,000 cash assets seized
- Drugs to an estimated street value of £1 million seized.

Violent crime

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

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

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

Section Eight

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

STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2006/07

Name of Road	Limits	Ward	UKPMS Ranking	Other Priorities	Estimate	Category	Description of Works
Holm Lane	Part	Oxton	100		£75,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Village Road	Part	Oxton	67		£27,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Holmlands Drive Rolling programme of works	Part	Oxton	66	*	£50,000	Structural Footway	P/L kerbs as required. Remove flags & construct flexible footway
Townfield Lane	Part	Oxton	52	*	£75,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Byrom Close	All	Prenton	--	To complete scheme	£10,500	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Bedford Avenue	Part	Rock Ferry		Completion of scheme	£25,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway

Details of contracts/tenders

HIGHWAY "TERM" CONTRACTS		
TITLE	EXPIRY DATE	Comments
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS		Strategic Review and Options Appraisal to be undertaken 2006/08
Highway Maintenance & Minor Works	31 Mar 08	Contracts extended until 31st March 2008
Coast Protection Minor Works	31 Mar 08	Contracts extended until 31st March 2008
Maintenance Painting of Street Furniture 2004 - 2006	31 Mar 08	Contracts extended until 31st March 2008
Maintenance of Traffic Signal Installations, Traffic Enforcement Cameras and Related Traffic Control Equipment	31 Mar 07	New contracts to be let 1st April 2007 until 31st March 2008
Rolled Asphalt plus Planing	31 Mar 07)	
Bituminous Macadam plus Planing	31 Mar 07)	
Proprietary High Performance Surface Courses plus Planing	31 Mar 07)	
Asphaltic and Bituminous Reinstatements	31 Mar 07)	
		Biennial Surfacing Contracts
Proprietary Surface Treatment to Carriageways and Footways	31 Mar 07)	New contracts to be tendered for and let 1st April 2007 until 31st March 2008
Anti Skid Surfacing to Carriageways	31 Mar 07)	
Joint Sealant to Carriageways	31 Mar 07)	
Supply of Rock Salt	31 Mar 07)	
Highway Drainage Minor Works & Gully Cleansing	23 Jul 06	Currently out to Tender - New Contract will commence 24/7/06 and expire 31/3/08

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08
INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK

BRIEFING NOTE PREPARED BY THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES
FOR AREA FORUMS IN THE JUNE 2006 CYCLE

1. Cabinet on 25 April 2006 considered a report from the Director of Technical Services on the Integrated Transport Block element of the Transport Capital Programme. The relevant minute is reproduced below:-

Minute 569 - TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE: TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/7 INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK

The Director of Technical Services had identified specific schemes for inclusion in the 2006/07 Transport Capital Programme within the specific headings of Speed Reduction, Road Widening/Parking, Aids to Movement (Dropped Crossings, Central Refuges and Signposting for Pedestrians), and his report also suggested a way in which Area Forums could be included in drawing up programmes within the Integrated Transport Block. The Environment and Transportation Select Committee on 6 April, 2006 supported the recommendation.

A decision was required to approve the proposed programme which was part of the Local Transport Plan process (LTP), identified in the Forward Plan as a key decision.

The Leader requested that a further report be brought to the Cabinet on the issue of delegated funding to Area Forums and that measures be put in place to ensure that Area Forums had all the relevant information, advice and guidance on the issues involved.

Minute Decision :
Resolved -

(1) That the programmes for 2006/07, as set out in paragraph 3 of the report, be approved

(2) That the Director of Technical Services engage with all Area Forums prior to drawing up the Integrated Transport Block programme for 2007/08.

(3) That the following proposed programmes for the Integrated Transport Block for 2006/07 be approved:-

(a) Speed reduction programme - Individual schemes be undertaken as listed in Appendix 2 - £70,000

(b) Road widening / Resident Parking - Stanney Close, Eastham - £20,000

(c) Pedestrian Dropped Crossings - Programme devised in conjunction with WIRED including consideration of sites listed in Appendix 7 - £40,000

(d) Central Refuges (Aids to Movement) - Individual schemes as listed in Appendix 6 - £40,000

(e) Pedestrian Sign Posting - to complement public transport initiatives - £10,000

(4) That in the event it proves impractical to proceed with an approved scheme or unallocated finance becomes available, the Director of Technical Services be authorised to select a suitable alternative from the reserve list in consultation with the party spokespersons.

2. I would therefore seek the views of the Area Forum on the composition of the Integrated Transport Block programme for 2007/08 and the extent to which funding decisions could be delegated to Area Forums.

Members will see from the above minute that the 2006/07 programme comprises:-

Speed reduction programme	£70,000
Road widening/residents parking	£20,000
Pedestrian dropped crossings	£40,000
Central refuges	£40,000
Pedestrian sign posting	£10,000
Total	£180,000

3. I would anticipate that the allocation for 2007/08 would be of a similar order.
4. At the Cabinet meeting a number of views were expressed as to how Area Forums could best be engaged in the process. The Cabinet also considered whether each Area Forum should be given an equal share of the Integrated Transport Block (£180,000 for 2006/07) which they would allocate as they choose or alternatively the money should continue to be spent on a borough wide basis but the views of the Forums be fed into the decision making process.
5. I would comment that the sum of money involved, if allocated to each Forum on an individual basis (for example £16,300 for 2006/07), would be unlikely to allow for the introduction of a speed reduction scheme. Similarly only a very modest road widening scheme could be undertaken, although possibly a parking area of approximately 4/5 spaces could be provided within an existing grass verge.
6. Dropped crossings to assist pedestrians are currently programmed in conjunction with Wirral Information Resource for Equality and Disability and £40,000 would allow for 65 – 70 crossings to be provided. A typical central refuge scheme would cost about £10,000 and therefore probably one could be provided subject of course to the intended carriageway having sufficient width which would need to be a minimum of 10 metres.

7. Individual pedestrian sign posting would be likely to cost in the order of £200 per sign.
8. It can be seen therefore that if the Integrated Transport Block funding is allocated to individual Area Forums it would be possible to undertake a modest programme comprising some elements of parking schemes, dropped crossings, refuges and sign posting. Alternatively, Forums may prefer for the sums to be used on a borough wide basis as at present but to nominate areas where funding could be allocated.
9. An officer from the Department of Technical Services will be present at the meeting of the Area Forum and would be pleased to learn the views of the Forum and answer any questions.

19 MAY 2006

Section Nine

Eaton Place

Ian Sumner – Wimpey

Road to inside of site now complete. Works to P.O.S. area of site to start Monday 15/5/06.

Apartments 60 to 75 now complete.

With purchasers occupying over the next 2 weeks. PLOTS 76 TO 91 due to be built complete within the next 3 to 4 weeks. PLOTS 92 TO 107 due to be built complete JUNE/JULY. PLOTS 108 TO 123 construction of these plots is under way, at the moment these plots are just reaching second floor.

Plots 9 and 10 these will be used as showhomes and due for completion end of June 2006. Plots 11 to 28 all under construction due to be completed November/December 2006. This side of the site is being run Danny Jones whilst Dave Walsh runs the apartment side of the site.