

Oxton and Prenton

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

17th October 2006

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Section One

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes - Area Forum (Oxton and Prenton) Meeting - 12 June 2006

Present	
Chair	FM Doyle
Ward Councillors	A Bridson , SA Holbrook , PM Southwood , Mrs P M Williams
Community Representatives	Alan Dollery (Prenton Tenants & Residents Assoc.) , June Foster (Wirral Fed. of Tenants & Residents Assocs.) , Patrick Toosey
Lead Officer	Bob Beresford (Deputy Director of Housing & Environmental Protection)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Maxine Joynson
Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT	Richard Jones (Birkenhead and Wallasey Primary Care Trust)
Merseyside Police	Inspector Ian Shaw
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Keith LePoidevin (Station Manager, Birkenhead Fire Station)
Council Officers	John Davies (Youth Service) , David Green (Director of Technical Services) , Mark Traynor (Streetscene Manager) , Mike Walker (Community Safety Officer)
Apologies	Cllr Stuart Kelly , Alan Stennard (Director of Regeneration)

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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 46 members of the public present. Apologies had been received from Cllr Stuart Kelly who was attending a briefing at the Town Hall, Wallasey.

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Cllr Doyle explained to anyone present who was new to the Forum that around the table were elected members, representatives of the community and representatives of our service providers – Police, Health and Fire service. He also wished to welcome Cllr Paula Southwood who had been elected councillor for Oxton in the May elections. He also wished to record his thanks to the retiring councillor, Freda Anderson for all the excellent work she had done as both a councillor and a forum member.

Cllr Doyle also pointed out to the public that there were packs of free energy efficient light bulbs which had been provided courtesy of Powergen which could be taken at the end of the meeting, all he asked was that they complete a very brief questionnaire.

Minute 2 - Minutes of last meeting / matters arising

Cllr Doyle explained that the matters arising from the previous meeting were dealt with in the Area Co-Ordinator's Report under Section 1. He explained that if any members of the public were dissatisfied with the explanations provided, they would have an opportunity later in the evening under public question time to revisit matters.

Minute 3 - Correspondence

Cllr Doyle explained that Maxine Joynson, Area Co-ordinator, had received correspondence, but this was in the form of questions submitted in advance of the meeting and it was agreed that they be taken under item 5, Public Question Time.

Minute 4 - Area co-ordinators report

Cllr Doyle said he wished to vary the format slightly as it had been over three months since the last meeting and would like a councillor from each ward, plus each of the Community Reps to give a very brief report of what was going on in their areas.

Cllr Bridson commented on various items including the Mendip Road Playing Field – this area is normally kept locked, but over the last few months young people have been causing a nuisance by gaining access via broken fencing. Working in conjunction with June Foster, they managed to get the fence repaired and the problem was resolved; however, a recent telephone caller said that there is still part of the fence where the young people are gaining access and this will be followed up.

Walker Park has now got five-a-side goal posts for junior footballers.

The brown bins pilot scheme in parts of Prenton has been going quite well although there are a number of issues. As this is a pilot scheme, everyone will be asked their opinions at the end of the scheme.

Dog fouling has been high on the list of complaints and this issue has been discussed at Select Committee this week; however, the report is not yet complete and it is now in the scrutiny system – we are obtaining information on how other boroughs manage dog fouling.

Prenton Dell Community Nature Reserve – we would like to encourage children and young people to be volunteers.

We have recently had travellers in the Ward and it only took two days to move them on which was good news.

June Foster – she has recently attended a conference at the Lauries Centre re: cold calling. There have been problems with this in Mendip Road and although she has been in touch with Trading Standards, unfortunately there is not much they can do unless people are actually robbed. Merseyside Travel Advisory Service has informed that it is

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expanding Birkenhead Bus Station and the park and ride service will be extended.

Cllr. Pat Williams – expressed her delight that the new play area at Duck Pond Lane appears to be well used but disappointed to learn that a couple of trees have recently been damaged; hopefully, they will be replaced. Although she felt it was good that we have now got something for the children, we do need something for older children and young people to get involved in.

She hoped to encourage a “Friends of the Arno” group so that people would have an interest and an ownership in the area and measures taken to contact the local schools to ask the children to be involved. She is also wondering if it would be possible to have a football cage and would like to ask for people’s views on this. She has asked the Youth Service to make contact with the young people and they said they would do this but the Contactabus is in demand. Regarding Friends of the Arno, Cllr Williams asked if there was anyone at the meeting who would be interested, could they please give their names to Maxine Joynson or herself after the meeting. She envisages it would be similar to the Ashton Park scheme and that a proper management plan is needed for the area.

Vagrants have been living in the bushes of the Arno rose garden and clothing has had to be removed from the area. The area is also used by people walking their dogs and dog owners need to clean up properly after their dogs. Most people do but have been putting plastic bags containing dog dirt in litter bins or hanging them on branches which is a potential health risk – we therefore need larger bins or more frequent emptying.

Cllr Williams closed her report by commenting on the problem of drinking of alcohol in the play area, which needs to be addressed. She also offered her congratulations to Patrick Toosey on this year’s successful Secret Gardens event.

Patrick Toosey, from the Oxton Society, reported that the Secret Gardens event had raised a considerable amount of money that has been distributed to various charities and organisations. They have been very successful in getting businesses to come to the area, but this has caused parking problems for local residents. The HSBC Bank has now closed but since then they have been very co-operative and may put a condition on the sale regarding the retention of the ATM. The post box in the Post Office wall is too small and Cllrs Southwood and Kelly have met with the Royal Mail; it is hoped to introduce a free-standing post box into the Village with the possibility of a small building to house a post box and an ATM.

Alan Dollery gave a brief history of the Prenton Residents and Tenants Association, commenting on the good rapport they have developed with the Council and the Police, and the fact that they have been successful in most of their aims; however, the future now lies with the youth. Unfortunately, the Youth Club had to close but they are aiming to be able to use the local school playing area in the future. They are also trying to get CCTV cameras for the shopping area; there are problems on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings with youths drinking alcohol. They have gone into partnership with the Rehab Centre in Prenton Hall Road and are allowed two hours every Monday and Thursday evening for young people; however, they need more support as they have only got four local volunteers. They particularly need someone with knowledge of I.T. to look after the computers. Alan appealed for anyone who can spare a couple of hours on Monday or Thursday evenings.

Cllr Pat Williams added to her report that the new play area has been renamed Duck Pond Lane Play Area and the signs will shortly be replaced to reflect this. Cllr Frank

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Doyle highlighted that there are several positive projects currently happening in the area.

Maxine Joynson reported that the Community Initiative Funding Assessment Panel met last Thursday and has made recommendations for Cabinet on 29 June. All applicants will be written to on 17 July with the outcome. The Local Area Plan is well under way and Maxine thanked all those people who have contributed to its development. It will be finished around the end of June; copies will be sent out to all Forum members and will also be available in One-Stop Shops, Libraries and can be accessed via the Council's website. If anyone cannot gain copies by any of these means, please contact the Community Planning Team who will arrange for hard copies to be sent out.

Cllr Doyle said he wished to thank Maxine Joynson, Area Co-ordinator, for her detailed report and the work she had put into it and suggested to the public that they take the time to read it following the meeting.

Minute Decision :

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

Minute 5 - Public question time

Cllr Doyle explained that if satisfactory answers could not be given on the night, Maxine would follow this up in writing before the next meeting but would reply to the Forum in her Area Report at the next meeting. He also pointed out to the public that they did not have to wait till the forum to ask their questions they could at any time contact their local councillors, Streetscene or Maxine. Submitting them at the last minute did not give much time for a detailed response.

The following written questions were received:

Mr Dowling

i. what is happening with leisure/swimming charges (which he raised at the last meeting)?

Cllr Doyle explained that Jim Lester had replied to this question since the last area forum meeting, members have agreed additional funding for free swimming for over 60's at all public sessions.

ii. with regard to the amalgamation of Forces possibly with Lancashire, what are Police thoughts on this?

Inspector Shaw said he did not wish to comment on the proposed merger of the forces as he did not see it as something he felt appropriate to the forum. Cllr Holbrook felt it unfair to ask a serving officer to comment on something that was essentially a political decision. His own personal opinion was that with all the troubles currently besetting the Home Office he did not think this was a top priority and would not happen.

iii. who is responsible for cleaning back entries, as most houses put their wheelie bins in front so there is no need to go into the entries, however they are messy, untidy and full of litter?

David Green, Director of Technical Services, said he was the Officer responsible. He accepted that things have not gone well over the last few years. The contract with Onyx is ending in August; it has not reflected the level of service they wanted to give to the people of Wirral. The new contract which takes effect on 22nd August 2006

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requires the new contractor to clean all back alleys on a four week cycle.

Mr Dowling said he would like some more clarification regarding the decision to give free swimming to over 60's which appeared at odds with what he had been told by Cllr Kelly at the February meeting of the forum. Cllr Doyle explained that a full explanation was provided in the co-ordinators report on page 28 in that there had been a Pilot involving Wirral, funded by Sport England. Cllr Doyle read a brief extract from the report and informed Mr Dowling that one of the Councillors would give him a more detailed answer if required.

Mr Lennon

- i. Could the representative from Police give a verbal update to Forum on the results of their response to his notification of cars abusing footway in Downing Close by using it as a car park on Tranmere Rovers home match days?
- ii. Could you also confirm the number of Officers deployed at these matches; those who are on duty as part of their normal duties and those who volunteer. Do those volunteering receive any payments, and what is the typical proportion and actual amount of the liability to public funds for their attendance at these events?

Inspector Shaw said that he had deployed officers to the Downing Close area on the match day following the last area forum and they did not see that a problem was being caused by the parked cars. Also he had deployed officers in the last couple of days and they had called on nine households, none of whom perceived parking on match days to be a problem. The football season has now finished but they will be monitoring the situation when the new season starts. With regard to the second question Insp Shaw said he only received this question in the last couple of days and it would have taken a great deal of time and resources but he was prepared to discuss the matter with Mr Lennon at the end of the meeting.

- iii. what are the additional costs to the rate payers for the replacement sign at Belfield Drive, Oxton, arising from the spelling error and if the liability was met by the Authority, is this due to the Authority's error.

David Green said that the error was down to his Department and was due to an accidental spelling of Belfield Drive with an extra letter L. When the error was discovered it was amended at a cost of £110. He apologised for the error.

Mr Lennon accepted the spelling mistake was down to human error but did involve a considerable cost. He expressed his disappointment that Merseyside Police do not consider that the parking difficulties and obstructions caused in the whole area by T.R.F.C. are not a problem. He had a list of all the vehicles that were parking in Downing Close and Storeton Road and feels that the Police are not doing enough and that this is poor service to the public. He also complained about people parking in the bus stop. Inspector Shaw had offered to take evidence previously although Mr Lennon had stated that he did not want anyone prosecuted and the residents of Downing Close did not feel it was an issue.

Andrew Taylor, who was unable to attend the meeting, wanted to inform the forum that he didn't receive any feedback, as noted at the last meeting, about queues at the Clatterbridge waste disposal centre. He had suggested the possibility of a road sign saying 'queues likely' may be useful for motorists coming off Clatterbridge roundabout.

David Green suggested that this problem would be alleviated by the new waste contract and the greater push for recycling which he would touch on in his presentation

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under item 8.

Cllr Doyle explained that there had also been an anonymous phone call regarding the derelict bakery at St George's Avenue. The caller considered it to be a blight to the environment. Cllr Doyle said he had some knowledge of this issue and has been working with officers to attempt to get the owner to clear the site. Officers have now issued a Section 79 notice obliging the owners to clear the site. If this is not done within 30 days then the owner could be prosecuted and the Council can then undertake the repairs and charge the owner for this.

Alan Dollery, Prenton Tenants and Residents Association, expressed concerns over a tenant who had moved into Melrose flats in Prenton Dell on the previous Monday as the tenant had been evicted several years ago. He was happy that the problem is being addressed by a variety of agencies. He still has concerns over the new allocation system for council tenants and is in contact with Wirral Partnership Homes about ensuring that the Residents Associations are informed about new tenants.

Cllr Frank Doyle then invited questions from the floor.

Mr Holmes raised a query about anti-social behaviour and Inspector Shaw agreed to discuss this issue with him at the end of the meeting.

Kathy Byrne raised a query about overgrown bushes near her home; June Foster replied that Wirral Partnership Homes have taken over all the former Council properties and Streetscene are responsible for the footpaths and that she needs to direct any queries to them.

Mr Dowling asked what the Police's attitude would be to residents in the Mendip Road area confronting youths themselves? He also wanted to know what the Shaftesbury Youth Club was offering local youths following Patrick Toosey's report that they had been given £4000 from the Oxton Secret Garden event?

June Foster replied that the Police have been asked to patrol the area around the Mendip Road Playing Field and there should not be any further problems as the fence has been repaired. Regarding the Shaftesbury Youth Club, both June and Cllr Doyle agreed that it is an excellent club but young people can't be forced to go if they don't want to.

There followed several questions, from various residents from Kingsland Road who were having particular difficulties with youths gathering near the local shop on the corner of Woodchurch Road and Kingsland Road. There was also concern over one particular family and the alleyway at the top of Kingsland Road.

Mike Walker, from the Community Safety Team, said that he is responsible for the installation of alley gates, which are based on recorded crime from statistics provided by the Police. It was agreed, at Cllr Doyle's suggestion, that the local residents would speak to Councillors, the Police and council officials at the end of the meeting to try to find a solution.

Following general discussions on vandalism and the problem of children causing public nuisance by playing football, Cllr Doyle suggested it might be an issue for the Anti Social Behaviour Team and offered to discuss this with them further at the end of the meeting.

Minute Decision :

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Resolved that:

- i. Inspector Shaw to discuss issue re: policing at football matches with Mr Lennon and to liaise with Mr Holmes with regard to anti social behaviour
- ii. Councillors, Police and the Anti Social Behaviour Team carry out further discussions with the residents of Kingsland Road.

Minute 6 - PCT update

Richard Jones from the PCT gave a brief update. Following on from the last meeting he explained that the new Wirral PCT had been given the go ahead and would come in to effect on 1st October 2006. He also explained that in the future the PCT's would also be covering such issues, such as:

- Mental Health;
- Preventative Health Measures, such as encouraging people to give up smoking (all NHS sites are now non-smoking areas);
- Healthy Lifestyles, the Public Health Team are running a programme of walks in various sites over four weeks.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Richard Jones be thanked for his update.

Minute 7 - Youth Participation at Area Forums

John Davies gave a presentation titled Participation by Wirral's Children and Young People. He explained that there is already a great deal of participation by Wirral's children in many areas including:

- Youth Forums
- Connect-uz Connexions
- Play Schemes
- Schools Councils
- Children and Youth Voice Conference
- Pupil Panels

He said that whilst tonight there had been a lot of negative comments about youths across the whole of the borough, there is a lot of positive contributions to society being made by young people.

Mr Davies answered various queries from members of the public.

Cllr Paula Southwood added that she is a member of a Scrutiny Committee for Children and one of their aims over the next year is to look at reasons why some children don't join in organised activities.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that John Davies be thanked for his presentation.

Minute 8 - Recycling update

David Green, Director of Technical Services, gave the Forum an update on the new recycling pilot scheme and the new waste contract.

He explained that on 22 August the new waste contract would begin, lasting 21 years at a cost of £250 million. Each household would have 3 wheelie bins, one for Kitchen and Garden waste, one for dry recyclates and one for Residual waste. The aim is to get Wirral's recycling rate up to 50% in the next 4/5 years. There has been a 96% participation rate in the pilot that is being run across this Forum area. Garden waste weight has gone up from an average of 2.4 kg per household to 7.5Kg, which is very

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encouraging. At present there are too many grass cuttings, as opposed to household waste, which is not helping the decomposition process, but this is a learning experience and this is the whole idea of a pilot.

A member of the public commented that a two weekly collection was causing problems with rotting food, causing there to be maggots and a nasty smell.

David Green suggested that food should be wrapped in Newspaper, which was acceptable and then covered with garden waste. The Council have also been able to find a supplier of biodegradable bags for the kitchen food caddy which would help.

Alan Dollery asked what are the plans for the multi occupancy buildings and recycling?

David Green explained that the current contract holder Onyx who would remove them on The 22nd August supplied the existing bins. New ones would then be supplied to replace them. Discussions would then have to be entered into with residents as to how they wanted to approach recycling, but in the short term the idea was to get the greatest amount of uptake from the households with the 3 bins.

A member of the public, Mr Garrett, asked what would be happening to households that currently had a bag collection because of collection problems?

David Green said that in the short term there would be no change but in the long term it would have to be reviewed, and he informed the forum that an Officer from the recycling team will provide information on recycling at the next forum.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that:

- i. David Green be thanked for his report and update.
- ii. Tara Dumas be invited to the next meeting to give a Recycling report/presentation

Minute 9 - Partner updates (Community Safety Initiatives) - Fire Service - Police - Community Safety

Fire Service

Keith LePoidevin welcomed the opportunity to explain to the Forum the kind of activities that the Fire Service is now engaged in, and the Service is already working with many of the other providers present at the forum. He explained the financial costs of various types of fires, injuries and deaths caused by fire, and to combat this the Service is involved in more preventative work.

Cllr Doyle thanked him for this presentation and invited him to come back in the future to give a more detailed presentation.

Police

Inspector Ian Shaw explained that his force is currently concentrating much of their efforts in to combating fatalities caused as a result of motoring offences. He said that he did not want to blind the public with statistics, but of the 178 of motoring deaths in the last year 78% were caused by speeding. There are currently a number of initiatives, which have been running across the Borough, to try to reduce the number of accidents - including speeding fines, and targeting people using mobiles whilst driving and not wearing seatbelts. We are also addressing the drugs problem and working in partnership with drug and alcohol services, and have been successful in getting people

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into treatment. This has impacted positively on drug-related burglaries. There has been a spate of walk-in burglaries due to the recent hot weather and he advised people to be more careful with home security.

Community Safety

Mike Walker from the Community Safety Team explained that he was responsible for CCTV cameras, community patrol and alley gating (which are based on burglaries information from the Police). His job is to look after the CCTV system and cameras which monitor nightlife and traffic cameras. The control room is linked to Manor Road Police Station. They patrol schools, colleges and parks with 24/7 cover and answer alarm calls on public buildings. Mr Walker then answered queries and points raised from members of the public.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- i. Keith LePoidevin, Inspector Shaw and Mike Walker be thanked for their updates.
- ii. Keith LePoidevin be invited to give a more detailed presentation to a future meeting.

Minute 10 - Streetscene update - Transport Capital Monitoring, Integrated Transport Block 2007/08

Mark Traynor from Streetscene covered the updates listed on pages 54-58 in the Area Co-ordinators Report.

Cllr Doyle said that the Forum needed to make a decision re: the Transport Capital Programme 2007/08 Integrated Transport Block (covered on pages 65 –67 of the Area Co-ordinators Report).

David Green explained that there are three options available to the Forum:

- i. to allocate a share of the allocated sum of £180,000 in each of the eleven Forums on an equal basis for the Forum to choose how to allocate the money.
- ii. for the money to continue to be spent on a Borough-wide basis, with the views of the Forums fed into the decision-making process.
- iii. to leave things as they stand at present.

Cllrs Holbrook and Williams expressed the opinion that they hadn't had enough time to consider the matter fully and whether it could be deferred to the next meeting.

David Green replied that a decision could not be put off until the next meeting, as this was not due to be held till October.

Cllr Bridson asked whether each Forum member could be sent details individually and whether they could reply by post.

David Green agreed stated this had been requested at another area forum and could be done.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that the Area Co-ordinator write to all forum members detailing the options and requesting a response (with a freepost envelope).

Minute 11 - Future meetings / presentations

Cllr Doyle informed the meeting that after discussions with Councillors and the Area Plan sub committee it was felt that the forum should change from holding it's meeting at one particular venue. It was suggested that the next meeting could be held at the Shaftsbury Youth Club, Tranmere Rovers FC or in that area of Prenton if these are not

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available.

Cllr Doyle also suggested that, prior to the meeting, Councillors, Community Reps, Council Officials and Service Providers should hold a 30-minute surgery, to take some pressure off the Public Question Time session.

He also explained that, as there were no outstanding presentations, the forum could experiment by having a series of workshops, possibly at the February 2007 meeting, to see how best we could take the forums forward and what the public want / expect from them.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, 17TH OCTOBER 2006

Minute Decision :
Resolved that:

- i. the Area Co-ordinator make the necessary arrangements for a drop in session prior to the next forum meeting.
- ii. the Area Co-ordinator look at alternative venues for the next meeting, including Tranmere Rovers Football Club.
- iii. the Area Co-ordinator explore a workshop approach for a future Area Forum.

Minute 12 - Any other business

Cllr Doyle said he had received no notified business and closed the meeting at 9.10 p.m.

Matters Arising

Integrated Capital Programme 2007/07 – Integrated Transport Plan

A letter was sent to all forum members following the decision made at the last meeting.

13 forms were received of those, 8 indicated a preference for option one, 0 indicated a preference for option two and 5 indicated a preference for option three.

This information was passed to Geoff Bell on 3 July 2006. Please see below DRAFT report.

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
CABINET – 15th NOVEMBER 2006**

DRAFT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK AREA FORUM CONSULTATION

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report brings to Cabinet's attention the results of Area Forum Consultation on the drawing up of the 2007/08 list of highway schemes under the LTP Integrated Transport Block.
- 1.2 It summarises the decision of each Area Forum on the possible reallocation of this transport block from the centre to each Area Forum.
- 1.3 The report concludes and seeks Cabinet approval to the Block Allocation remaining at the centre. It caveats however that the Area Forums be more closely engaged in drawing up subsequent programmes of work under this heading.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 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.

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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.
- 2.2 Subsequent to the above minute senior officers engaged each of the Eleven Area Forums in the June cycle of meetings as follows.

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DATE	FORUMS	VENUE
Monday – 7pm 5 June 2006	Bromborough/Eastham	South Wirral High, Plymyard Avenue, Eastham CH62 8EH
Monday – 7 pm 5 June 2006	Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch	Woodchurch Methodist /Church, Pemberton Road, Woodchurch CH49 8JL
Tuesday – 6pm 6 June 2006	Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry	Birkenhead Town Hall, Hamilton Street, Birkenhead CH41 6AX
Tuesday – 7pm 6 June 2006	New Brighton / Wallasey	Greenleas Primary School, Greenleas Road, Wallasey
Monday – 7pm 12 June 2006	Bidston & Claughton	Birkenhead 6 th Form College, Park Road West, Claughton CH43 8SQ
Monday – 7pm 12 June 2006	Oxton / Prenton	Woodchurch Road Primary School, Woodchurch Road, Prenton CH42 9LJ
Tuesday – 7pm 13 June 2006	Leasowe, Moreton & Saughall Massie	Sandbrook Primary School, Stavordale Road, Moreton CH46 9PS
Monday – 7pm 19 June 2006	East Wallasey (Liscard / Seacombe)	Committee Rooms 1/2 Town Hall, Wallasey
Monday – 7pm 19 June 2006	Heswall / Pensby & Thingwall	Pensby Recreation Centre, Pensby Road, Pensby CH61 9PE
Tuesday – 7pm 20 June 2006	West Wirral	Holy Trinity School, Market Street, Hoylake CH47 3BH
Tuesday – 7 pm 20 June 2006	Bebington / Clatterbridge	Bebington Civic Centre, Civic Way, Bebington CH63 7PT

2.3 In presenting the item to each of the Area Forums, Technical Services officers outlined the situation along the following lines:-

The views of the Area Forum are sought 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 of the Area Forum will see from the minute from Cabinet 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

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Pedestrian sign posting		<u>£10,000</u>
	Total	£180,000

It could be anticipated that the allocation for 2007/08 would be of a similar order.

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.

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.

Dropped crossings to assist pedestrians are currently programmed in conjunction with Wirral Information Resource for Equality and Disability and £16,300 would allow about 26 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.

Individual pedestrian sign posting would be likely to cost in the order of £200 per sign.

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.

An additional option is to separate out the speed reduction programme of £70,000 and hold it centrally whilst sharing the remaining funding across the eleven Area Forums. This would allow £11,000 per Area Forum for consideration of other works under the Integrated Transport Block headings.

3.0 RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION

3.1 Whilst nine of the eleven Area Forums were able to come up with a decision on the night, two Area Forums (Birkenhead, Tranmere and Rock Ferry and Oxton and Prenton) engaged their wider membership by way of letter and questionnaire.

3.2 For completeness, tabulated below is the outcome of the whole consultation process.

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Area Forum Outcomes

Integrated Transport Block

Allocate on Individual basis to Area Forum	Leave at Centre
Bromborough / Eastham	New Brighton / Wallasey
Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall	Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton and Woodchurch
	Bidston / Claughton
	Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie
	East Wallasey, Liscard and Seacombe
	Bebington / Clatterbridge
	West Wirral
	Oxton / Prenton
	Birkenhead / Tranmere / Rock Ferry

3.3 In addition to the decisions on how the funding could be best allocated, those Area Forums opting for the funding to remain central did request to have some input in the drawing up of subsequent works programmes.

4.0 SUMMARY

4.1 The result of the consultation exercise is that nine out of the eleven Area Forums have decided that the whole of the Integrated Transport Block allocation remains at the centre for use on a borough wide basis.

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Future programmes e.g. work under this heading will be put before the Streetscene and Transport Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to seeking approval from Cabinet.

4.2 That the Area Forums wish to be involved in drawing up subsequent programmes of work.

5. DIRECTORS COMMENTS

5.1 In view of the results of the consultation it would appear sensible to keep the whole of this Integrated Transport block allocation central. In doing this and in liaising more closely with the Area Forums through their February 2007 cycle of meetings officers can engage in meaningful discussion on the types of schemes and locations that might be considered suitable and capable of prioritisation in areas covered by the respective Area Forums.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING

6.1 None arising out of this report. The Integrated Transport Block Allocation currently at £180,000 is derived directly from the LTP settlement. Existing staff are engaged in administering the schemes arising from this allocation.

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no implications under this heading.

8.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no planning implications.

9.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Schemes which can arise out of the determination on the spending profile of the block allocation can help improve safety.

10.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no implications under this heading.

12.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

12.1 A Minute of Cabinet of 25 April 2006 has been used as a basis to this item.

13.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

13.1 All Wards have been part of the consultation process.

14.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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- 14.1 That the report be noted and that officers be thanked for their engagement with the Area Forums over this matter.
- 14.2 That the Integrated Transport Block Allocation remain intact and central and for future schemes under this heading to be determined through the Streetscene and Transport Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to approval by Cabinet.
- 14.3 That the Director of Technical Services provide assistance into Area Forums to aide decision making in drawing up future works programmes under the Integrated Transport Block Allocation.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES

June 06 – issues. These were received prior to the June meeting and also raised on the evening.

1 June 2006 – Mr Dowling, phone call

1. Raised at last meeting – what is happening with leisure/swimming charges
 2. Police amalgamation of Forces possibly with Lancashire, what are Police thoughts on this
 3. Who is responsible for cleaning back entries as most houses put their wheelie bins in front so no need to go in entry, however they are messy, untidy and full of litter.
-
1. Jim Lester responded with: the price increases were not to fund anything to do with the Open but were required to address budget deficits in Cultural Services. Since the last area forum meeting, members have agreed additional funding for free swimming for over 60's at all public sessions.
 2. Email sent to Insp Shaw, will address at the meeting.
 3. Spoke to Dave Green who will respond to this at the meeting.

29 May 2006 – Mr Lennon, email

1. Requested rep from Police give verbal update to Forum on result of their response to his notification of cars abusing footway in Downing Close by using it as a car park on Tranmere Rovers home match days.
 2. Also the number of Officers deployed at these matches and those who are on duty as part of their normal duties and those who volunteer. Do those volunteering receive any payments. What is the typical proportion and actual amount of the liability to public funds for their attendance at these events.
 3. What are the additional costs to the taxpayers for the replacement sign at Belfield Drive, Oxtton arising from the spelling error. If the liability was met by the Authority, is this due to the Authority's error.
-
1. Forwarded Mr Lennon's email to Insp Shaw regarding this. He will be at the meeting.
 2. Forwarded Mr Lennon's email to Insp Shaw regarding this. He will be at the meeting.
 3. Spoke to Dave Green about this, he will be at the meeting.

Emailed Mr Lennon on 7 June to let him know this.

31 May 2006 – Andrew Taylor, email

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

1. Unable to attend but wanted the forum to know that he didn't receive any feedback as noted at the last meeting about queues at the Clatterbridge waste disposal centre. Suggested the possibility of a road sign saying 'queues likely' may be useful for motorists coming off Clatterbridge roundabout.

I have been assured that someone has tried to contact Andrew by telephone but to no avail. Also spoke to Dave about this. Dave will also give general update/feedback on recycling scheme following Geof's presentation at the last meeting.

Emailed Andrew on 7 June to let him know I had spoken to Dave Green about this.

26 May 2006 – member of the public, phone call (do have details but wants to remain anonymous)

1. Contacted the office re: derelict bakery at St George's Ave. It is a blight to the environment. Cllr Doyle has been involved in this issue?

Email sent to David Ball who stated that Lee Walsh is dealing with this. Further email sent to Lee on 31 May and subsequent telephone call on 9 June. Jonathon Ellis informed me that a section 79 notice will be issued to the owner of the property next week. If the remedial works are not carried out within a month, the owner could be prosecuted. The Council could then undertake the repairs and charge the owner for this.

Tried to contact the caller on 9 June but no answer.

9 June 2006 – Alan Dollery, phone call

Concerns over tenant who moved into Melrose flats on Monday. Previously evicted several years ago. Drug, ex drug user? Males sleeping on stairwells, all night parties. Has received 2 complaints already through the PTRAs.

Informed Insp Shaw of this. Left message for Mark Armstrong from WPH, Caroline Stewart contacted me to say she had spoken to Alan and advised for tenants to fill out diary sheets.

Following on from Monday's meeting, I picked up a few items Youth Service can look into.

1. Kingsland Road.

I understand that strictly speaking this road is not in either of the Prenton or Oxton wards, but in a neighbouring ward. However, judging by the residents' comments, a visit by our staff would be welcomed. I'll speak with the Outreach Team about it and brief them. I would imagine that the children and young people they are complaining about are their neighbours' children, and the view from the parents may be very different - the children are playing in a closed road and are within reach, and their tolerance limits may be very different.

2. Birkenhead District Youth Forum.

The next Youth Forum is to be held on Thursday 22nd June, 7-9pm at Viking Youth Club, Thorsway, Rock Ferry.

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I spoke after the meeting with the Rep from Prenton Residents (Alan Dollery?). I gave him a copy of the flyer (attached) and he said he would be taking a group of young people along.

The Youth Forum Contact is now Debbie McCabe (DebbieMcCabe@wirral.gov.uk) on 637 6370 or Internal 6362.

3. Kontactabus

After the meeting, I tried to find the gentleman who was asking questions about the Kontactabus. I fear he had left as I was unsuccessful.

As I said during the meeting, funding conditions do place restrictions on where the bus can be deployed (i.e. a large percentage of the time has to be in the NRF wards) so a regular commitment to another area is not really possible. But if I know the details, at least a preliminary visit can be made to judge the suitability of locations in the vicinity. A down side of the 'Bus is that by attracting groups of young people, it can cause other residents to complain. So the exact venue is important.

Richard Neale – 27 July 2006

Richard emailed Pollution Control as follows:

With this prolonged spell of hot weather and having to have house windows open for obvious reasons I am writing to complain about bonfire smidge blowing across from the Ormonde allotments in to my house in 6 Cambridge Road. An occasional bonfire hazard maybe acceptable at times but besides this Wednesday afternoon week ends are other times when bonfires are lit seemingly from the same patch behind those small shops next to Sainsbury's car park. One has to accept that vegetable leaves etc need disposing of but is there an alternative method for allotment holders using the type of brown bins we householders have? I am copying this to Maxine Joynson, Area Forum co-ordinator, so that this problem can be reported in the Oxton/Prenton Area Forum meeting papers. I would have telephoned but the number given on the borough website 666 4932 is unobtainable!

David King-Hele from Pollution Control responded with:

Thank you for your complaint about smoke nuisance from the Ormonde allotments. I understand from Ken Sutton (the Allotments Officer) that fires are allowed on Council allotments provided they don't cause nuisance (although alternative ways of disposing of waste are available). This Department would consider smoke from such a fire to be a nuisance if it materially interferes with the normal use or enjoyment of your property on a regular basis. We have had previous complaints about fires from these allotments and I will refer your complaint to Ken Sutton. I would be grateful if you could call this Department on 691 8278/8370/8318/8344 when the smoke are particularly bad during normal office hours: If possible, an Officer will visit your property to establish the existence of nuisance.

Richard stated this was also followed up with a telephone call.

Andrew Taylor – 14 August 2006

Section 1

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Addressed to Alan Stennard – regarding what action the Council have taken, or propose to take, to stop kids using Council property, namely the pavilion in the Borough Road playing fields, as an under-age drinking den, to the detriment and injury of residents and their homes. An e-mail has been sent by me to Inspector Ian Shaw of Upton. I add that the two households most affected are both elderly, including an 81 year old resident who has suffered in the past at the hands of these youths and whose wife is now dying of cancer at home, just yards from this drinking den. I am confident that if you knew all that has happened, you would be outraged. If you wish to visit the site and speak to the residents personally, then either I or Ann Bridson can arrange this.

Alan Stennard responded with the following - Wirral's Joint Community Safety Team, which also incorporates the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, is liaising with the Neighbourhood Police in relation to the issues raised. A multi-agency Problem Solving Group is being convened. It is intended that this take place during the week commencing 21 August, involving representatives from the Council's Licensing Section, Parks & Gardens section, Youth Services, Education Social Welfare Service, Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Wirral Community Patrol service, officers from both Upton and Well Lane police station neighbourhoods, local resident groups and local ward councillors. In the interim, the area is receiving extra attention from both the police and Wirral's Community Patrol Service and officers from the latter have been instructed to alight from their vehicles and access the field through the gated area. In addition, a Crime Reduction Officer within my Joint Community Safety Team is inspecting the pavilion site.

Following the Problem Solving Group my officers and our partners will be able to develop a comprehensive and co-ordinated response which will hopefully address the concerns of both yourself and other residents.

Presentations

A presentation on the Recycling scheme will be given on the evening.

The Chair invited Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service 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 at a future meeting.

Future meetings

The date of the next area forum is Wednesday 21 February 2007 and will be held at Tranmere Rovers Football Club due to this being half term week.

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

The Oxton Society – Patrick Toosey

The Secret Gardens have come and gone. Even though we were rained out in the last hour we still achieved a total in excess of £21,000 profit, three quarters of which went to local Charities. We were very happy that the second year of our Arno field car park was better supported and coning off one side of Ingestre all helped to reduce traffic congestion noticeably. Next years event on Sunday May 13th is already being planned.

The potential new Noctorum Conservation Area is moving ahead with the formation of a small group who are preparing to do the research that is necessary before a final proposal can go to Council.

The Oxton Plaque annual award to a building/project that enhances the Conservation Area produced 5 good candidates. Postal voting/AGM voting decided that the winner was the new St Saviour Parish Centre in Bidston Road.

Hardwood trees are a great feature of the Oxton Area and a scheme is now in operation offering modest financial help to anyone who will plant and maintain a hardwood tree in their garden. The tree must be judged by the tree as a potential enhancement to the street scene.

We are working with the Council on a street signing renewal programme throughout the Conservation Area, a long term project.tetial enhancement

Mount Estate Residents Association – June Foster

Vodafone applied to the planning dept to put a phone mast in the grounds of the Shaftesbury community club in Mendip Road, but Mount Estate Residents Association raised a petition of 336 names and various individual letters against this proposal and it was refused at the planning meeting on August 23rd

Prenton Tenants & Residents Association – Alan Dollery

Another successful Summer Play Scheme has take place and nice weather to boot, the Play Scheme attracted 151 children over the 5 weeks thankfully they all never turned up one the same day. Our fundraising Dance at the Saddle Club raised £285, thank to those who attended.

Still no response from ASDA regarding the sign post. No further information in respect to the state of the walk way along side the shops in Prenton Hall Rd/Goldsmith Rd although I believe that money is available to make good the area.

Cash available to help community and voluntary groups fight crime

25 September 2006

DO you have an idea that could help reduce crime or fear of crime?

£34,000 is available through Wirral Joint Community Safety Team for community safety projects that:

- Reduce antisocial behaviour by young people
- Reduce criminal damage
- Reduces violence
- Reduces fear of crime

The funding is open to voluntary and community groups on an Area Forum basis, up to a value of £2,000 per application.

The closing date for applications is Monday October 30. Application packs and further information can be obtained by writing to the Community Safety Team, Regeneration Department, Old Court Buildings, Manor Road, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 1BU, Tel: 0151 606 5443, fax 0151 606 5454, e-mail: jamesthompson@wirral.gov.uk

Countdown in Merseyside to new car seat laws

With just under a week to go until the new child car seat laws come into force parents in Merseyside are being urged to make sure that they are familiar with the changes. The changes are expected to save up to 2000 child casualties per year.

The new law comes into force on Monday 18 September and will require drivers to ensure that all children under 135cms (4' 5") or age 12 – whichever they reach first –use an appropriate car restraint when travelling in their vehicle.

Road Safety Minister Stephen Ladyman said:

"I would urge all parents to check that they are using appropriate child seats or booster seats. Using the right seat for the size of the child will give parents peace of mind and help to ensure that children are as safe as possible in the vehicle at all times.

"Most people do use some kind of child restraint but it is very important to use the right one for the size of the child and to take the time to fit it properly; and not to use an adult belt before the child is big enough."

Parents can get expert child car seat safety advice from in store experts at a number of retailers. Halfords, Mothercare and Toys R Us, and other stores have been supporting the Department for Transport's Think! road safety campaign and the change in the law by providing special offers on car seats and booster seats from July to September 2006.

Road safety officers in Merseyside have been hard at work promoting the new legislation to parents and carers. The chairman of the North West branch of the local authority road safety officers association (LARSOA), Steven Whitehouse from Sefton's road safety unit, said:

“Time is running out for motorists to make sure that if they are driving young children around that they comply with these new laws.

“This isn’t safety for safety’s sake – it is all about taking sensible precautions to keep our children out of harm’s way. Younger children are more fragile than teenagers or adults and are prone to more serious injuries in accidents. Even minor bumps can break their bones or seriously damage their internal organs.

“You wouldn’t put your most treasured tea service in the car without proper restraints, so why take the risk with your children? There is plenty of safety advice available and we would urge all drivers who have kids in the car to make sure their safety restraints measure up to the new laws.”

Parents unsure whether their children must use a child restraint should consider the following:

- Check the height of your child. Children up to 135cm in height (and under 12 years old) need to use a child seat, booster seat or booster cushion suitable for their weight.
- Before you buy or use any child restraint, check the label to make sure it is suitable for the child’s weight.
- Check that any restraint is securely fitted. If your child travels in more than one vehicle, check the car seat or restraint fits each car so it can be moved between them each time they travel.
- Get expert advice. Many retailers have trained in-store experts who can advise on the best kind of car seat for a child and can demonstrate how to fit it.

For more information, parents can visit www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk or call our helpline for a leaflet 0800 32 72 52

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE

Wirral Primary Care Trust

Section one

Update on the establishment of a Wirral Primary Care Trust

A Consultation on proposals for changes took place in each Strategic Health Authority in the country and concluded on 22nd March 2006. This ran at the same time as consultations on the reconfiguration of Strategic Health Authorities and Ambulance Services.

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State approving the formation of a single Primary Care Trust in Wirral, a Consultation Paper and Summary Document was produced to share with staff, stakeholders and partners to gain their views and allow them to shape the future Wirral Primary Care Trust (PCT). The Consultation ended on 7th July 2006 with all responses taken into consideration. There were no responses received from members of the public and the majority of responses were received from staff.

Work has been going on to bring together Birkenhead and Wallasey and Bebington and West Wirral Primary Care Trust as a newly established Wirral primary Care Trust on 1st October 2006.

Vision for new Wirral Primary Care Trust

As a response to the general policy direction and listening to our population, our vision is to:

“Put services around patients to identify health needs, address health needs and improve the health of our population while addressing health inequalities “

We understand the importance of creating a distinct “arm’s length” organisational structure within the new Primary Care Trusts to ensure contestability and value for money of Primary Care Trusts provider services.

The basic principle of the accommodation plans is to base Provider and Commissioning at arms length, with Commissioning Head Quarters being based at St Catherine’s Hospital, Birkenhead and Primary Care & Provider Services at Port Causeway in Bromborough.

Purpose

The Primary Care Trusts purpose will be to:

- Help people keep well
- Work with patients to make them better
- Provide continuing care for those who need it

The Primary Care Trusts' values will mirror the values of the NHS, which will be to:

“Care for all, based on need, not the ability to pay ensuring respect, dignity and compassion at all times”

Structure

The new Primary Care Trust will be structures based on its vision, the strategy and delivering its functions.

The provision of provider services will continue to be directly managed by the Primary Care Trust. Primary care services will be managed within three localities, which are Bebington and West Wirral and Birkenhead and Wallasey.

Wirral Primary Care Trust has responsibility for commissioning services for:

- a registered population of 335,000
- Budget for 2006/07 of £459m.
- responsibility for the support and development of GP practices Pharmacies, Dental Practitioners and Ophthalmic Practitioners

To find out more please visit our website www.wirralpct.nhs.uk

Section Two

Public and Patient Involvement in Health and social Care Services

A stronger local voice: A framework for creating a stronger local voice in the development of health and social care services (DoH 2006). Sets out the Government's commitment to ensuring that Public and Patient Involvement are at the heart of any future health service developments:

- Developing a health and social care system planned around the needs of individual people and those of the wider community;
- Creating health and social care services that are, regardless of who provides them, user-centered, responsive, flexible, open to challenge, accountable to communities and constantly open to improvement; and
- Devolving decision making to the local level. Some 80% of the NHS budget is now devolved to Primary Care Trusts, meaning that priorities are decided locally.

The Wirral Primary Care Trust will work with partners across Wirral building on the excellent work of patient forums and the vast array of involvement of individuals, groups and networks. It will strengthen and widen the way in which peoples views are gathered, listened to and taken account of when health and social care services are planned, developed and commissioned. Changes will include:

- The national Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) will be abolished and Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) will be established for every local authority area with social service responsibilities. These networks will support a more flexible approach to the way in which communities engage with Health and Social care organisations, in ways that best meet the needs of the communities and the people within them. Patient Forums will be strengthened ensuring a more user involvement approach is encompassed and public accountability will be promoted throughout health and social care through open and transparent communication with commissioners and providers.
- LINKs will establish a specific relationship with Council Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committees and have the power to refer matters to the Council Committees.
- Overview and Scrutiny committees will be encouraged to focus their attention on the work of commissioners of health and social care services and are ideally placed to ask about the decisions they have made.
- The duties to involve and consult will be simplified and strengthened. There will be a new duty placed on commissioners to respond to what patients and the public have said.
- Work is being undertaken to explore ways of creating a stronger voice for patients, service users and members of the public at a national level.
- There will be a stronger user voice in regulation and in regulation and involvement.

Section Three

PALs and Comments Hotline Service

In April 2006, the Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS) officially opened and launched the service from its new purpose built base at the Laurie's Centre in Birkenhead Shopping Centre. The service will take advantage of its new location to receive personal calls from members of the local community on matters relating to their health and their experience of services they have received.

In addition to the Birkenhead, based office is our outreach services based at Wirral Councils One Stop Shops in Eastham and West Kirby and will be extended to the Wallasey area in the near future.

The principle aim of the PALS service is to give advice to individual patients, their families and carers about how to get information about services and help with their concerns; however, another key element of the service is to help resolve patient's problems at an early stage, thus avoiding a concern escalating to become a formal complaint.

Information from concerns raised through the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are used to assist the Primary Care Trust in improving its services and standards, to this end we encourage and welcome feedback from individual patients, user groups and local community & voluntary organisations. There is also a free phone comments service, where at no cost to the public and in complete confidence callers can tell us of their concerns, complaints, general comments and compliments about any of the health services that are provided in Wirral and we will do our best to resolve any problems and pass on comments.

Choose and Book

From the 1st January 2006, patients have been able to make a choice over which hospital they wish to be treated, along with the time and date they wish to attend. Patients have the option of choosing amongst four hospitals and clinics.

If you want to find out more information on this or any of our other services please call or contact the PALS service either direct or through the free phone service can do so by the following

Call in or write to:

**Wirral Primary Care Trust
PALS Office
Laurie's Centre, 136 Claughton Road
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 6EY
0151 647 4251**

Or call our Comments Hotline free phone service on 0800 085 1547

Section Four

PCT response to any queries concerns which arose from Area Forum held 12 June 2006 at 7.00pm

Venue: Woodchurch Road Primary School - Woodchurch Road, Oxton

Forum Attended by: Richard Jones

Richard provided a full update on PCT developments, no questions or concerns had been raised within this forum.

Section Five – Health Promotion Activities

Do you know what is happening in your area to help you improve your and your families' health?

Essential Services offered form your local pharmacies

Sessions – For over 50's with Active Age Centre

Age Concern offer a wide range of physically, mentally and socially stimulating activities for older people who can come and participate in their chosen activity and meet new friends as part of promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. The activities include line, ballroom and tap dancing along with Tai Chi, yoga and keep fit. Bridge, arts and crafts, computer language classes and a range of therapies, which include aromatherapy, reflexology, massage and a fortnightly chiropody service.

For details and information on any of the above please contact:

0151 647 3537

Or visit

Active Age Centre

Grange Baptist Church Hall

Whetstone Lane, Birkenhead

Wirral CH41 2QS

Or visit our website www.ageconcernwirral.org

- Dispensing of prescriptions
- Repeat Dispensing Service (a service where patients with stable conditions do not need to go to the surgery every month, but can collect medicines directly from the pharmacy)
- Advice on medicines
- Advice on self care (for example when to seek medical attention for an asthmatic)
- Compliance support (helping patients to take medicines as directed – for example offering reminder charts)
- Disposal of waste medicines
- Provision of Public Health information
- Signposting (advising patients which service might be of benefit to them – for example advising a customer with a head injury to attend A and E)
- Incontinence supplies
- Stoma supplies
- Advice on minor ailments (for example allergies or stomach upsets)

Services that pharmacies might offer include:-

- Smoking cessation advice
- Emergency Hormonal Contraception (The "Morning After" pill)

- Needle exchange schemes (for drug misuses)
- Anticoagulant monitoring
- Support for Nursing and Residential Homes
- Delivery of medicines
- Prescription ordering and collection
- Measuring and fitting service for trusses and surgical support stockings
- Blood glucose testing
- Blood pressure measurement
- Cholesterol testing
- Flu vaccination
- Pregnancy testing

Pharmacies with Stop Smoking Intermediate Advisors

Did you know that you can go to your pharmacy for advice on stopping smoking and Nicotine Replacement Therapy (patches) on prescription at:

Name	Pharmacy	Address	Contact Name	Tel.Number
Prenton	Alliance	10 Holmlands Drive	Simon Jones Steph Hannah Bev Williams	608 5093
Prenton	Prenton Dell Pharmacy	25-27 Dickens Ave CH43 0TQ	Tina Smith	608 3507
Noctorum	Townfield	3 Townfield Close CH43 9JW	Mark Bartley Daniel Thomason	653 7707

Pharmacy contact details, localities, opening times (and more) can be obtained from <http://www.nhs.uk/England/Pharmacies/Default.aspx>

A Parliament for Older People in Wirral

A Discussion paper

DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

1. Introduction

1.1 Wirral Borough Council has passed the following motion :

Council – 10th April 2006

Minute 124 - NOTICE OF MOTION: AN OLDER PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT FOR WIRRAL

Minute Text :

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin

Seconded by Councillor R Moon

"(1) This Council believes that engaging with older people is fundamental to improving all services provided by the Council and its partners and that older people make a tremendous contribution to the whole community in Wirral.

(2) It further believes that engagement with the Council, through a parliament, will provide them with a voice to influence all aspects of life within Wirral and the opportunity to share their wisdom and experience.

(3) The Council notes that the population of older people in Wirral is increasing. At the last census there were 65,134 people of retirement age, equal to 20.9% of the population and over 2% more than the average for England. By 2012 the population of people over 65 will continue to increase, with the greatest rise (20.8%) expected in people over 85.

(4) The Council is committed to the provision of social inclusion and notes that the profile of deprivation on Wirral shows that in some areas older people face economic deprivation and social exclusion. Some of the people are excluded, including those in more affluent areas. In a survey undertaken by Bebington Council for Voluntary Service, 79 people out of a survey sample of 108 said they felt some degree of social isolation.

(5) The Council therefore calls upon the Chief Executive to develop proposals to establish an Older People's Parliament for Wirral. The Council believes that, in making proposals for the Parliament, representatives should be drawn from older people across Wirral through the area forum structure.

(6) The Council also recognises the importance of connecting developments in Wirral to those at national level. Therefore it recommends that Wirral joins "Better Government for Older People", a government initiative aimed at bringing all interested parties together to ensure the needs of older people are met more effectively."

Following a debate it was -

Minute Decision :

Resolved - (65:0) That the motion be approved.

1.2 The Council in passing the motion recognise the place of Older People in the future of Wirral in all aspects of life. In turn, the Council recognise that to improve the quality of life for older people in Wirral, requires examination of all aspects of Council responsibilities.

1.3 The suggestion is that Area Forums offer the base for the Parliament to be created. This paper takes that suggestion forward, recognising that by establishing the Parliament, Local Forums and civic renewal may be enhanced.

2. **Governance and Representation**

2.1 The Council is committed to involvement and recognises that such involvement must demonstrate real impact. Therefore, in establishing the Parliament, the Council both re-affirms key principles, sets outcomes and gives a place within the authority business process for the Older Peoples' Parliament.

2.2 **Key Principles**

- Older people in Wirral should all enjoy a good quality of life in all aspects of their daily life experiences.
- Older people make a positive contribution to life in their local community and across Wirral.

The Parliament will enable this source of knowledge and wisdom to be utilized for the advantage of service improvement.

- Involvement, listening, responding, will underpin the working arrangements for the Parliament and its relationship with Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council.
- Arrangements for the Parliament will seek to enhance existing links rather than duplicate processes. It will provide direct links between older people and elected representatives.

2.3 **Outcomes**

- Involvement as a member of the Older Peoples' Parliament will be judged positive and worthwhile by all older people directly involved.
- Developments across Wirral will all be subject to comment from the Parliament. This is to ensure the perspective of older people is reflected in decision making.

2.4 **Governance**

2.4.1 Each Local Area Forum will nominate four representatives for the Older Peoples' Parliament. Eligibility will be people who live in the area covered by the Local Forum and people will be aged 50 or above. Attendance at the forums will be on a rota basis with each forum having two places available for older people. This should provide adequate capacity for absences.

2.4.2 The forty four people will be the Older Peoples' Parliament for Wirral.

2.4.3 The Parliament will meet four times each year. One meeting will be an Annual Meeting whereby formal reports will be presented. The Parliament will be able to convene extra meetings to discuss matters of special concern it identifies, or when the Council require an opinion of it on an urgent matter of Council business. However, it will not have executive powers; rather, its power will be derived through its ability to influence and shape decisions and developments.

2.4.4 The Parliament will be quorate when 11 or more people are in attendance, with at least one representative from each Local Area.

2.4.5 The Parliament will, at its first meeting, appoint the following roles:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Spokespersons for: each Cabinet Members Portfolio.

It will develop detail of its own operating process and standing orders.

2.4.6 Each department will appoint a lead officer – at third tier or above – as a key link to departmental business.

2.4.7 Each Cabinet Member, Chair of appropriate Select Committee(s), Older Peoples' Parliament lead and Departmental contact will meet on a two monthly basis. This is to review issues in the forward plan and on Select Committee agendas. This informal discussion will influence the formal agenda and facilitate direct comments from older people.

2.4.8 The agenda of each Select Committee and one Cabinet meeting each two months will include a report from the Older Peoples' Parliament. Reports to Select Committee will relate to the specific business agenda of Select Committees. However, they will address the principles of Local Area Agreements (LAA) that is a whole system approach. Reports to Cabinet will provide a summary of current and future issues and make recommendations as appropriate.

2.4.9 The Parliament will be the key link to Better Government for Older People, nominating links to whichever groups it decides are appropriate.

3. Supporting the Parliament

3.1 The primary links for the Older Peoples' Parliament will be via the LAA block lead for Healthier Communities and Older People and Democratic Services (A senior nominated officer).

3.2 The process for the Older Peoples' Parliament will conform to the usual process for Council business, be recorded and conducted in public.

3.3 Wirral Borough Council, through Democratic Services will provide administration for the Older Peoples' Parliament. This will include note taking, postage, photocopying and similar tasks. A budget, amount to be arranged, is to be identified for this purpose.

3.4 Wirral Borough Council will make a sum, to be agreed, per year available for additional administrative duties. The Parliament will be responsible for the deployment of and accounting for this fund. It hopes to use it to create one or more posts to be filled by older people.

3.5 Wirral Borough Council will fund membership of Better Government for Older People (BGOP) in full each year. This membership of BGOP will be reviewed and reported upon annually at the AGM.

4. Process and Time Scales

4.1 This initial draft proposal has been discussed with the Director of Adult Services, representatives of Senior Citizens Group and Area Forum Co-ordinator. This amended version takes on feedback from all.

4.2 Arrangements have been made to invite the 370 current members of the Senior Citizens Forum to attend their own Local Area Forum. This is to increase general awareness of the forums and their processes. Others who have expressed interest in the Parliament are also to be written to.

4.3 This paper is to be presented to Chief Officers Management Team, appropriate council committees. Discussion will also be held between lead representative of Senior Citizens (Jack Cuffe), LAA Block Lead (John Webb), Local Forum Co-ordinators (Tracey Smith) and Chief Executive Officer (Stephen Maddox) to confirm details.

4.4 During July, the Senior Citizens' Forum will agree arrangements for nominations/election of representatives. Wirral Borough Council will identify the key links at member and senior officer level.

4.5 During July, Better Government for Older People is holding a national event in Brighton. The intention is to send representatives for this event and use it to "piggy back" and highlight the development of an Older Peoples Parliament for Wirral.

4.6 A high profile launch for the Parliament is to be planned for late September/early October.

4.7 In October, the representative older people will join their respective Local Area Forums.

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Proposals developed (JW)	Report presented to COMT and Cabinet (SM)	Senior Citizens nominate representatives (JC)			OP attend Panel	Process begins for real
Shared with CEO (JW)		Possible attendance at BGOP Brighton Conference (JC)		High Profile First Parliament (JW)		
Letters re Forums to all members of Senior Citizens and other interested people (TS)		Public Launch in Media (TM)		First meeting of Executive Member Select Chair OP Rep Senior Officer		

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



department for
education and skills
creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence

"Playing for Success" at Tranmere Rovers

"Playing for Success" (PfS) is a partnership between DfES, sports clubs and local authorities. Through the initiative, out-of-school-hours study support centres have been established at over 100 football grounds and other sporting venues around the country. The centre at Tranmere Rovers opened its doors in the summer term of 2006 with schools attending a 4-week pilot scheme prior to the centre being fully operational from September 2006. A Centre Manager and a full time Teaching Assistant / ICT Technician are running the centre and students from Liverpool Hope University have been recruited to work as pupil mentors. Pupils from Wirral's primary, secondary and special schools from Year 5 through to Year 9 are being targeted to attend 10-week after-school courses in the new ICT suite based in the club's Recreation Centre. During this time they will develop their literacy, numeracy and ICT skills whilst raising their levels of motivation and self esteem using the medium and environment of football as a stimulus. Links are also being developed with Wirral's Family and Lifelong Learning team and with the authority's Extended Schools and Study Support programmes.

Local Network Fund for Children and Young People

Community Foundation for Merseyside are currently encouraging local voluntary and community groups who are working with young people and who have projects that specifically benefit young people to apply to their Local Network Fund Programme.

The main beneficiaries for projects should be 0-19 years (up to 25 with Learning Disabilities) and projects should meet at least one of Every Child Matters outcomes:

- Being Healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and Achieving
- Making a Contribution
- Achieving Economic Well-being

Priority will go to groups with an annual turnover of less than £100,000, and groups working in the most disadvantaged/deprived communities. LNF have to be the main funder covering at least 70% of the total project costs.

Deadline for returning applications for the next round in Wirral is 30/11/06 – For application forms you will need to ring a call centre, their number is 0845-113 0161.

For further information about the fund please Community Foundation for Merseyside on 0151-966-4604.

Young competition winners presented with road safety calendar by Wirral's Mayor

18 September

Children in Wirral who won a competition to contribute pictures on road safety to a calendar have received their prizes at a presentation last Friday evening.

The twelve children were all five or six years old when they entered the competition earlier this year. The pictures drawn by the children are focused around Wirral Council's Kerbcraft Road Safety Campaign that aims to teach children essential, everyday road safety messages at the kerbside.

Wirral's Mayor, Cllr Peter Johnson, presented the twelve competition winners with two copies of the calendar at the prize giving ceremony in Wallasey Town Hall.

All the children who entered the competition will be given a copy of the calendar. It will also be made available to any organisation in Wirral that wants one. Crafty the road safety mascot made a "surprise" visit to help the Mayor congratulate the children.

Commenting on the calendar, Cllr Johnson said: "This is a genuinely ingenious way of instilling good road safety habits into children from an early age. I'd like to congratulate the Council's Road Safety Team on an excellent piece of work.

"Later this month, young children in Wirral will receive a colouring book that will also reinforce road safety messages. These campaigns really do show the importance the Council attaches to keeping young children safe."

The calendar runs from this September to August next year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE

Wirralbiz launches new free business service

Wirralbiz is introducing a brand new scheme to help Wirral businesses increase their profit margins.

Wirralbiz's expertise has, until now, been focused on assisting business start-ups to launch and become profitable in the fastest time, at the lowest cost.

The principles concerned with creating a business are the same as those required to ensure sustainability and create growth. At the most basic these can be described as the 3three M's: Marketing, Money, and Management.

As a result of a new local initiative, existing small businesses in specific electoral wards can now, at no cost, gain assistance to help increase competitiveness and profitability.

These wards are Birkenhead, Bidston, Seacombe, Leasowe, Tranmere and Woodchurch.

To be eligible for business support the business must be based, or the owner(s) must reside, in the wards listed above.

For any further information on any of our services please call 0151 650 6950 or email info@wirralbiz.biz.

Community RePaint Wirral

15 September

A new community recycling venture has been launched in Wirral.



Most people have tins of perfectly usable paint, varnish, or wood stains sitting in their sheds. Now this can be re-used thanks to Community RePaint Wirral.

Wirral LA21 Network is behind this initiative in Wirral. Based in Gorsey Lane, Wallasey, the group is actively collecting re-usable paint and already have a large supply which is available on request to voluntary / community sector groups.

Over 377 million litres of paint are sold in the UK each year (retail and trade) of

which an estimated 75 million litres (enough to fill fifty olympic sized swimming pools) is stored in homes and garages or just thrown away, usually straight into landfill.

Further details from Wirral LA21 Network on 0151 639 2121 – ask for Jim or email jim@la21.net. Out of hours please ring 0151 632 2047. The website for the national scheme is www.communityrepaint.org.uk

Website: <http://10.107.1.50:8888/be/recycling>

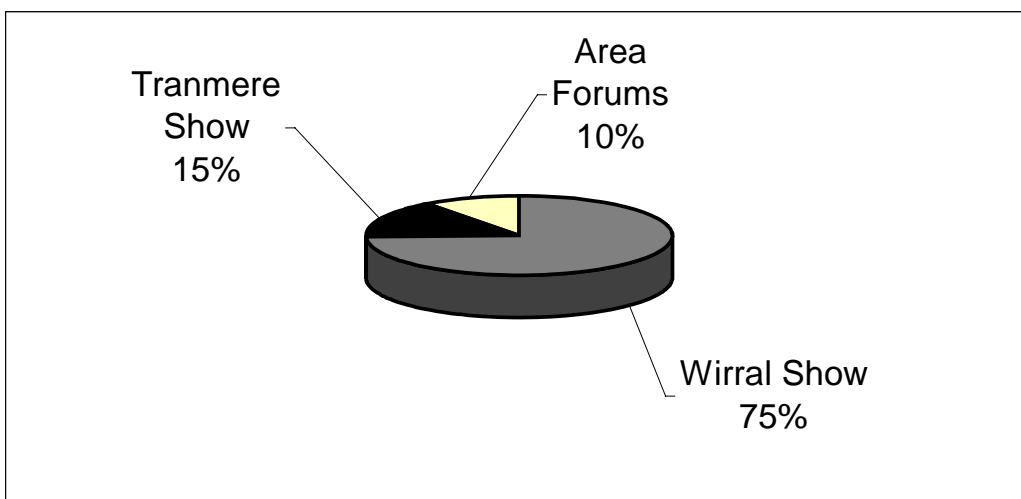
CROSS CUTTING

Area Forum Consultation

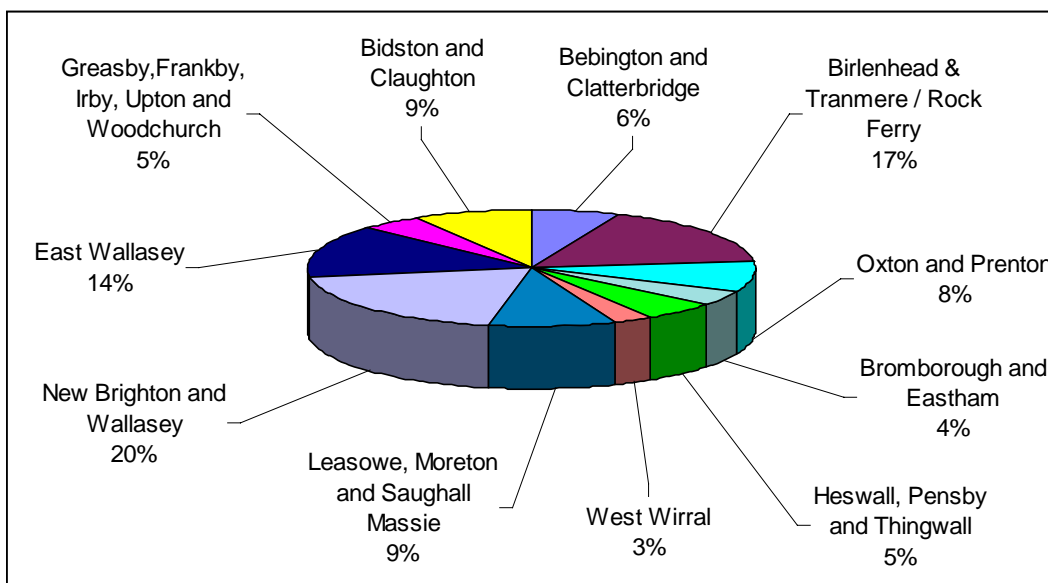
The Community Planning Team developed a questionnaire to ensure that Wirral Borough Council's Area Forums continue to be representative of our residents. Local people attending the Area Forums, the Wirral Show and the Tranmere Show have completed 290 questionnaires.

Some of the results from the questionnaires are detailed below:

Questionnaires completed by event



Questionnaires completed by forum area

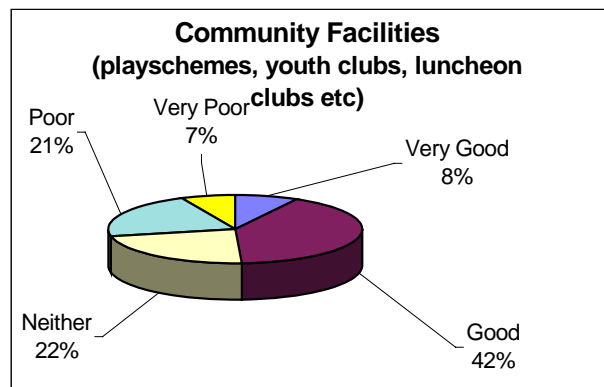
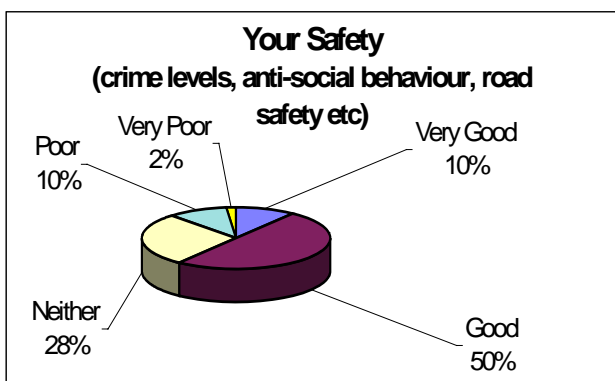
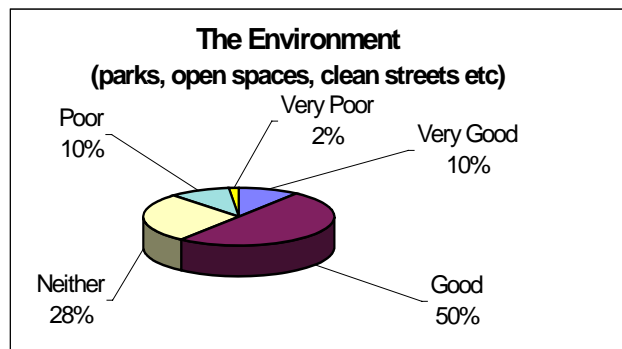
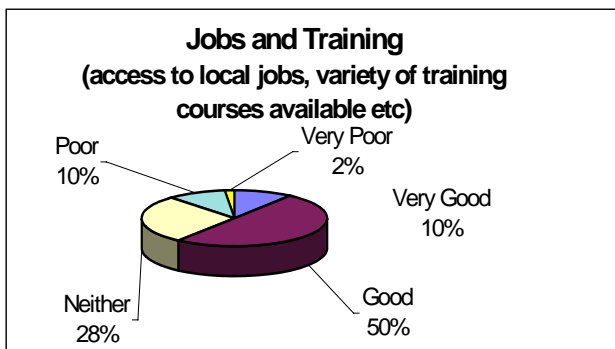
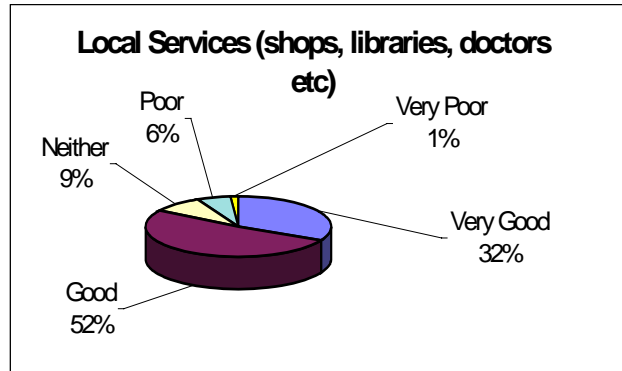
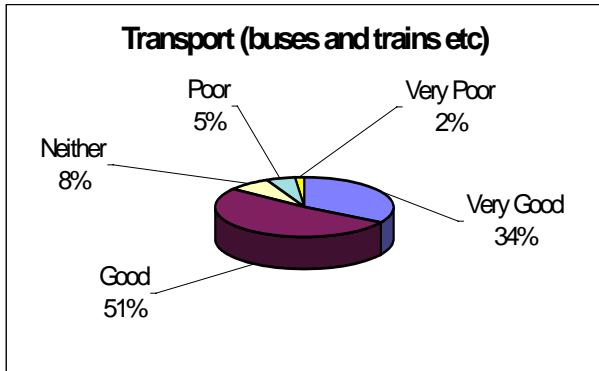


Information on the people completing the questionnaires

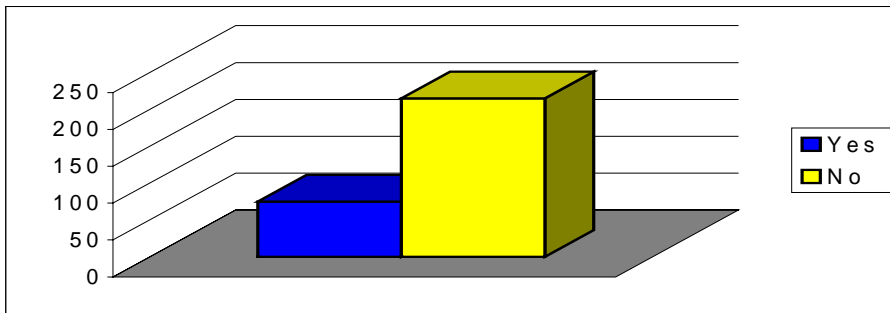
Male	121
Female	169
Under 19	40
20 - 64	183
65+	24
People that consider themselves to have a disability	27
People that consider themselves not to have a disability	263
White British	268
White Irish	3
White Other	4
Mixed – White & Asian	1
Mixed – White & Black-Caribbean	3
Mixed – Other mixed background	2
Asian or Asian British – Indian	3
Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	3
Chinese	2
Other Ethnic Group	1

The following has been taken from all the questionnaires completed at the Area Forums, Wirral Show and Tranmere Show in 2006.

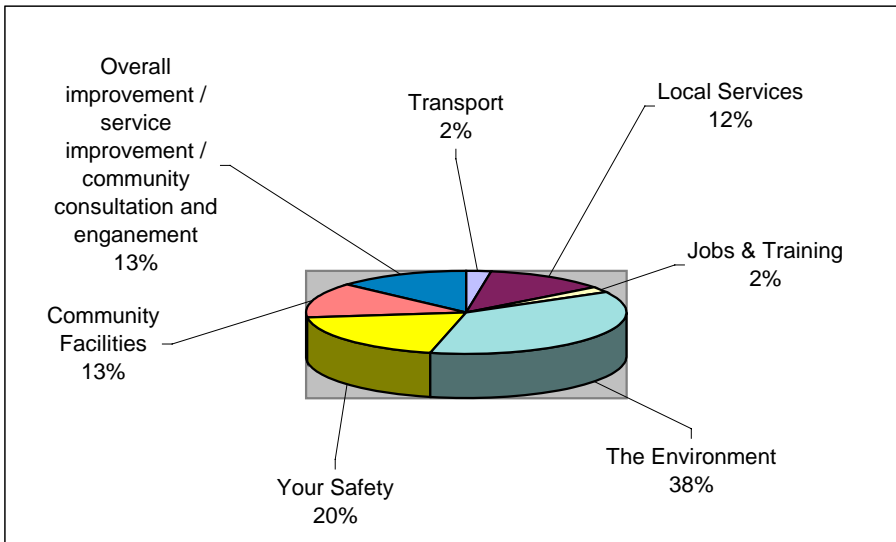
How well do you think the area is where you live (within 10 minutes walk of your home) for....



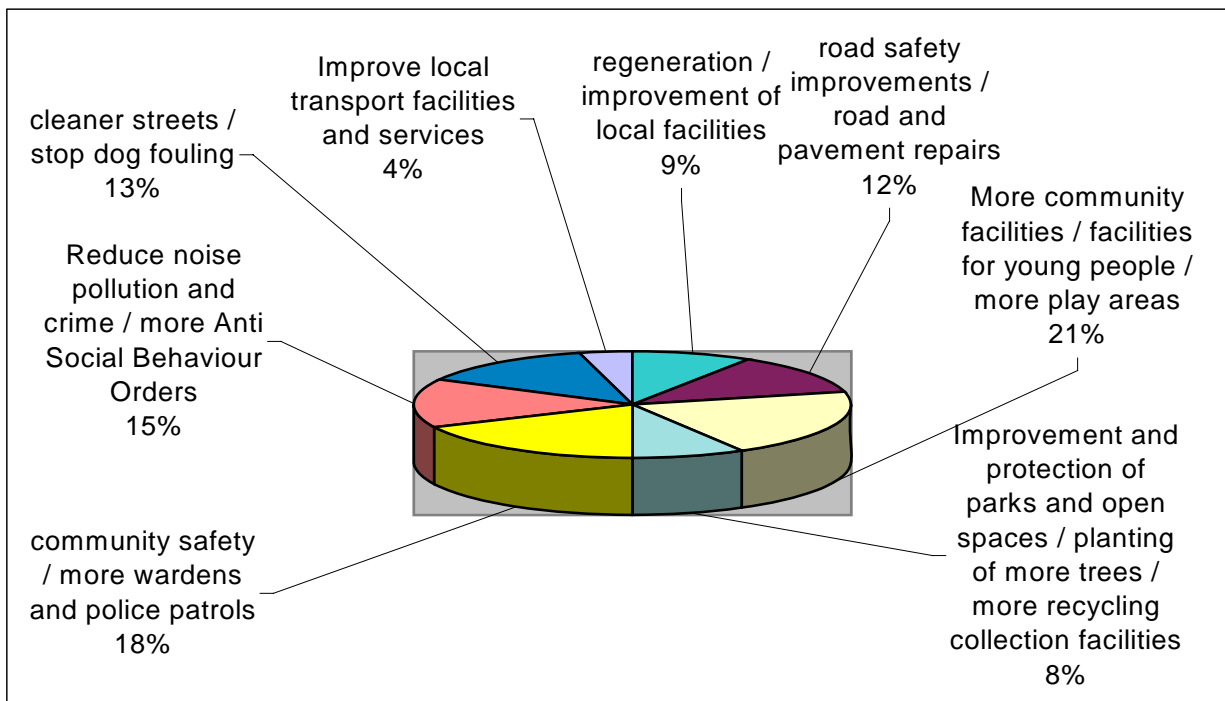
Would you say that the area where you live has improved over the past 2 years?



If yes, how has it improved?

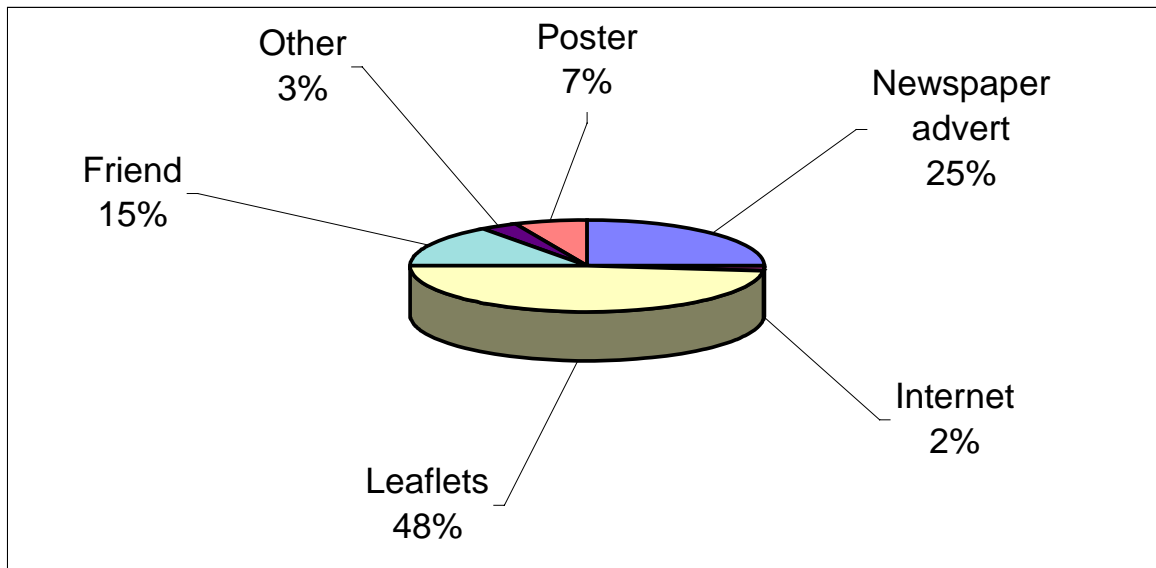


If no, what do you think would be the best improvement to make the area where you live better?

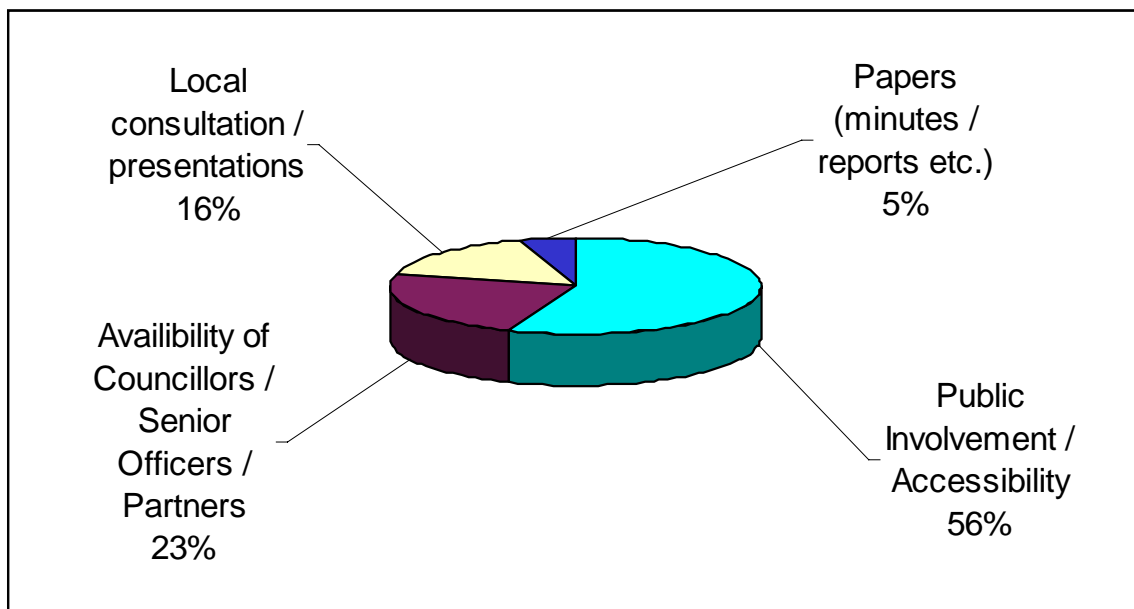


The following additional questions (specifically on the area forums) were asked of those who had attended the forums. 30 questionnaires were completed with the following results:

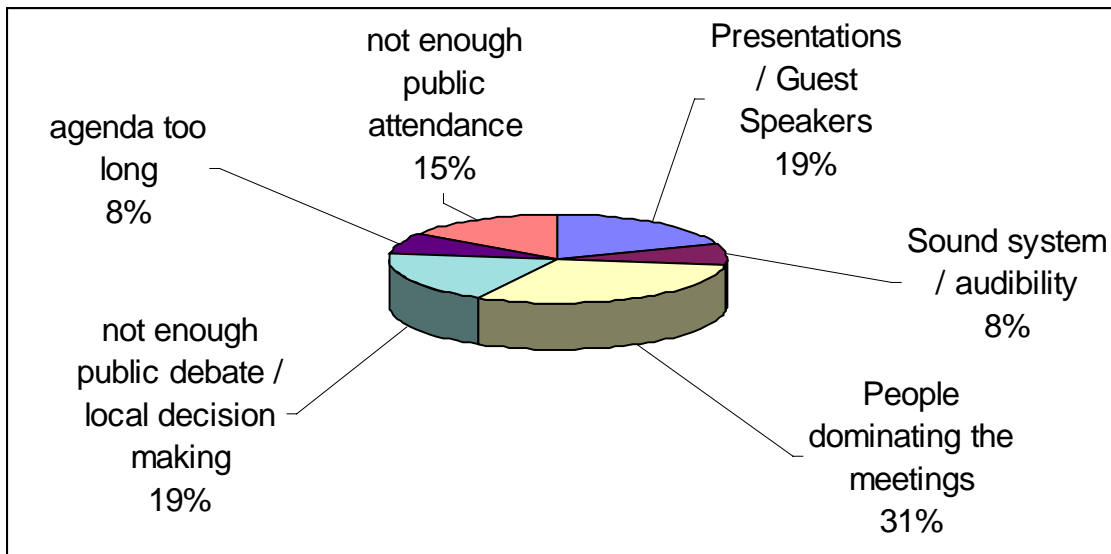
How did you hear about Area Forums?



What do you think works at Area Forums?



What doesn't work well at Area Forums?



Have you any ideas on how to improve Area Forums?

- Hold in fully accessible venues on bus routes or near a train station; better heating of venues in Winter
- More publicity/local radio/papers etc.; let the public know a bit more about the forums; encourage better public attendance
- Provide more information about specific services to be made available
- Give more notice of members who will be attending, so relevant questions can be aimed at the right person
- Provide suggestion boxes in areas and join up with residents associations
- Better behaviour on the part of some residents
- Restrict time from being wasted ; adhere to time limits and start the meetings on time and close doors 5 minutes after start of meeting
- Papers for next meeting be given out at the previous meeting
- Have more discussion groups
- More professional powerpoint presentations by council officials/other contributors.
- More time to be given to issues to allow time to absorb information
- Copies of slides should be made available for everyone, not just top table
- Keep Agenda and Presentations fresh; have only two presentations per meeting unless requested
- Make certain you elect a good chairperson
- Have guest speakers e.g. MP or Minister; more Police presentations etc.
- Generally happy with the Forums, no improvement required; well chaired and organised

Paper and packaging recycling collection to start in November

Wirral residents in some parts of Oxton, Prenton, Woodchurch, Upton, and most of Moreton will all get a new paper and packaging recycling collection starting from November 6.

Residents will be able to recycle plastics, glass, cardboard, paper and food and drinks cans right from the kerbside. The new recycling collection will alternate weekly with residents' regular green wheelie bin collection.

David Green, Director of Technical Services said, "This is an exciting new recycling service for Wirral. We know that some people may worry with the change to the frequency of their green wheelie bin collections, but if everyone recycles all the items they can, there will be no reason for this bin to be emptied every week."

He continued, "We have a great new facility in Wirral which will mean that all these items can just be rinsed and thrown in to the new grey bin without being separated. The Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Bidston will do all the sorting for you."

Roadshows are being held to explain everything and Council Officers will be there to answer every question that could be asked. Come along to any of the roadshows from 10am-12pm and 5pm-7pm unless otherwise stated.

- September 25
Chetwynd Territorial Army Centre,
Wexford Road, Oxton.
10am-12pm, 6pm-8pm
- October 2
Prenton Library, Dickens Avenue.
- October 9
Social Hall, Woodchurch Leisure Centre,
Carr Bridge Road, Woodchurch.
- October 16
Upton Library, Ford Drive, Upton.
- October 23
Moreton Library, Pasture Road.

Residents affected are asked to be aware that the last weekly collection of the green wheelie bin will take place on the week beginning October 30 and they should plan their rubbish disposal with this in mind. For further information please call Streetscene on 0151 606 2004.

Section Three

Forum Funding

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 Oxtan / Prenton area forum.

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

The assessment panel met on Thursday 8 June to consider the CIF applications. The panel consisted of:

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

There were 11 applications received in total amounting to £16,010. The panel considered all applications and allocated:

£3,554 from CIF
£968 from Community Safety
£300 from LA21

This leaves:

£7446 CIF
£2,032 Community Safety
£1,200 LA21

Balance of funding is £10,678 which will be advertised in the Globe on 13 & 27 September with a closing date of Wednesday 8 November. It is anticipated that applicants will receive notification by Wednesday 21 January.

Recommendations were made to the Executive Board on 12 July and all the groups that applied received notification regarding their applications at the beginning of August.

The next 3 pages gives details of all the applications received.

ID	Bid No.	Received From	Requested	Bid Details	CIF	CS	LA21	Total £	Comments of Appraisal Panel
Funding Available					£11,000.00	£3,000.00	£1,500.00	£15,500.00	
1097	1	Birkenhead Woodcraft Folk	£987.00	To contribute towards the purchase of craft materials, play equipment, equipment, and to cover publicity costs for Play Out Project.	£704.00	£0.00	£0.00	£704.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £704.00, from the Community initiatives Fund, towards the purchase of craft materials, play equipment and equipment. Panel wished to advise the applicant to contact Alan Dollery (0151 608 0077) re: Summer Playscheme in the Prenton area.
1098	2	Wirral Women & Childrens Aid	£1,000.00	To help run the youth club for the next 12 months.	£0.00	£750.00	£0.00	£750.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £750.00, from the Community Safety Fund, towards the variable costs. Panel also requested that the progress report include information on the number of people from the Oxtan and Prenton area that benefited from this service.
1099	3	Argyle Music Hall	£1,000.00	To provide entertainment for older people and those who have an interest in music hall (hire of venue, payment of artistes and musicians, advertising costs).	£600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£600.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £600.00, from the Community Initiatives Fund, towards this.

1100	4	Jellybean Kids' Appeal	£2,500.00	To contribute towards creating a children's assessment and treatment area (CATS) at Arrowe Park Hospital.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	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.
1175	5	Wirral Life Education Centres	£750.00	To contribute towards the costs of providing a mobile classroom at local primary schools.	£750.00	£0.00	£0.00	£750.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £750.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund. Panel requested that the applicants make links with Prenton Primary and Devonshire Park Schools.
1201	6	Inclusive Access (UK) Ltd	£6,400.00	To provide access auditing and Disability Awareness Training to enhance community and voluntary buildings within the places within the forum area.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	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. Panel advised the applicant to contact the Council's Access Officers (0151 691 8212) for advice on Audits.
1207	7	1175 (Prenton) Squadron Air Training Corps	£1,000.00	To purchase equipment to be loaned to cadets taking part in the expedition element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £500.00 towards this, from the Community Initiatives Fund. Panel requested that recruitment posters be displayed in the Prenton Tenants and Residents Association (please contact Alan Dollery on 0151 608 0077 to arrange this) and in local shops in Oxtan and Prenton.

1208	8	Community Allotment Group	£300.00	To purchase gardening equipment and plants to provide a therapeutic environment at a Council allotment.	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00	£300.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £300.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.
1209	9	Christ Church Birkenhead	£1,000.00	To contribute towards refurbishment works to the kitchen.	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.
1211	10	Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	£218.00	To train / recruit 15 volunteers to work with children and their families who are affected by crime in their local area, and to cover volunteer's travel expenses.	£0.00	£218.00	£0.00	£218.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £218.00 from the Community Safety Fund.
1222	11	Age Concern Wirral	£855.00	To contribute towards annual older persons' conference.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	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.
Funding Allocated					£3,554.00	£968.00	£300.00	£4,822.00	
Balance of Funding					£7,446.00	£2,032.00	£1,200.00	£10,678.00	

Oxton / Prenton Area Forum Funding Progress Report

Amount	Received From	Bid Details	Progress Report
£500.00	Stanley Special School PTA	To set up a Parent / Carer Resource Unit.	Report received from Stanley Special School PTA - July 2006: The resource unit has now been fully stocked with books, DVDs and CD Roms which vary from informative publications to duplicates of programmes used in schools so that families can continue to work at home. The unit is being used by parents, guardians, siblings and staff.
£1,100.00	Tranmere Harris Allotment Society	To purchase equipment to enable members to recycle and regenerate all green waste back to compost.	Report received from Tranmere Harris Allotment Society - July 2006: Many thanks for the funding that was well spent on equipment that is being used by members, enabling them to improve their plots appearance, and discouraging the 'dumping' of green waste and encouraging recycling.
£500.00	Heswall Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) / Arrove Park Hospital Outreach Project	To maintain a minimal outreach service whilst carrying out an expansion and reorganisation of the service.	Report received from Heswall Citizens Advice Bureau / Arrove Park Hospital Outreach Project - August 2006: The funding helped to enable us to keep the service going at Arrove Park Hospital from November 2005 to March 2006. We saw 731 new clients in this period who presented us with 1430 different enquiries.
£500.00	Wirral Cultural Diversity Group (WCDG) - part of Partnership for Racial Equality	To run and support various multi-cultural events.	Report received from Wirral Cultural Diversity Group - August 2006: The funding was used for our annual multicultural festival held at Pacific Road in November 2005. The festival was for families to experience food, music, cultural activities, goods and dancing etc. from a range of cultural groups.

Section Four

Local Area Plan

Update

The area plan and the first edition of the newsletter were sent to all forum members in early August.

The purpose of the plan is to give an understanding of the local area that you live in/represent. It also gives information about Wirral, what is in your area, statistical information and it also identifies local issues that have been raised and includes nationally agreed Local Area Agreement priorities.

A lot of hard work has gone into the plan by the area co-ordinator, area plan sub-group and members of the community. Thank you very much to everybody for all their hard work and support in the development of the area plan.

The area plan is a useful tool for everyone who has an interest in improving their local area, as it not only provides area forum members with a work programme of actions to be addressed, but it also ensures 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 people in the area.

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

Area plans are being developed across all 11 of the area forums currently operating in Wirral and will feed into the annual refreshment of the Local Area Agreement and the overarching Sustainable Community Strategy for Wirral.

Section Five

Youth Update

Wirral Youth Service

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

Response

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex

needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty.

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

International Work

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

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 450 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

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

Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts

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

Shaftsbury Youth Club

The current regular programme includes Tae Kwon-do, Football training/coaching/fitness, Badminton, Volleyball, Basketball, Table tennis, I.T. Art, Residential work, and Outings. The Club is open from Monday to Thursdays. (6.00 – 9.00). Group work/Issue based discussions. A recent twelve-week football coaching and self-awareness course has resulted in 13 young people gaining an accreditation. It is planned to run a follow on course that will result in a higher qualification. Recent fund raising through a football competition raised over £1000 and a successful grant application for camping equipment has allowed a group to get out into the countryside already this summer. An application for funding to run a recycling programme is currently being prepared and a programme of regional inter club planned.

Section Six

Streetscene update

Review of Disc zone Parking

Wirral Council has completed the major consultation exercise with residents and businesses in Birkenhead over plans to scrap the disc zone parking regulations.

This review has been prompted by the difficulty to enforce the current regulations from motorists who are not familiar with the area. Wirral Council also wishes to encourage motorists to make more use of alternative modes of transport.

The scheme has now been advertised and staff are currently dealing with objections, with the aim to present a report to Select Committee on 4 October 2006.

Hoylelake Improvements

With phase 1 completed in time for The Open Golf Championship, phase 1b has now commenced. This work is expected to be complete early next year with a break during the Christmas shopping weeks.

Environmental and Streetscene Services Contract

An extensive procurement exercise has taken place over the last 12 months, for the provision of Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing Services for the Borough. Four tenders were received and after a comprehensive evaluation the tender was awarded to Biffa.

The contract commenced on August 22 with considerable efforts by Biffa representatives and officers of the Council to ensure that the mobilisation of the contract is successful, with as little disruption to the service as possible.

Key benefits include Bank Holiday collection (excluding Christmas and New Year), Sunday street cleansing and electronic communication systems between crews and the call centre to provide immediate feedback from collections and residents.

Waste and Recycling

Garden Recycling

All residents currently participating in the white sack garden recycling scheme have received a brown wheelie bin in replacement of their white garden sacks to increase the capacity of garden recycling. The roll out was completed at the end of August with Biffa now collecting these bins. This was deemed necessary to avoid the long term health and safety implications associated with the white sacks for the collection crews.

Food and Garden recycling

A newsletter has been distributed to all residents who receive a food and garden waste collection to update them on the scheme, provide encouragement to increase food recycling particularly and provide information on the current use of the product after process through the IVC.

Paper and Packaging Recycling

The new dry recyclables scheme consisting of paper and packaging is to begin the week starting November 6. This collection will see plastics, glass, paper, cardboard, foil and cans all being collected, combined, from the kerb-side. The Oxtun, Prenton, Woodchurch, Upton and Moreton wards are to be in the first phase roll out. The marketing literature is near completion and information roadshows will begin on the week starting September 25.

With the introduction of these Paper and Packaging recycling bins comes the alternate weekly collection of recycling and residual waste. The level of recyclable materials will mean the weekly residual bin collections will be unnecessary and expensive. The chosen areas will provide valuable experience when collecting from a range of properties including terraces, multiple-occupancy, semi-detached among others.

The next phase of roll out will begin in March 2007.

Road Improvements along Saughall Massie Road

The major road improvement scheme along Saughall Massie Road in West Kirby between Blackhorse Hill to the junction of Gilroy Road has now been completed. This work was carried out within budget and on time.

Major Surfacing Schemes

Recently completed surfacing works in the Borough are:

Frankby Road, Frankby Close to Hillbark Road
Holm Lane
Townfield Lane
Pasture Road, Moreton over the bridge
Forest Road, Heswall
Thurstaston Road, Irby (part only)
Raby Mere Road
Graham Road, West Kirby

A trial programme of surface dressing was undertaken during the summer in:

Column Road, Caldy, Caldy Road to Grange Cross Lane
Willaston Road, Clatterbridge
Denning Drive, Irby
Heathbank Road, Irby

The aim of this work is to provide a proactive maintenance of the carriageway surface

which will enable Wirral Council to achieve a sustainable programme of maintenance.

Recently completed footway improvements:

Wharfedale Road, Wallasey
Grant Road, Leasowe
Pasture Road (bridge area)
Grange Road, West Kirby (part)
Meols Drive, Hoylake (part)
Riviera Drive, Tranmere

Road Signage

As reported at the last meeting, a programme of traffic sign improvements has taken place during the summer and was complete in time for The Open Golf Championship.

This work covered all the main routes in the Borough and contributed to the success of the Championship.

Depending on funding, Wirral Council hope to continue with further signage improvements next year.

Leasowe Road/Gardenside roundabout

Work is now in progress on the construction of the new roundabout. This scheme is part of Wirral Council's aim to improve road safety and reduce congestion.

Traffic Calming

Traffic calming schemes are currently in progress in the Trafalgar Road area of Wallasey and the Willan Street area of Birkenhead. A further scheme is planned for Twickenham Drive in Leasowe.

Traffic safety schemes

As part of Wirral Council's drive to improve road safety a number of schemes have been completed in the Borough.

Brighton Street/King Street, Wallasey
Ferry Road, Eastham
Smithy Hill, Thornton Hough
Moreton Road, Upton new Puffin crossing
Greasby Road/Frankby Road new traffic signal junction improvement
Laird Street/Park Road North a major new junction improvement will be complete in the next few weeks.

Road Safety

A new law has come into effect on Monday 18 September requiring drivers to ensure that all children under 135cms (4' 5") or age 12 – whichever they reach first –use an

appropriate car restraint when travelling in their vehicle. The Road Safety team have spent time publicising this and meeting with parents to provide advice for the correct car restraints.

The Kerb Craft team have with marketing created several new streams of literature to encourage road safety in children and reduce accidents of this nature in Wirral. Calendars and activity books are all examples of this.

Routine Inspections

As part of Wirral Council's legal duties regular inspections are made of all the roads in the Borough. This very successful inspection regime has reduced significantly the number of claims being made.

Future Programmes

Assessment surveys are currently being undertaken across the Borough for statistics to collate a structural maintenance programme for 07/08. Forums should now be considering which streets in their area should be put forward for inclusion in their future programme.

As part of Wirral Council's commitment to improve road safety and improve the public transport infrastructure two new major junction improvements are currently being designed for A41/Bromborough Village Road and A41/Eastham Rake junctions.