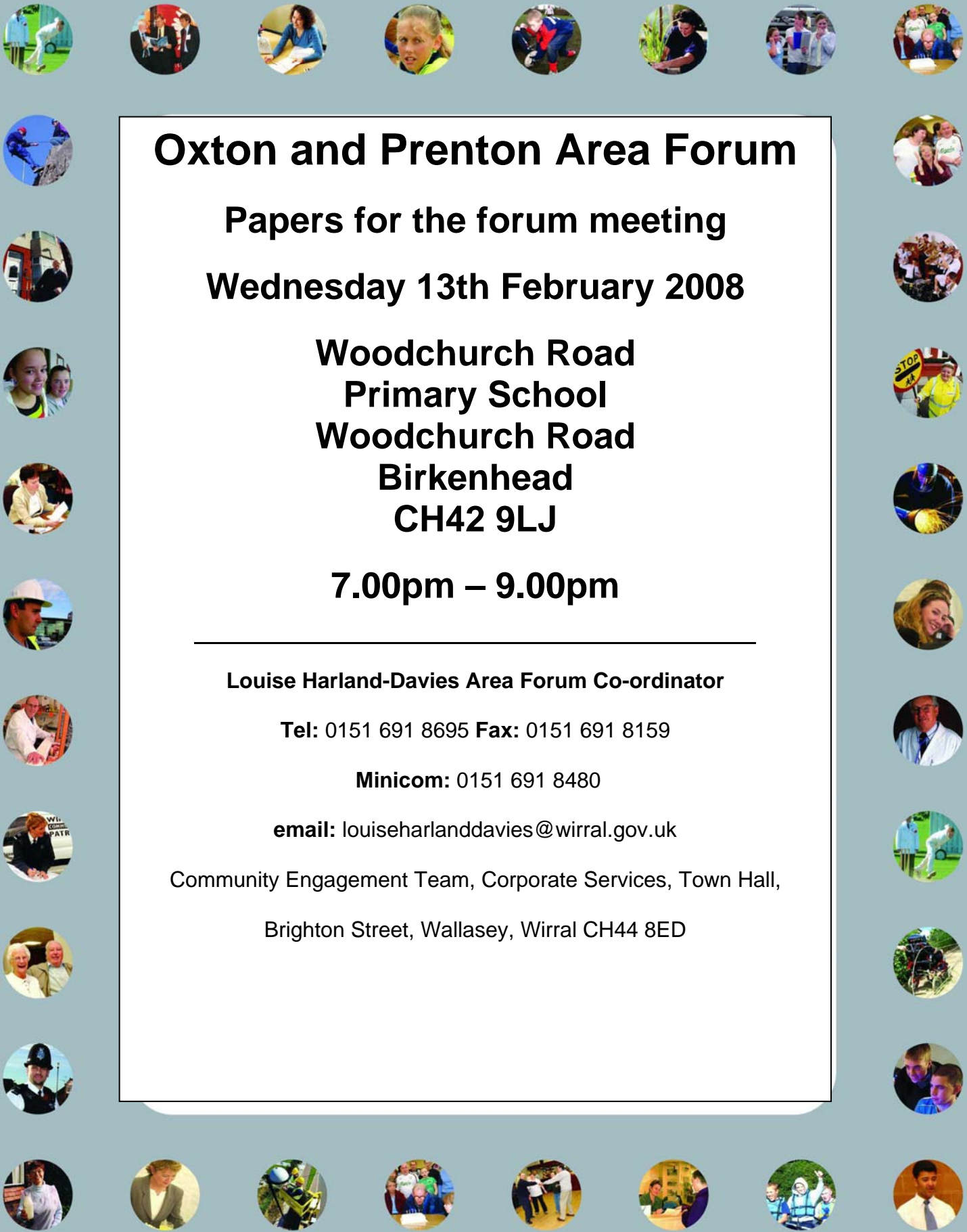


YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**



Oxton and Prenton Area Forum

Papers for the forum meeting

Wednesday 13th February 2008

**Woodchurch Road
Primary School
Woodchurch Road
Birkenhead
CH42 9LJ**

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Louise Harland-Davies Area Forum Co-ordinator

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Community Engagement Team, Corporate Services, Town Hall,

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Oxton and Prenton Area Forum

Wednesday 13th February 7pm - 9pm

**Woodchurch Road Primary School
Woodchurch Road
CH42 9LJ**

AGENDA

**Drop in session 6.30 - 7pm with Councillors, Streetscene,
Community Safety and Wirral Partnership Homes**

- 1 Welcome, introductions and apologies**
- 2 Minutes and matters arising from previous forum**
- 3 Area Co-ordinator's Report**
- 4. Sustainable Communities Strategy**
- 5. Public Question Time**
- 6. Partner Information**
- 7. Any other business**
- 8. Future meetings: To be confirmed**

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Introduction: Membership of the area forum

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

Oxton and Prenton Councillors all belong to the Liberal Democrat Party

Councillor Simon Holbrook

(Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group)
Prenton Ward
0151 513 5656
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Councillor Ann Bridson

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Louise Harland-Davies

Area Co-ordinator
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Alan Stennard

Chief Officer Director of Regeneration,
responsible for housing, regeneration,
regulation and cultural services in the
borough. **0151 691 8395**

Rob Beresford

Lead Officer - Robert Beresford is Head of
Regulation and has responsibility for
Licensing, Environmental Health, Trading
Standards and Community Safety in the
borough. **0151 691 8208**

Patrick Toosey

Community Representative, Oxton
Oxton Society

Sarah Goulding

Community Representative, Oxton
Friends of the Arno and Oxton Fields

Robbie Bell

Community Representative, Prenton
Devonshire Park Resident's Association

Alan Dollery

Community Representative, Prenton
Chair of Prenton Tenants & Residents
Association, Chair of the Prenton
Partnership, Member of Wirral Federation of
Tenants & Residents Association

Inspector Paul Harrison (Oxton)

0151 709 6010

Inspector Brian Griffiths (Prenton)

0151 709 6010

Merseyside Fire and Rescue

Birkenhead Fire Station

0151 650 0422

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

Section One

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

Minutes - Area Forum (Oxton and Prenton) - 11 October 2007

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 (Mount Estate Residents Association) , Patrick Toosey (Oxton Society)
Lead Officer	Bob Beresford (Deputy Director of Housing & Environmental Protection)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Louise Harland-Davies
Wirral Primary Care Trust	J South (Director Primary Care and Modernization)
Street Scene Manager	Gary Cummings
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Gary Docherty
Merseyside Police	Inspector Brian Griffiths , Inspector Paul Harrison
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Jo-Anne Seddon
Council Officers	Robert Jones (Waste Minimisation and Recycling Manager) , Mike Walker (Community Safety Officer)
Apologies	Cllr SE Kelly , Reverend Wayne Lautenbach , Myles Platt (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service) , Alan Stennard (Director of Regeneration)

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Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies

Minute 2 - Minutes and matters arising from previous June Forum meeting

Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinator's Report

Minute 4 - Presentation : Blaze Project - Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Minute 5 - Recycling update

Minute 6 - Public Question Time

Minute 7 - Partner Updates - Older People's Parliament, Merseyside Police, Community Safety, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Wirral Primary Care Trust

Minute 8 - Any Other Business

Minute 9 - Future meeting : Woodchurch Road Primary School, on Wednesday, 13 February 2008

Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies

Cllr Doyle welcomed approximately 45 members of the public to the Area Forum meeting and drew attention to the loop system in operation and the emergency exits.

Minute 2 - Minutes and matters arising from previous June Forum meeting

The Chair then asked if anyone had any issues or unanswered queries relating to the minutes of the last meeting, that they raise them at public question time. The minutes were then agreed as a true record.

Louise Harland-Davies then introduced herself and gave details of how she can be contacted. She highlighted matters arising on pg 10 of her report and confirmed local residents in Holmlands Drive had been sent questionnaires regarding use of the grassed area and the forum was waiting for an update from Technical Services.

Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinator's Report

Louise then highlighted items of particular interest in her report, including local news issues, Wirral Older People's Parliament, Wirral Youth Service and an appeal for public views on the Licensing Act 2003 Policy. News also from the Oxtou Society, the Local Transport Plan and the Community Initiative Fund which gives details of how funding has been spent and the progress of groups which have received funding in the past. Louise drew attention to the Local Area Forum Plan update containing issues which may require public feedback, together with the Streetscene update and issues relating to the council's new equalities and diversity policy.

She ended her report saying that community representatives are due for election shortly and anyone wishing to be considered can apply to do this and should contact her. Cllr Doyle thanked her and drew attention to the Highway Structural Maintenance Programme leaflet as help was needed from the forum to provide a shortlist of roads and pavements in the area which require repair or reconstruction. Clearly, from the information given in the Area Co-ordinator's Report, either Oxtou and Prenton had the best roads and pavements in the borough or local residents were not reporting in sufficient numbers those areas in need of attention.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Louise be thanked for the Area Co-ordinator's report.

Minute 4 - Presentation : Blaze Project - Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Jo-Anne Seddon, representing the Fire Service and the Anti-Social Behaviour

Team, gave a presentation on the Blaze project which took place over the school summer holidays for which the Forum had commissioned money from the Community Initiative Fund. This project had taken place at Birkenhead Fire Station with the aim of encouraging and promoting relationships between firefighters and young people and to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour. There were a variety of photographs of the young people learning about the work of the fire service and Jo-Anne had brought along three of these young people to answer questions from the floor. There was great interest from the floor and very positive feedback from the young people and it is hoped that money can be secured in order to fund similar projects in the future.

Cllr Holbrook added that he felt this had been a success and a constructive way for the young people to spend their summer holidays as there had been numerous problems during the Easter holidays including youths setting fire to litter bins and targeting firefighters. Evaluation showed that there had been a drop in youth crime in the areas involved and many of the young people who took part were going on to do their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Jo-Anne be thanked for her presentation.

Minute 5 - Recycling update

Rob Jones began by asking what the public needed information on and he would tailor his update around these specific queries. There were numerous questions from the floor, mainly around what exactly can and cannot be recycled, how recycling affects people living in flats and if pressure is being put on local supermarkets and fast food outlets to reduce the amount of packaging and waste which cannot be recycled.

Rob reported that green and grey bins are collected on an alternate weekly basis with a few exceptions such as flats and rural areas. Compost and food waste originally used to go in the brown bins but should now go in the green bins as the machinery involved was unable to process this type of waste. A particular area of concern for many people was different types of plastic such as yoghurt pots, however Rob stated that only plastic bottles can be recycled. Another query concerned silver foil, which again Rob said cannot be recycled due to machinery and there is currently no enterprise collecting silver foil – this must therefore go in the green bin. There may be a possibility however of tendering out to local companies and charities for collection of silver foil.

Cllr Holbrook pointed out that some labelling on products can be misleading as certain products may be recycled however certain restrictions may apply due to the technology being used locally. Rob reported that Wirral Council is currently recycling 36% of household waste but to get this figure to about 40% will require more education for the public. His department are currently working with all the large supermarkets on the Wirral as well as the smaller ones regarding recycling. Tesco are recycling much of their waste and are displaying posters and messages in their shops to encourage people to use their grey bins. A member of the public pointed out that when grey bins were first issued, they had a sticker informing people what could go in them but that this had since changed; Rob replied that this was the pilot scheme and all residents involved in this scheme should have received a letter revising what can go in the grey bin. Many residents at the meeting said they had not received such a letter and the confusion appears to have arisen from people who took part in the trial.

Wirral Council have also been working with fast food outlets such as McDonalds and Rob reported that they have changed from using plastic to cardboard which can be recycled. A member of the public raised the point that we appear to lag behind other European countries but Rob replied that we are treating all different types of waste and by 2012 plants will be built and developments in place so that hopefully we will be recycling approximately 70% of our waste. A member of the floor questioned the amount of packaging used for simple food items and felt that pressure should be put on food manufacturers to reduce this and Rob replied that large companies are obligated to recycle a percentage of their packaging.

Cllr Doyle thanked Rob for his update and appreciated that many of the issues raised were at a national rather than a local level and therefore beyond the council's control. He asked if anyone had any further issues to speak to Louise at the end of the meeting. Cllr Bridson added her view that the residents of Oxton and Prenton are committed to recycling and these areas were chosen for the pilot schemes; she felt we should be patient and stated that Oxton and Prenton are doing better than other areas of the Wirral and offered to take any questions after the meeting.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Rob be thanked for the recycling update.

Minute 6 - Public Question Time

Only one question had been received in advance from Mr David Hughes who read out his complaint about the parking around Broxton Avenue, Northwood Road and Layton Avenue in Prenton. Problems have arisen due to the employees of Wirral Renault (formerly Lewis Reed) parking in these roads and leaving their cars there all day and sometimes into the evening. Mr Hughes reported these cars are restricting the highway to a single carriageway and people have difficulty in pulling out onto Woodchurch Road. He also wondered how the emergency services can gain access due to the obstruction and why garage employees cannot park in the car park opposite The Swan public house.

Cllr Bridson informed the forum that she was well aware of this problem. Mr Hughes felt that double yellow lines would not solve the problem as these cars would just park further down the road and create problems for other residents. He stated local residents experience difficulties when they have visitors and they only get respite from these problems at the weekends and in the evenings. There have been site visits and photographs taken but nothing has been done. Alan Dollery (Chair of the Prenton Tenants and Residents Association) has known about this for two years and is aware of the problems people are experiencing. He feels that this situation has gone on too long.

Mr Hughes also stated that mechanics have been seen leaving customers' cars in the local roads. Cllr Bridson informed that she has had a letter from a resident of Tilstock Crescent who is concerned about the danger of vehicles backing out and fears there is likely to be a serious accident. Cllr Bridson proceeded to read out a section of The Highway Code in connection with parking near junctions and double parking. A member of the public then asked why the police have not been informed.

Brian Griffiths introduced himself as the new Inspector based at Upton Police Station. He stated that any vehicle which is parked on a road is an obstruction however he proposes to go and visit the manager of Wirral Renault and will report back. He intends to instruct his officers to look at cars which are parked too close

to a junction and will also report back on this. Cllr Pat Williams said there have been similar problems on the Oxton side of Woodchurch Road with refuse vehicles having difficulty accessing side roads. She said that the Manager does understand the problems but has previously said that he can only encourage his staff to find other ways of getting to work such as car share. A local resident complained that they are being denied street cleaning services as the roadsweepers cannot access roads due to the volume of parked cars. Cllr Bridson stressed that police assistance is needed with this problem. Cllr Holbrook asked Rob Beresford if there is anything in the licensing regulations which would prevent the mechanics from parking customers' cars out on the road. Rob replied that he did not think it was a trading standards issue but that there could well be planning issues they could look at.

The next discussion followed queries by Alan Dollery regarding the chimney on the Durley Drive Industrial Estate, the land for sale in Prenton Village Road and the land behind Glenavon Road. Cllr Bridson replied that she would not be able to answer these queries as fully as she would like as she was still awaiting information. Cllr Holbrook stated that regarding the chimney in Durley Drive, he may have a conflict of interest between his day job in the environment agency and his role as a local councillor. He has been asked to investigate this following a complaint about noise; a planning application has been received regarding the chimney and there will shortly be a decision about whether they can or cannot keep it. The other issue is what is actually taking place on the site and it appears that the company is taking in and dismantling industrial machinery, similar to a scrapyards. If this is the case, they should be licensed for waste management and Cllr Holbrook has checked this and found that they don't have a licence. More information is needed to establish what the company does, however due to a conflict of interest, Cllr Holbrook may not be able to become involved in this and has asked Cllr Bridson to take it up for further investigation.

The matter of the playing fields behind Glenavon Road was then discussed. Cllr Bridson confirmed there is an application to build a nursing home on a site designated for leisure and sport and she has received a number of letters from residents who are against the idea. Unfortunately, the council officer dealing with this is away on holiday which will delay her investigations. If it goes ahead, it would mean a change of use of the playing fields so Cllr Bridson will be sending copies of letters received so that the Planning Committee will be aware of the number of people who are opposed to it.

Finally, the issue of the piece of land attached to the doctors' surgery in Roman Road was discussed. This land belongs to the G.P.'s surgery and there are proposals to extend the current surgery into the car park and make it a two storey building. They are hoping to turn the green belt land at the back of the surgery into a car park. Cllr Bridson reported that there has been no notice of this officially; she tried to contact the Planning Officers about this but a planning application has not yet been received. She will try to get information which she can share with the public.

Cllr Doyle (Chair) then drew public question time to a close due to shortage of time.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

(i) Inspector Griffiths to investigate the parking situation at the Wirral Renault garage.

- (ii) Rob Beresford to contact the planning department in respect of the parking situation.
- (iii) Cllr Bridson to establish the situation regarding the chimney on Durley Drive Industrial Estate.
- (iv) Cllr Bridson to inform the Planning Officer of local resident's concerns regarding proposal to build a nursing home on the playing fields behind Glenavon Road.
- (v) Cllr Bridson to contact the Planning Department regarding the proposed extension of the doctors' surgery in Roman Road.

Minute 7 - Partner Updates - Older People's Parliament, Merseyside Police, Community Safety, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Wirral Primary Care Trust

Older People's Parliament

Jack Cuffe reported that the Parliament is now nine months old and they have over fifty volunteers. They meet quarterly with occasional extra meetings. They are being contacted by all the authorities on issues which affect older people, for example, social services, transport, housing, etc and have been involved in issues such as the blue badge parking scheme. He said that extra volunteers could well be needed and issued an invitation to join them.

Merseyside Police

Inspector Paul Harrison from Laird Street police station introduced himself. He reported that there is a lot of work being done with the three major areas of concern: vehicle crime, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. In the fourteen weeks since the last forum meeting, he has set up teams in each ward consisting of one police officer and two community support officers, all of whom are doing a good job. He has a log of how they make a difference in their ward and how they improve community life. The community support officers will be using bicycles to travel around the area and once they have completed their training, they will be covering Oxtan and Prenton. They are supported by a further nine support officers plus three sergeants and other officers. Surgeries are up and running around the area and teams are currently undergoing training to set up Homewatch schemes. Schemes are currently being rolled out to address local problems and issues.

Inspector Harrison also mentioned the Respect Week initiative and the work that has been done through this, solving local issues, and which will soon be coming to Oxtan. He reported that in Oxtan there has been a rise in vehicle crime and burglaries, probably due to the fact that Oxtan has darker areas with poor lighting and houses with large gardens. He has also put in a bid for plain-clothes police officers regarding problems around The Arno and so far has had some success. He reported success regarding visits to local off-licences to test for the selling of alcohol to people under-age. In the run-up to Halloween Night, his teams are working on diversionary tactics with local youths across the area and are actively going into schools to educate children on the impact of anti-social behaviour. He then reported on how crime is being solved in the area since the last forum meeting and how crime has reduced in comparison with the same time period last year. He ended his update by offering to help anyone who needs police assistance and stressed that both Inspectors are here to help.

Brian Griffiths introduced himself as the new Inspector at Upton Police Station and reported on effective working relationships with other agencies to identify at

an early stage the youngsters who are causing problems and getting them into intervention programmes. He reported a problem with police community support officer coverage in Prenton and Tranmere, however this has now been addressed and two new police community support officers have been appointed so the area is now covered.

A member of the public asked if the War Memorial in Prenton could be better lit and reported that there are always youths around it, which she finds intimidating. Inspector Griffiths agreed to deal with the issue of the youths but the lighting is a Council issue.

Community Safety

Mike Walker reported on the DVLA project which is making people aware of the risks of leaving valuables in their car. Wardens are noting cars which have valuables on display and owners will receive a letter. He also reported on a project where young offenders who, as part of their community service, are refurbishing areas of the community such as painting public railings.

Wirral Primary Care Trust

John South introduced himself and his team as being responsible for primary care, i.e. healthcare services before going into hospital – G.P. surgeries, health clinics, etc. and drew attention to the Primary Care Trust update on Pages 26 & 27 of the area co-ordinator's report. He reported that the PCT have put in some money for the small grants programme to support community projects and initiatives and if anyone is interested, they can contact the community engagement team at Wirral Council as indicated in the report.

Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

An additional item not featured on the agenda was an update from Gary Doherty, representing Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The trust is now joining the area forum so will have a representative at each meeting. The team is responsible for the care patients receive whilst in hospital. He had put some information packs out before the meeting containing general information on the Trust including recent improvements made following feedback from patients, an update on some of the positive things which are going on at the hospital and information on new services being offered. He stressed that Wirral Hospital Trust have very low rates of MRSA compared to other hospitals and are continually striving to reduce their rates of infection., action includes spot-checks on cleanliness. He concluded his report by stating his intention to attend future forum meetings.

Cllr Bridson wished to add that she is on the Scrutiny Committee for Social Care which is currently looking at hospital discharge and she would welcome people's views and experiences, whether good or bad, to be sent to her.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- (i) All partners be thanked for their updates.
- (ii) Inspector Griffiths to look at the situation of youths gathering at the War memorial.

Minute 8 - Any Other Business

Cllr Doyle informed the forum that following previous suggestions for future presentations, Neil Scales from Merseytravel had agreed to come to a forum meeting and will therefore be invited next time to give a presentation. Cllr Doyle asked Gary Doherty if he would like to give a presentation and Gary confirmed that he would be happy to do this. There were no other issues and the meeting concluded at 9.00 pm.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- (i) Gary Doherty from Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to give a presentation at the next meeting.
- (ii) Cllr Holbrook will invite Neil Scales from Merseytravel to attend the next meeting.

Minute 9 - Future meeting : Woodchurch Road Primary School, on Wednesday, 13 February 2008

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 13th February 2008 at Woodchurch Road Primary School.

Matters arising:

Parking in Northwood Road: Inspector Brian Griffiths visited the manager of Wirral Renault garage regarding the parking problem. The situation has been discussed with staff and some parking fines have been issued. The CSO's regularly check the area and feel the situation has improved. Director of Technical Services and Inspector Griffiths are currently in further discussion.

War memorial: Operation Alliance is in operation to tackle anti-social behaviour, youths have been stopped and moved on. With regards to lighting around the memorial there are no columns around the site in order to enhance current levels of lighting.

Sovex: relevant inquiries have been made, solvent levels have been checked and levels are satisfactory. Local residents should contact Environmental Health if they have any concerns.

Glenavon Road: Planning application for nursing home has now been withdrawn

Proposed extension of doctor's surgery in Roman Road: The practice has been advised to submit a detailed application and advised officers will work closely with them to resolve any issues. Local support is reported to be good for it to stay in this location.

Holmlands Drive: Questionnaires returned from local residents and trees have now been planted.

Section Two

Local Updates

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

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

Safer & Stronger Communities

Acting up!



Young people from Wirral have displayed their talents in a drama production to tackle anti social behaviour in a project in partnership with Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

The production was the culmination of many months' work to tackle issues of anti social behaviour in the Wallasey area.

In March 2007, Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team drew together a number of agencies and people to respond to complaints of anti social behaviour in Wallasey, some of which coincided with the lunch-times of a number of local secondary schools.

The group included representatives from Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Wirral Youth Service, local secondary schools and also included the Chair of the local residents' group and a local ward councillor. During the meetings, young people representing the schools suggested producing a drama to take into the local primary schools about anti social behaviour.

A number of workshops have recently taken place involving young people from Weatherhead High School, Mosslands School and St Mary's Catholic College led by their drama teachers, where the issues around anti social behaviour were explored.

The workshops were visited by officers from Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team whose knowledge was put to the test during sessions with the young people where they were grilled about their areas of expertise. The production has been taken into a number of primary schools across Wallasey this week, including Egremont Primary, Somerville Primary, Greenleas Primary and St George's Primary.

Step on board for ASB advice

Wirral Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team are inviting residents to step on board Wirral's new Respect Bus where they will be able to seek advice and discuss a wide range of anti-social behaviour problems from noisy neighbours and abandoned cars to vandalism, graffiti and youth nuisance.

The bus is available to provide advice, support and information. Members of the public are welcome to visit the bus to discuss any issues they may have about tackling all forms of anti-social behaviour.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team consists of specialist officers from many disciplines who work closely with residents to help build up a community culture of respect. A number of the team's specialists will be on board, including criminal damage reduction and youth engagement officers. There will also be Enforcement Officers available for residents to discuss, in confidence, any specific problems they have.

Residents can also report anti-social behaviour to 'It's Your Call' on 606 2020 or visit any One Stop Shop

Healthier Communities & Older People



Wirral Information Resource

for Equality and Disability

CARERS COUNSELLING SERVICE

Are you caring for someone at home who has a disability? Do you sometimes feel stressed or isolated?

Sometimes caring for a loved one, friend or neighbour can take up so much of your time and energy that it is easy to neglect your own needs. Do you sometimes feel that no one listens to you?

That is where the counselling service may help. Talking to someone who is outside the situation can relieve tensions. Our counselling service will offer you the opportunity to talk to a counsellor in confidence, in a one to one setting.

Our counsellors are experienced at listening and will provide attention and respect. It can sometimes be helpful to talk over any problems or issues and even though the problems may not change, it may help you to talk over how you are feeling and to know you are not alone.

Counselling can help people to reach their own solutions, become better informed, receive support and encouragement and gain insight into themselves.

Why not get in touch with Wired Carers Counselling Service and we would be happy to give you more information.

**WIRED
Carers Team
Cavendish Enterprise Centre
Brassey Street
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 8BY**

Tel: Carers Helpline 0151 670 0777

Children & Young People

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

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

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

- Youth clubs
- Street work projects
- "Kontaktabuses"
- "Wirral Youth Theatre" and Youth Arts
- "Response" – Advice, support, advocacy and information service and Substance Misuse Service
- International exchanges
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Outdoor activities
- 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. Street work teams of youth workers make contact with young people who do not access the service elsewhere, build relationships with them and in negotiation with the young people, develop programmes which address their specific needs. This work is delivered on the streets, through project work and on mobile Kontaktabuses.

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty.

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in

targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

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 the Azores.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wirral Youth Theatre 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.

Bebington Youth Club is open on Mondays, (6.30 – 9.30) Wednesdays and Thursdays evenings. (7.00 – 10.00) The main range of opportunities includes the popular computer suite, games in the sport hall, snooker and table tennis. Environmental issues are highlighted at Bebington along with a campaign in support of Samaritans to send shoeboxes to children from deprived backgrounds.

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, Group work/Issue based discussions and outings. The Club is open from Monday to Thursdays. (6.00 – 9.00)

The main theme of the Club work at present is the development of volunteering with in the Club. A young person has been recruited to develop this and young volunteers are running the coffee bar and training to enable them to run several of the club football teams and coach their peers in a variety of sports.

The Noctorum Young People's Project Undertakes street work in Noctorum Estate, Townfield Lane and Holmelands Estate. Weekly football sessions are now taking place at Ridgeway School and the boxercise sessions now take place at Grange Rd West Sports Centre.

The Deeside Young People's Project has resumed working with young people in public places on the Prenton Dell Estate where young people's personal safety is an issue for parents. A programme of activities is being planned.

Wirral's Primary Schools raise achievement again

Primary Schools in Wirral have proved yet again they are continuing to improve with the release of the Key Stage Two Achievement and Attainment Tables today (6/12/07) by the DCFS (Department for Children, Family and Schools)

Wirral's point score for pupils achieving the expected level or above has risen for the third year in a row to 249. That compares with the national average of 245 points putting Wirral above the national average again.

Councillor Phil Davies, Wirral's Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, said: "This really is excellent news for Wirral schools, pupils and their parents. Wirral has some of the best teaching in the country and staff show passion and commitment to their jobs. This is reflected in a consistent rise in achievement by pupils leaving primary schools over the past few years.

"It should also be noted that our schools provide much more than these tables illustrate – they provide a quality environment for children to learn and flourish in all aspects of their life - not just academically.

"And the fact that Wirral has a higher than average number of pupils with Special Educational Needs statements just shows what a good job is being done with pupils of all abilities

Economic Development & Enterprise

MoD contract boost for Cammell Laird

Wirral Council today welcomed the news that Merseyside's shipbuilding industry has been boosted by a new defence contract.

Birkenhead-based North-western Shiprepairers and Shipbuilders (NSL) – soon to be renamed Cammell Laird – has won ship maintenance contracts for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, which supplies the Royal Navy at sea, with food, fuel, ammunition and spares. NSL was given "exclusive preferred contractor status" in a deal which could be worth more than £160m.

Wirral Council Leader, Cllr Steve Foulkes said: "This is fantastic news. It is just reward for the hard work of the managers and staff at Northwestern Shiprepairers and a further indication of the continued renaissance of ship repair in Wirral. It vindicates the council's continued support for this sort of industry and the hard work put in to maintain the site for such employment uses."

The company was awarded the status by the Ministry of Defence on four out of a possible five support contracts for the 17-strong fleet of specialist vessels, including tankers, stores ships and landing vessels. NSL managing director John Syvret will enter into final negotiations for the contracts early in the New Year and says they will help secure the firm's future for some years to come.

Council's fight against businesses' illegal waste

In order to protect our environment and to discourage and reduce the illegal tipping of rubbish, Wirral Council have been granted powers by the government to issue penalty notices to Wirral based businesses who do not have correct trade waste disposal procedures in place.

Without official trade waste disposal arrangements, businesses may have difficulty disposing of their waste and then resort to dumping the waste illegally. This is a serious offence, and Wirral Council works around the clock to catch and prosecute fly-tippers.

Businesses now have a legal duty to provide the Council with documentary evidence that they dispose of their waste legally. A 'Trade Waste Agreement' must be made available by businesses upon the request of Council Officers. Businesses who fail to produce evidence of an agreement will be issued with a £300 fixed penalty notice. Non-payment of the penalty can result in legal action.

Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Gill Gardiner said; "There are a small number of Wirral businesses who do not care about our environment and to save themselves some money, they simply dump their rubbish, spoiling our park land and green spaces.

Our message to them is clear - sooner or later they will be caught and prosecuted for fly-tipping, or they will be fined for not having a correct Trade Waste Agreement. Either way, it is time for these businesses to start thinking of the environment and make some proper waste disposal arrangements."

Businesses who would like more information can [click here](#), or contact Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 or email streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Wirral's Chief Executive honoured by Queen

Wirral Council's Chief Executive Steve Maddox has been awarded an OBE for Services to Local Government in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

Steve, who joined Wirral Council as a trainee solicitor in 1974 and became Chief Executive of the Authority in 1998, said: "I am obviously delighted and honoured, but I'm also proud that local government and Wirral in particular, has been recognised in this way."

Also honoured were Lou McGrath, from Oxton who received an OBE for his services to mine clearance as co-founder of the charity Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Mrs Elizabeth Renshaw, Business Manager for Woodchurch High Specialist Engineering College who received an MBE for Services to Education.

Both Kenneth Harrison and Mrs Barbara Norris received their MBEs for Services to the Community in Wirral.

Flood Warning – Be Aware

Flood Warning Area	Short Description	Long Description
Leasowe	the River Birket in the Leasowe Area.	the River Birket in the Leasowe Area. Riverbank overtopping is expected. Areas at risk include Reeds Lane; Birket Ave; Twickenham Drive; Wakefield Drive; Hudson Rd; Cameron Rd; Grant Rd; Castleway North & South. Commercial units adjacent to Ditton Nature Area.
Meols	the River Birket in the Meols Area.	the River Birket at Meols. Areas at risk include Park Road and Park Lane, Bennets Lane, Ashley Avenue, Lyndhurst Road, Flowermead close, Cleverley Road and Derwent Road.
Upton	the Arrowe Brook in the Upton Area.	the Arrowe Brook in the Upton Area. The area at risk is Brook Way.
Irish sea at Meols	the Irish Sea at Meols. Sea defence overtopping is expected.	the Irish Sea at Meols. Sea defence overtopping is expected. Areas at risk include Meols Parade and Bennets Lane.
Coastline at the head of the Wirral	the Coastline at the Head of the Wirral.	the Coastline at the Head of the Wirral Area. Sea defences have breached. Areas at risk include Meols and Leasowe
Woodside	the Mersey Estuary in the Woodside area.	the Mersey Estuary in the Woodside. Tidal defence overtopping is expected. Areas at risk include Woodside Business Park; Highfield South; Woodside Ferry Approach; and Pacific Road.

Section Three

Partner Organisations

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

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

Community Safety

October 2007 – January 2008

- 'Respect Wirral' from 1-5 October 2007.
A week-long event aimed at promoting respect and raising awareness about preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour. The event, organised by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and involving many agencies, commenced with an 'Info Day' at Birkenhead Park for the public. Throughout the week, activities took place in a number of areas across the Borough, which included conducting environmental audits and clean-ups of areas. The event concluded with a Respect Conference for community representatives, ward councillor and MPs.
- 'Respect Bus' launched October 2007.
The vehicle (a converted bus), managed by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, is designed to "take respect into the heart of communities". It has been used at least once a week since launch, visiting many areas across the Borough, and has been utilised for engagement with communities, including adults and young people. The vehicle is also equipped with sophisticated lighting allowing exterior areas to be lit.
- Wirral's Family Intervention Project launched October 2007.
The Project is run by NCH (formerly National Children's Homes) on behalf of Wirral Council. The Project targets the most problematic families (primarily those subject to enforcement action due to anti-social behaviour) and addresses the underlying causes of that behaviour. An approach of support coupled with sanction for non-compliance is adopted. The Project is currently funded by the government's Youth Task Force (formerly the Home Office Respect Task Force).
- Wirral's Parenting Support Project launched October 2007.
The Project provides parenting support to families engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, lower level anti-social behaviour. The Project is managed by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's Parenting Co-ordinator and is delivered through the Council's Children & Young People's Department, Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Trust and Wirral NHS Primary Care Trust. The Project is funded by the former Department for Education and Skills.
- Housing Benefit Sanctions launched November 2007
Wirral is one of only eight areas in the country piloting new Sanctions for Housing Benefit. The new legislation allows for households that have been evicted for anti-social behaviour and fail to accept support to address the underlying causes of their behaviour, to have their Housing Benefit reduced or stopped. The Sanctions are designed to be preventative, encouraging households to accept the help they need.

Pantha vehicles -

These are 'trap' vehicles which record on CCTV person(s) breaking into the vehicle and spray the perpetrator with Smartwater. Police officers have been issued with special UV torches to detect someone having been in contact with Smartwater and

make an arrest. There have been a number of arrests which has been a major factor in reducing car crime levels on Wirral.

Tranmere Winter Festival - (See attached picture)

The Community Safety Team attended the festival on a chilly day in December but comfortably housed in a wigwam! We had our volunteers with us who manage the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme met a lot of people very interested in Neighbourhood Watch and the Vehicle Watch project. Vehicle Watch consists of two aspects, 'Over 25 years of age drivers only' and vehicles not used between midnight and 6am. Any breach will result in police officers stopping the vehicle and checking the occupants. A number of people enlisted in the Vehicle Watch scheme. The Parenting Co-ordinator and Volume Crime Manager were present to give advice and guidance. In addition, the team provided crime reduction gadgets and aide memoir key rings to remind people to keep items out of sight - "On show It'll go". A very successful show where the team met with a lot of residents and visitors to the area.

3G CCTV

This unique CCTV system has been rolled out to various hotspot locations and has the effect of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. There have been many favourable comments by residents who have seen the camera system of giving them a chance to breathe as the system adds to their quality of life..

Remote Alarms

These are being issued to burglary victims to protect sheds where tools are taken which have led to a Burglary Dwelling. In other cases when cycles or other items are stolen from outbuildings or garages. The alarm alerts the householder who is made aware by the alarm activation. They have been distributed to Neighbourhood Police Inspectors and issued by CSO's in hotspot areas.

DVLA Project

We developed a relationship with the Home Office Car Crime Unit and DVLA who sent letters to the registered keepers of vehicles that had items on display which our Parking Wardens identified. There have been in the region of 50 vehicles per week so identified but with the funding stream having finished, we have now worked closely with our partners to restart the scheme.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at Birkenhead, Bromborough, Heswall, Upton, West Kirby and Wallasey.

We are committed to innovative and imaginative change in order to help make our communities safer and stronger. We are also committed to integrated working with other authorities, agencies and the voluntary sector to improve public safety and well being.

We have recently published our Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/09 which sets out the measures which are intended to be taken to continue the modernisation and improvement of services to the people of Merseyside. This I.R.M.P can be viewed online at www.merseyfire.gov.uk/media or copies are available at local libraries and One Stop Shops.

A specific action point for Wirral is the implementation of the **Hazardous Materials Incident Response Pump** at Bromborough Fire Station. This will be a highly skilled team which will use the latest technology and equipment to facilitate the resolution of any incident involving the presence of hazardous materials. It is envisaged that Bromborough Community Fire Station will become the Centre of Excellence for training of all Fire Service personnel in the knowledge and skills required to deal with incidents involving hazardous materials, including the threats posted by terrorist attacks. This resource although Wirral based will provide cover throughout Merseyside and is due to be implemented early this year.

Community engagement remains the cornerstone of our proactive activity, in particular the delivery of the **Home Fire Safety Checks** and the provision of free smoke detectors were necessary. We continue to improve our effectiveness by utilising intelligence led targeting of **HFSCs**. We are currently developing household specific dwelling fire prediction software to assist in the process.

The Service has set challenging performance targets and we are pleased to report that Wirral stations regularly achieve and exceed these targets. During the last quarter the Fire Service visited nearly 6,000 homes on Wirral and completed Home Fire Safety Checks.

Following our work to lessen the impact over the bonfire period, through our collaborative **Bonfire Strategy**, we are pleased to advise that Wirral saw a significant decrease of bonfires requiring Fire Service attendance. Working in partnership with the Police and Trading Standards we were also able to secure a reduction in the illegal sale and storage of fireworks across the district.

Fire Support Network is a non-profitable registered charity which works in partnership with the Fire Service on Merseyside to promote fire safety to the local communities through volunteers and partner organisations. Volunteer roles vary from working directly with the fire-fighters, leafleting and replacing batteries in smoke detectors to providing an after fire care service and fund raising. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can register online at www.firesupportnet.org.uk or contact via telephone on 0151 296 4600.

Partnerships.

The fire service on Wirral has many partnership arrangements which contribute to the development of healthier lifestyles across communities. Work with the PCT (smoking cessation, lifestyle and weight management etc) and Wirral Community Safety Team (Anti-social behaviour; arson reduction; youth engagement/distraction) are all having a positive effect upon the quality of life for Wirral residents as well as helping partners achieve their targeted objectives.

Community Fire Stations

- **Birkenhead:** Exmouth Street. Birkenhead. CH41 4AX. 0151 296 5325
- **Bromborough:** Dock Road South. Bebington. CH62 4SQ. 0151 296 5925
- **Heswall:** Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 OAF. 0151 296 5805
- **Upton:** Arrowe Park Road. Upton. CH49 OUF. 0151 296 5895
- **West Kirby:** The Concourse. West Kirby. CH48 4HX. 0151 296 5955
- **Wallasey:** Mill Lane. Wallasey. CH44 5UE. 0151 296 6180

For a FREE Home Fire Safety Check, including FREE smoke alarm installation if required please contact Fire Service Direct on

FREEPHONE 0800 731 5958

Merseyside Police

A4 Upton and Prenton

In the Neighbourhood Team there are currently the following staff

1 Inspector
2 Sergeants
6 Police Constables
7 PCSO (Police Community Support Officers)
2 x Special Constables

Operation Alliance.

This is an Operation to tackle those individuals causing Anti Social Behaviour in the area. It covers youth disorder to nuisance addresses related to drug use. Police work very closely with ASB Team, Youth Services and housing providers. Individual young people who repeatedly come to police attention for lower level disorder are flagged up. They are invited to a meeting with police and the ASB Team and youth services where an ABC (Acceptable Behaviour Contract) is drawn up to fit the individual circumstances. Referrals can be made regarding alcohol or drug problems. The behaviour of each individual is monitored and from a total of 20 young people given orders the vast majority (18) have adhered to them and changed their behaviour. Of those who have not their failure to work with the relevant services means that they are subject to an ASBO (Anti Social Behaviour Order) These can have quite punitive restrictions on an individual.

Also under Operation Alliance is the work done against problem addresses using "Crack House" legislation. If ASB results from the supply or use of Class A controlled drugs then a closure order can be sought. Again working very closely with the ASB Team and housing providers a number of these orders have been obtained. The first two were on the Overchurch Estate with two more on the Woodchurch. Evidence was being gathered in respect of two further addresses in Tranmere but to the delight of the residents the tenants left before notice was served.

This is particularly impactful when one address is the source of many problems for the community.

The occupant of the address is directed towards treatment for their problems and we have reports of other people who see themselves as potential targets self referring to treatment so everyone wins.

Both of the above processes have been seen as best practice and have recently been rolled out Wirral wide.

On A4 20 ABC have been issued with 15 still current.
5 ASBO or CRASBO (Criminal ASBO) have been obtained with more under development.

October to December Crime figures 2006-2007

Below is a table comparing crime figures on the A4 area Oct-Dec 2006 to same period in 2007 I am always very conscious that these are reported crime figures but I always feel more confident when burglary dwelling and theft of motor vehicle are reduced as I feel that these are the crimes that the majority of people will report.

A4	Oct-Dec 2006	Oct-Dec 2007	Diff	% Diff
Burg.Dwell	27	13	-14	-52%
Burg.All	64	25	-39	-61%
Veh.Crime	62	33	-29	-47%
Violent Crime	111	65	-46	-41%
Crim Dam	160	127	-33	-21%
Total Crime	561	374	-187	-33%

On a youth diversionary front PCSO have arranged a schools youth football competition. Young people have been engaged in projects to improve the areas and remove graffiti and "grot". Young people have been involved in making plant pots and distributing them within the area. This was done during a half term period to reduce youth related disorder and was linked to a disc held on Halloween again to reduce youth disorder.

The Merseyside Police Website is kept updated with neighbourhood issues and there is a contact e-mail address direct to Upton. Ward.A.Upton@merseyside.police.uk

New public access points are as follows

Shaftebury Youth Club (not yet finalised but details will be published on the website)
Prenton Library (Thursdays 4pm-6pm)
Pemberton Road Centre Woodchurch (Thursday 2pm – 4pm)

We have just had a number of staff trained in the use of speed guns and so will be able to address these problems at a much more local level.

Operation Hawk which is based at Upton but covers the Wirral is the Merseyside Police response to the problems regarding the supply and use of controlled drugs. After another exceptional year the total amount of drugs seized during the Operation now stands at

Class A (Heroin,Cocaine,LSD) 40 kilos
Class B (Amphetamine) 252 kilos
Class C (Cannabis) 744 kilos

Total street value is in excess of 7 million pounds.

Also recovered have been a number of firearms including a machine pistol and ammunition. Persons arrested for drug supply offences are investigated under the Proceeds of Crime Act to identify and recover assets and during 2007 in excess of £300,000 was recovered.

I would urge anyone with information about drugs or drug dealing to call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Wirral PCT launch Health for all: Have Your Say

People in Wirral will have a greater opportunity than ever before to have a say about their health services.

Wirral PCT is launching a wide-reaching listening exercise, 'Health for all, Have your say' which will give local people the opportunity to have their say on proposed plans for health and healthcare in Wirral over the next five years.

These plans will show how the PCT will work to reduce the gap between those who experience the best and the poorest of health, offer people greater choice about how and where they are treated and provide quality, personalised care.

The listening exercise will be launched on 7th January 2008 and people will be asked to forward their views by 14th April 2008. During January 2008, each person over the age of 16 who is registered with a GP will receive a personalised letter and the 'Health for all, Have your say' booklet, summarising the PCT's plans. There are a variety of ways in which people will be able to send us their views. Full details of this, together with a free post feedback form are included in the booklet. All members of the public who send in their comments will be entered into a draw with the chance to win a range of prizes including a LCD television, iPod Touch or shopping vouchers.

The 'Health for All, Have Your Say' campaign is being officially launched at a high profile event taking place on Monday 7th January at the Pyramids Shopping Centre in Birkenhead. There will also be a wide range of opportunities for people of all ages to get involved in having their say in the coming weeks, including Local Area Forums, Fun for All activity days, focus groups and other community based events.

Kathy Doran, Chief Executive of Wirral Primary Care Trust said: "We are committed to delivering the very best healthcare for everyone living in Wirral and believe that by working together we can make this happen. We were recently awarded the National Health Service Journal Award for Primary Care Organisation of the Year 2007, which was due in part to our commitment in involving patients and the public in what we do.

"We believe that this exercise will give local people the chance more than ever before to have their say about the future of local health services. We would like to encourage everybody to get involved in the coming weeks and months. We will ensure that all comments received will be taken into consideration in future plans."

Wirral University Teaching Hospital

NHS Foundation Trust

The Trust is pleased to be able to participate in the Local Area Forums and welcomes the opportunity to brief Wirral residents and our partner organisations on topical issues. Representing the Trust will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the Public Governor for the host constituency.

- **Infection Control**

- Our Elective Surgical Unit at Clatterbridge remains MRSA bloodstream infection free – this Unit can undertake most planned surgical procedures including joint replacements.
- Our Women’s Services Unit at Arrowe Park is also MRSA bloodstream infection free
- Elsewhere in the Trust the number of MRSA bloodstream infections recorded between April to December 2007 reduced by 40% compared to the same period in 2006

- **Waiting for Treatment**

- Currently, no patient waits longer than 5 weeks for an outpatient appointment when referred by a GP for a specialist opinion
- Patients referred for most orthopaedic and gynaecology outpatient appointments will wait only 2 weeks
- Patients referred for ENT outpatient appointments will wait only 3 weeks
- Currently, most patients will wait no longer than 11 weeks for their operation once they have been ‘listed’ by a consultant. The exception is Orthopaedics where the waiting time is 14 weeks.
- Currently, patients with suspected or confirmed cancers are referred, diagnosed and treated well within national targets

- **Improving Our Standards**

- In the 2006/07 Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check we scored ‘good’ for our use of resources and ‘good’ for the quality of our services
- An external assessment of our standards by the Patient Environment Action Team resulted in the following scores being awarded to the Trust for 2007 -

	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Privacy & Dignity</i>
<i>Arrowe Park</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>4 (Good)</i>	<i>5 (Excellent)</i>
<i>Clatterbridge</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>4 (Good)</i>	<i>4 (Good)</i>

- **Improving Our Facilities**

- In this financial year, 2007/08, £16million will be spent on capital schemes to improve our facilities and update the services we provide – schemes include:
 - Implementing a ‘state of art’ digital X-Ray system = £3.1m
 - Replacing Cardiac Catheter Laboratory equipment = £1.7m
 - Expanding the Endoscopy suite at Arrowe Park = £1.3m
 - Improving the Maternity Ward and Delivery Suite = £200K
 - Altering and refurbishing wards to increase the number of single rooms, improve toilet and storage facilities = £650k
 - New & replacement medical and surgical equipment = £2.5m

In addition, we are working with an independent provider to improve Renal Dialysis facilities at Clatterbridge

- **Providing New Services.....**

- The Trust has recently been designated as a centre for providing drug therapy for age-related Macular Degeneration. This is a new, local service for the benefit of Wirral residents.
- The Trust has recently been designated as a Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery

- **Come and Join Us!**

- As a Foundation Trust we are keen to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have 5,500 Public Members and are keen to recruit more. Public Members can get involved as much or as little as they like – from just receiving regular newsletters to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. If you would like to become a public member please complete and return the membership application form that is available from the area forum area co-ordinator.

Older People's Parliament

Our organisation has been in existence for almost a year, following the initial set up it has achieved some quite remarkable results. Firstly from setting up a small body with people from many diverse backgrounds. All combined with the very valuable assistance and encouragement from Wirral Borough Council, working in conjunction with Age Concern.

Recognition

This has evolved into the recognition of the constructive contribution being made by elderly people in assisting and resolving issues, things that specifically have effect on those in the community, aged from 50 years plus. Our respective Sub Committee chairperson's, Committee Members, etc. Have established direct links with The National Health Service both at Major Hospital level and Wirral Primary Care Trust, Elected Members of the National Parliament and local Authority Administrators.

Disabilities

Mr Alan Stanbury, one of the founder members of the Parliament successfully negotiated a number of additional disabled parking places in close proximity to the main building at Arrowe Park University Teaching Hospital Trust, plus additional signage and close monitoring by security staff. To ensure the system is being used correctly. Unfortunately Alan has since passed away but has left a legacy of what can be achieved by indentifying a problem and solving the issue by skilful negotiation with the necessary authority involved.

Health Provision

Sandra Wall, and her committee members, are actively involved in important discussion over a wide range of health care issues, items relating to Health Care Services provided by Hospitals, Clinics, and Specialist Providers, together with

assessment and standards in Nursing Homes and Care Establishments throughout the Wirral. The Health & Social Care subcommittee, have such a wide list of elements to deal with, ranging from care and services within hospitals and outpatient, or clinical service facilities normally provided in your Own Home and Care Home locations. Involving Chiropody/Podiatry, Surgical Replacements, Hearing Aids, Dementia, and Optical improvement procedures.

Population

Statistically the elderly population in Wirral is an ever growing number in comparison to the whole population count. And of course people are living longer, making the present and future provision of improved medical and social needs, a very high priority to all concerned. **Wirral Older Peoples Parliament**, is playing an important function with major constructive contribution, to the overall decision making process, carried out by The Council Officers, Hospital Trusts, Care Homes, and Clinics, etc.

Education

Margaret Testo, and her committee members are deeply involved with a number of noted Educational Providers and various other departments. Like Wirral 3 L's and the Wirral Met College or the Learning & Skills Council. Who are all involved in the provision, encouragement, and availability of facilities, equipment, and assistance in the extension of learning systems for older people? The use of computer technology is quite important in today's society, and whilst some older persons may feel intimidated by such developments, the provisions of simple learning techniques are proving to be invaluable.

Accommodation

Parliament Committee Members, belonging to various other organisations are using gathered information to ensure that elderly or vulnerable citizens in the community have a collective voice in the standards and compatibility of sheltered housing and community living facilities.

Law and Order

Ken McDermott, has been in progressive consultation with the Police Authorities and Wirral Council Officers, expressing the related fears and concerns felt by many elderly residents, about the safety or wellbeing of communities, this is also an ongoing part of education and understanding being carried out in the schools educational system. The authorities place a high importance on that senior citizens and vulnerable members of our communities, have a right to live their lives in comparative safety and comfort.

Transport

Joanna McIlhatton, and committee members have been assessing the available transport facilities provisions. And urging the need for better improved use of public transport. Enabling older maybe less mobile members of the community to travel in comfort. There are many examples where public transport fall short of providing adequate services, if people are to be aware of the environmental impact that private cars have on society as a whole.

Jack Cuffe (Chairman Wirral OPP)

Jack Cuffe, has dedicated a huge commitment to establishing the parliament, raising awareness and obtaining funding for the parliament to function. He himself has attended numerous meetings together with various Executive Committee Members, establishing a presence on **(The North West Older Peoples Advisory Group)** an active part of the **(Better Government for Older People)** with direct contact to the British Government Parliament in London.

Wirral Older Peoples Parliament has had meetings and presentations with many leading figures in authorities both here in the Wirral and Merseyside plus the North West Region.

The Chief Constable of Merseyside, Wirral Borough Council Chief Executive, plus senior directors of Wirral Social Services, Chief Executive of Wirral PCT and many of the senior managers of the PCT, also representatives from Wirral Voluntary Services, Wirral Libraries, Ambulance & Fire Service, plus many more representative bodies.

Local Forums

The very successful local area forums have been a vital communication link with numerous other voluntary service groups in all of the Council Wards at the recent **WBC Area Forum Annual Conference** in July there were 16 representative members of the Wirral OPP present.

Later Life Convention (Staged by AGE Concern Sep 08) in Hulme Hall

A stall manned by Wirral OPP gave out thousands of leaflets and information packs, to the general public and answered many queries about the vast range “**AGE Concern**” information booklets available, and documents relating to those in The 50 + age group.

Booklets with advice on Welfare Benefits, Housing, Insurance, Investment, Transport, Keeping Warm, and Healthy Eating, etc are available from any AGE Concern office.

Executive Body Members

The executive members of **Wirral Older People Parliament** have met a frequent intervals carrying out a multitude of organisational and promotional duties, arranging informative talks and presentations, gathering information and data, supporting committees, etc with extensive use of **AGE Concern** assistance and facilities, Cutesy of Jamie Anderson, who has been of exceptional help.

The support assistance and general encouragement from Council CEO Stephen Maddox OBE, Kevin Miller, John Webb, and Wirral Borough Council, staff members Andrea Grant, Tracey Smith, plus others has made a significant contribution to setting up the Wirral OPP in its first year of office.

For more information Ring 0151 666 2220 (Parliament)

E-Mail: parliament@ageconcernwirral.org

Better still have some input at the next Parliament Meeting in Wallasey Town Hall

Oxton Society

- The Christmas lights were switched on in early December by the Deputy Mayor with a good crowd in attendance to get the festive season off to a good start. There were the usual minor hitches but it was sad that we did not get both village centre trees lit up with L.E.D.Lights. We still hope to get L.E.D. in the second tree and then those two trees may well be lit up at other times of the year to welcome visitors to the village.
- A new feature this year was the printing of 3000 Leaflets 'CHRISTMAS IN OXTON' which were distributed throughout the Wirral and certainly a few people made the effort to come and visit for their Christmas shopping.
- We still encounter problems of theft and vandalism and are very close to agreement for the whole village to be covered by CCTV. We hope that the vast majority of the businesses will contribute to this scheme and it is believed that contributions may also be received from the Chamber of Commerce, Crime Reduction Unit, H.S.B.C and also the Oxton Society

Section Four

Area Forum Plan Progress

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

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

Currently all Local Area Forum Plans are being refreshed and updated. This is an annual process to ensure that the plans are continually addressing the needs of individual areas.

There will be a more detailed update of the Area Forum Plans at the June 08 forums which will include:

- The Integrated Transport Block
- Community Initiative Fund Update
- School Travel Plans
- Ensuring better transport links.

If you would like more information on the Area Forum Plan covering the area in which you live or how you can help towards any of the above issues please contact Louise Harland-Davies 691 8695 or email louiseharlanddavies@wirral.gov.uk

Section Five

Streetscene

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

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

WASTE ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Wirral Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee recently passed an enforcement policy regarding Household Waste. This policy, subject to Cabinet approval, determines that anyone found to be deliberately and repeatedly contaminating their grey recycling bin can now be fined, after a warnings and offers of help from Council Offers.

It is important that residents note that the contamination we refer to is serious deliberate contamination, e.g completely filling the grey recycling bin with food waste, nappies, mixed rubbish in bin bags etc, week after week. It is not the intention to fine people who on the whole make a good attempt to recycle but put one or two wrong items in accidentally.

The policy also allows fines to be issued, after warnings, for leaving bins out after collection day. Leaving bins out on the pavement poses health and safety risks to disabled, visually impaired, and elderly people, and children. Also bins left out at are risk from contamination by passers by / neighbours etc.

The fines will be £100, £60 if paid within 7 days.

This enforcement policy has been brought in as Wirral Council are now successfully recycling more than 220% more rubbish than this time last year - yet certain problem households are contaminating the recycling and we are having to take wagon loads of recycling to landfill as a result. This is bad for the environment but also costs us and therefore the tax payer.

SCHOOL'S RECYCLING

A pilot scheme is to be trialled in ten Wirral schools throughout February, in which 'Grey bin recycling' will be installed in class rooms, allowing children to recycle in school the same as at home.

If successful, the scheme will in time be rolled out to all Wirral schools.

RESIDENTS PARKING

All residents parking requests will now be coming through Area Forums. Initially, concerned residents should still call Streetscene on 606 2004 for background information on what is required for a residents parking scheme to be considered.

Streetscene will provide residents with a criteria list, and when the criteria is met, residents are to revisit an area forum with the proposal, where like minded residents may want to contribute or discuss.

The criteria basically is that at least 80% of at least 300 homes must be in favour of the scheme. All houses must be in favour of contributing a one off amount of approximately 75 for set up fees.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Along with Merseyside Police, we are recruiting volunteers for our Community

Speedwatch Scheme, where residents and community groups can use our radar guns and hi-viz jackets to perform speed checks on problem roads. All data captured can be passed back to the police and action may be taken. For more info, or to volunteer, contact Sgt Kate Roberts on 0151 606 5448

ROAD SAFETY

The Road Safety Team still have a few copies of the Highway Code to give away, after a pre-Christmas give away. If you would like your free copy, as there have been quite a few updates in the revised 2007 version, please call Streetscene on 6060 2004 or email streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

PLANNING WEBCASTS

We would like to remind residents that a trip to The Town Hall is no longer necessary to view a planning committee meeting. All meetings are available to watch online via www.wirral.gov.uk , click 'planning webcasts' in the right hand menu.

If you are unable to watch it live, you can watch it at any time convenient to you after it has been archived and uploaded the next day.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES

The following Traffic Management schemes completed since the last area forums in Sept/Oct.

Eastham Rake, Eastham

Puffin Crossing

Tollemache Road, Bidson

Pedestrian Refuge

Bidston Moss (Roundabout)

Signage Scheme

HIGHWAY MAINTENENCE

The following Highway maintenance schemes have been completed since the last area forums in Sept / Oct.

Footway Reconstruction Completed

Dalmorton Road, New Brighton
Nursury Close, Oxton
Upton Road, Cloughton
Grafton Street, (part) Oxton
Burlingham Avenue, West Kirby
Fieldway, Bebington
Sussex Close, Pensby
Mere Farm Grove, Oxton
Oak Road, Bebington
Reedville Road, Bebington
Richardson Road, Rock Ferry

Carriageway Resurfacing Completed

Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge
Neville Road, Bromborough
Dibbins Hey (part) Clatterbridge
Wirral Gardens, Clatterbridge
Patterdale Road, Clatterbridge
Bassenthwaite Avenue, Cloughton
Laburnum Road, New Brighton
Sandheys Road, New Brighton
Mount Road access link to
Clatterbridge Hospital, Clatterbridge

Footway Reconstruction Planned Works

Hillfield Drive, Pensby Started 7/01/08
Somerset Road, (part) Pensby

Carriageway Resurfacing Planned

Wetherby Avenue, Wallasey
started w/c 7/01/08

Brynmoor Avenue, Wallasey
started w/c 7/01/08
Kingston Close, Moreton
start w/c 14/01/08
Hawarden Avenue. Liscard
Dock Road (part) Seacombe

to

Whiteheath Way, Leasowe
Northbrooke Way, Upton
Domville Drive, Upton
Bridge Farm Close, Upton
Glebe Hey Road, Upton

Carriageway Retread Works Completed

Grant Road, Leasowe
Mackenzie Road, Leasowe
Harvest Lane (part), Moreton
Devonshire Road, West Kirby

Carriageway Surface Treatment Works Planned

Vyner Road North, Bidston
Wroxham Way, Upton
Seabank Road (part) Liscard
Newling Street, Birkenhead
Trinity Street, Birkenhead
Helena Street, Birkenhead

Footway Surface Treatment Completed

Duke Street, (part) Birkenhead
Reeds Lane (part) Leasowe
St Marys Street, Liscard
St Marys Avenue, Liscard
Westminster Road, Liscard
Wilton Street, Liscard

Footway Surface Treatment Planned

Woodchurch Road, (part) Upton
Pensby Road (part) Pensby
Bassentwaite Avenue (island area only) Claughton

TRANSPORT

TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT DIVISION

INTRODUCTION

In partnership with Merseytravel, Merseyside Police and other Merseyside constituent authorities, Wirral Council develop a 5 year programme reflecting central Government objectives as set out by the Local Transport Plan (LTP).

Wirral is proactive in addressing the key issues of:-

- Road Safety
- Congestion
- Accessibility, and
- Air Quality

Each year the Council endorses a number of initiatives and schemes to address concerns in these four main areas. Schemes are developed after identifying areas and locations of most proven need for improvement and very often link directly with performance targets. To help identify schemes, certain criteria are used.

Prioritising schemes means that those chosen have a greater need for improvement than those not chosen, particularly when there is a competing demand on the finance available.

In order to be helpful in explaining the current situation, set out below are some of the main activities that are on-going in this financial year to March 2008. The list is not exhaustive and does not cover some of the minor interventions which may be taken, such as modest road signing and carriageway lining schemes.

LOCAL SAFETY SCHEMES

Local Safety Schemes are designed for locations where there is an already identified personal injury accident situation and it is considered that improvements can be made to reduce further risk.

Local Safety Schemes are planned for:-

- Dock Road, Seacombe – Route Action
- Hoylake Road/Fender Lane, Moreton - New Junction Layout
- Serpentine Road, Liscard - Traffic Calming
- Barnston Road (Telegraph Road – Gills Lane), Barnston -Route Action
- Telegraph Road (Church Lane – Grammar School Lane), Thurstaston – Route Action
- Saughall Massie Road, Saughall – Signs, Lines and TRO
- Station Road, Storeton – Speed Reduction Measures
- Levers Causeway, Storeton – Signs and TRO
- New Chester Road/Poolbank Road Area, New Ferry – Buildouts, Lines and TRO
- Shrewsbury Road/Alton Road, Oxton – Signs, Lines and TRO
- Thingwall Road, Irby – Speed Reduction Measures
- Irby Road, Pensby – Pedestrian Crossing
- Surface Treatment – Various (Zebras, Pelicans and Bends)
- High Visibility Guard Rail – Various sites Borough-wide

SPEEDING TRAFFIC

Traffic calming and speed reduction is frequently asked for and to provide guidance that the monies are spent to the best advantage, the following criteria is used:-

- Sites will not be considered for physical measures such as vertical or horizontal deflections on emergency services priority routes – unless specific approval can be gained from the emergency services.
- Only sites capable of conforming to the Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1996 and current Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions advice on design and placement of measures will be considered.
- Sites must have a personal injury accident record which would be improved by the introduction of traffic calming measures or be adjacent to existing areas where a comprehensive inclusive zone can be implemented.
- Traffic calming measures may also be considered in support of specific initiatives, such as home zones, cycling and safer routes to schools where such schemes may not be justified on their existing personal injury accident record.

TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEMES

Traffic calming this year is scheduled for

- Cleveley Road Area, Meols
Comprising: Cleveley Road, Derwent Road, Station Approach and Lyndhurst Road (To be replaced with a community speed watch campaign initiative)
- St Peters Way Area, Noctorum
Comprising: St Peters Way, Neville Close, Newport Close, Naseby Close, Netherfield Close, Needham Crescent, Norris Close, Newark Close and Norfolk Close
- Martins Lane Area, Liscard – Scheme adjacent and linked to adjacent Local Safety Scheme
Comprising: Martins Lane, Hawarden Avenue, Oxford Road, Empress Road, Chatsworth Avenue, Eaton Avenue, Central Park Avenue and Ferndale Avenue

Reserve List

- Edinburgh Road Area, Liscard
Comprising: Edinburgh Road, Daventree Road, Caldby Road, Kenwyn Road and Arnside Road
- Lyndale Road Area, Eastham
Comprising: Lyndale Avenue, Grampian Way, Athol Drive, Renfrew Avenue, Berwick Avenue, Paisley Avenue, Glenburn Avenue, Adaston Avenue, Avondale Avenue, Wensleydale Avenue and Darleydale Drive
- Moreton Area
Comprising: Stavordale Road, Chapelhill Road, Stuart Avenue, Burnley Road, Wimbrick Hey, Sedgefield Road, Fender View, Pine Tree Grove, Carnsdale Road, Sandbrook Lane, Glebelands Road, Wyvern Road, Grampian Avenue, Napier Drive, Grampian Way, Pembroke Avenue, Chirk Way and Croft Drive
- New Ferry Road Area, New Ferry
Comprising: New Ferry Road, The Dell, Napier Road, Ingleby Road, Woodford Road, Cecil Road, Beverley Road, Henthorne Road, Sandfield Road, Irvine Terrace, Boulton Avenue, Easton Road, Tilstock Avenue and Thorburn Road

Where issues of speeding traffic are of concern to residents, these can be reported directly to the Police or alternatively to the Council, who will forward the matter on for attention.

A review of the speed limits on Classified A and B routes is to be comprehensively undertaken by 2011 and any queries of this nature will be taken into consideration in this review.

COMMUNITY SPEED AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

In addition to the above speed-related programmes, Community Speed Watch is being piloted this year with attention directed into a number of areas:

Acre Lane area ,Bromborough
New Ferry Road area , New Ferry
Oxton Village area, Oxton
Rigby Drive area , Greasby
Westbourne Road area ,West Kirby

Cleveley Road area, Meols (replacing
the traffic calming scheme above)
Withens Lane area ,Wallasey (subject
to Cabinet approval)

For residents wishing to be considered as a Community Volunteer in the initiative, the contact within Merseyside Police is Kate Roberts, 0151-777-2910, or via kate.roberts@merseyside.police.uk.

It is anticipated that partnering with the Police will have positive outcomes in helping to reduce motorists' speeds to around 20 mph in built-up areas and that the initiative can be further rolled-out in future years.

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

A great deal of attention is being given to encouraging school pupils to use healthier ways of getting to school other than the private car and also making sure that there are safe routes. Attention this year is at the following schools:-

- Millfields Primary and South Wirral High Schools, Eastham
- Heswall Primary School, Heswall
- St Bridget's CE Primary School, West Kirby
- St Peters CE Primary School, Heswall
- Townfield Primary School, Oxton
- Hilbre High School, West Kirby
- Lingham Primary School, Moreton
- West Kirby Primary School, West Kirby
- Plessington High School, Bebington
- Leasowe Early Years Centre, Leasowe
- New Brighton Primary School, New Brighton
- Pensby Infants School, Pensby

PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

In order to improve facilities for those who walk, pedestrian (PUFFIN) crossing signals are being provided at:-

- Laird Street, Birkenhead
- Hoylake Road, Moreton
- Townfield Lane, Oxton

Such schemes are identified on the road traffic and pedestrian movement and whether or not the road is assessed as being difficult and unsafe to cross, bearing in mind again the road safety record.

A dropped kerb-crossing programme has been developed and undertaken in consultation with Wirral Information Resource for Equality and Disability (WIRED). Locations identified for treatment are those with high pedestrian movements, links between residential areas and services such as shopping centres, health centres, libraries etc. The opportunity is also taken within the footway reconstruction programme to introduce dropped kerbs at junctions etc.

Although schemes for pedestrian central refuges are relatively modest, they do have significant benefits for pedestrians. Through this programme it has in the past also been possible to provide pedestrian refuges at a number of sites where formal signalised crossings were not justified.

Pedestrian central refuges are proposed at:-

- Leasowe Road (near Mereheath), Leasowe
- Seabank Road (Manor Road – Steel Avenue), New Brighton

With a reserve scheme at:

- Tollemache Road/Ashburton Road, Claughton

CYCLING

Cycling is considered an important element in transport accessibility planning and a Wirral Cycling Action Plan has been approved. This year we are concentrating on:-

- The Port Sunlight to Clatterbridge Route
- Network Development
- Wirral Way Phase 2
- Birkenhead Network
- Wallasey District Cycle Network

together with the general promotion of cycling across the Wirral.

REVIEW OF PARKING ON-STREET (YELLOW LINES)

When we receive a request to look at on-street parking situations to provide or remove yellow lines, we do check that road safety or congestion is not being compromised. If it is, the case that it is, then a scheme to make alterations can be scheduled to be progressed. Those locations on the main roads which at present are not linked to accident or congestion issues are to be reviewed over the next 3 years.

RESIDENTS PARKING

Requests for residents parking schemes should meet the criteria of 80% support, normally involve 300 households and should demonstrate agreement to charging (£75 set up fee per household and £10 per annum per permit).

See contact details below.

BLUE BADGE HOLDERS

For those residents wishing to make a request for an on-street parking bay for blue badge holders, they should initially contact the Council's Call Centre on 606-2004 or access the application form at www.wirral.gov.uk, found in A-Z under "disabled people".

Wrexham Bidston Electrification

Residents will recall that an update was provided at the previous area forum meetings with regard to the progress of proposals to electrify the Wrexham to Bidston rail line and link it to the existing Mersey electrics network.

At the current time there is little further to report as discussions are ongoing and we are awaiting the results of a Network Rail GRIP3 (Guide to Rail Investment Projects) study jointly funded by Merseytravel and the Welsh Assembly Government which will provide a clear indication of the costs of the Project. The results of this study are anticipated in March 2008.

Future updates will be provided to the Forum as the project progresses

CONTACTS

Streetscene Call centre:	0151 606 2004
Wirral Council website:	www.wirral.gov.uk
Merseyside Police:	www.merseyside.police.uk
Merseytravel:	www.merseytravel.gov.uk
Local Area Forum:	www.engage@wirral.gov.uk or 0151-691-8026
Department for Transport:	www.dft.gov.uk

Section Six

Equalities & Diversity

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

The standard has six strands or pillars:

Race

Disability

Gender

Age

Sexual Orientation

Religion or belief

New Corporate Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator appointed!

Jacqui Cross joined Corporate Policy team on 5th November (and yes fireworks did fly!).

She is responsible for co-ordinating efforts across the whole authority to ensure high quality services are available to all citizens on the basis of need and to ensure the Council provides a fair and supportive environment for all staff, members and partners.

Jacqui can be contacted on 0151 691 8064 or email jacquicross@wirral.gov.uk

Other members of the Corporate Equality and Diversity Programme Team are:

Steve Foden, Access Officer, 0151 691 8212 or email stevefoden@wirral.gov.uk,

Ged Smyth NRAC Auditor, 0151 691 8217 or email gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk

Maxine Joynson Support Officer, 0151 691 6266 or email maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk

Comprehensive Engagement Strategy A community engagement strategy for Wirral is currently being developed under the remit of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). This strategy will provide the mechanisms for delivering a strategic approach to community engagement, involving a wide range of partners and stakeholders.

As this strategy emerges, a consultation framework with residents, customers, local groups and communities will be designed for use across the whole Council.

Who we are working with A single equality group for Wirral known as Wirral Equalities Forum (WEF) has recently been established and includes partners from the LSP such as Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Police and PCT.

We are also working closely with the Merseyside Equality Forum and regional equality networks in order to promote the work being done across Wirral and to share information and best practice.

Initiatives We have recently established initiatives within the Council including:

- Three diversity forums for Council staff
- Launch of 'Equality Watch' – a newsletter for Council staff
- Further Equality and Diversity training for Council staff
- Continued access audits of buildings

Equality Impact Assessments (EIA's) An EIA is a self-assessment tool to help our council departments and services look at the likely positive and negative impact of their work on staff, members, service users / customers, partnerships, individuals and communities with regards to equality of opportunity in employment and service delivery.

The council is committed to ensuring that it delivers all of its services in a fair and equal way. It also pledges to develop an inclusive recruitment and selection procedure aimed at creating a strong and diverse workforce. This two-pronged approach ensures that we work towards removing barriers to our services and actively promote and support diversity.

The Equality Standard for Local Government helps us to measure progress towards promoting equality and diversity. The standard has five levels and Wirral council is currently at level two. In order to meet the requirements of the standard we need to ensure we carry out Equality Impact Assessments on all council functions, services, projects, strategies and policies.

Every service, function, policy and strategy that Wirral Council has, needs to have an EIA to highlight both positive and negative impact on various population groups.

Some useful information under the equality strands:

Age

Age Concern Wirral – please contact head office on 666 2220 or email www.ageconcernwirral.org

Youth forums for more information please contact Debbie McCabe on 637 6362 or email debbiemccabe@wirral.gov.uk

Older People's Parliament - for more information please contact Jack Cuffe on 652 0039

Gender

Women's Diversity Forum (Council) – met 26th November due to meet again on 15th January. For more info please contact Christina Bebbington on 691 8063 or email christinabebbington@wirral.gov.uk

Press for Change - is a political lobbying and educational organisation, which campaigns to achieve equal civil rights and liberties for all trans people in the United Kingdom, through legislation and social change. www.pfc.org.uk

Race

Race Diversity Forum (Council) – held their inaugural meeting on 26th November. For more information please contact Katrina Roberts on 691 8382 or email katrinaroberts@wirral.gov.uk

Promoting the talents of Muslim Women 21 January 2008, 1.45 – 6.45pm, Alberts Hall, Bolton. For more information please visit www.nwra.gov.uk/promotingmuslimwomen

Disability

Disability Diversity Forum (Council) – last on Monday 7th January 2008. For more information please contact Ged Smyth on 691 8217 or email gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk

Wirral Disability Action Forum – 25 January 2008 at Highcroft Centre, Bebington. For more information contact Diane Jones at Wired on 670 1500.

Sexual Orientation

LGBT Rainbow Partnership - For more information please contact Darren Knight via email at the Rainbow Partnership on rainbow@lgf.org.uk

LGBT Forum (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender) forum due to meet in February 2008. For more information please contact Peter Barnett via email on Wirralgbt_forum@yahoo.co.uk

Religion and belief

Churches together in Wirral - Churches Together in Wirral (CTiW) has provided representatives on a variety of strategic bodies including Local Community Forums, the Standing Advisory Body for Religious Education, and the Local Strategic Partnership. The Local Authority regard our work as being crucial to the partnerships they seek, and appreciate the integrity that CTiW give in their communications with a variety of bodies including National Government. www.churcheswirral.co.uk

Section Seven

Area Forum Funding Progress

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

Area Forum Funding Progress Report - Oxton / Prenton

(previously awarded monies - to 2006/2007)

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Tranmere Harris Allotment Society	To provide trees for the new areas dedicated to Wild Life on the allotments	Panel considered this to be a good project that is fully supported by the Local Agenda 21 Co-ordinator, and agreed to award £500.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	We have planted over 80 trees and shrubs around the pond area. The pond filled within two days, reducing the flooding in adjacent allotment plots and enhancing the site by providing an attractive area to encourage wildlife.

FREE FUNDING INFORMATION 4 YOU

Wirral Council supported by Wirral Local Strategic Partnership's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund are pleased to provide a FREE funding information service available online.

There are hundreds of grants available to support Wirral's voluntary and community groups from local opportunities to Government, National Lottery and Trust Funding sources.

To find out which grants you may be eligible to apply for visit our free search facility:

Step One

Go to **www.wirral.gov.uk**

Click on the *Funding Initiatives* icon under the 'Popular Pages' list.

Step Two

Then click on one of these links to browse and search for funding information.

www.open4community.info/wirral
www.open4socialenterprise.info/wirral

You no longer have to be left in the dark about what funding your group or organisation could apply for, find this out for yourself.

In addition you can also visit the following web site for a wide range of associated information including signing up for regular early funding alerts via email.

www.mfip.org.uk



COULD YOUR COMMUNITY BENEFIT FROM UP TO £10,000?

Awards for All is a small grants programme supported by the Arts Council England, The Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England. If you have an idea that will make your community a better place, Awards for All could make it a reality with a Lottery grant of between £300 and £10,000.

We want to fund organisations that deliver projects for people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, as well as projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.

Regional Overview

Between 1 April 2007 and 31 December 2007 we received over 1,700 applications in the North West region. 931 applications have been funded amounting to around £6.4m. 48% of applications requested grants of between £7,500 and £10,000. The average award in the North West during this period stands at just over £6,800, with a success rate of 53%. The awards break down between the sub-regions as follows:

<i>Sub Region</i>	Amounts Awarded	Number of Awards
Cheshire	£681,213	108
Cumbria	£716,085	108
Greater Manchester	£2,254,219	325
Lancashire	£1,315,036	196
Merseyside	£1,336,415	184
North West wide	£77,844	10

Common reject reasons

One of the main reasons that applications fail is because organisations do not send in all of the information required. As well as the completed application form, an organisation must also provide its governing document (or constitution), a formal set of accounts, a bank details form and three months worth of original bank statements.

Another reason that applications fail is that the organisation does not have sufficient financial controls. You must ensure that you have appropriate financial procedures in place to adequately manage the funds you are requesting.

Further information can be found in the guidance at

http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/docs/awardsforall_england_guide.pdf

You can also contact your local Council for Voluntary Service, Local Authority External Funding Officer or helper agency for further advice on completing the application form.

Regional Outcomes

In the North West we have prioritised four strategic outcomes. Although your project does not have to meet the regional outcomes, your application will have a better chance of success if it does meet one of them. The regional outcomes for the North West are:

- Increased involvement from people who face barriers to participation
- Greater use of community buildings
- Improved skills for running small community groups
- Different communities working closer together

How to apply

If Awards for All might be for you, applying is relatively easy. You can apply at any time, the application form is straightforward and you will receive a decision within eight weeks of sending in your completed application. You can apply if you are a not for profit group, a parish or town council, school or health body. Groups can apply for £300 to £10,000 in any two-year period and the grant must be spent within 12 months.

The kind of things we can fund include:

Publicity materials, venue hire, computers, research costs, transport costs, volunteers' expenses, updating equipment for health and safety reasons, refurbishments, training, sessional staff, fees to hire equipment, educational toys and games.

For more information and to download an application pack visit our website – www.awardsforall.org.uk or call 0845 600 20 40 or textphone 0845 755 6656 to request an application pack in hard copy.

If you would like any help in completing an application form please contact Suzanne Fennah Lottery Officer for Wirral Council on 691 8196 or e-mail her on Suzannefennah@wirral.gov.uk