

**ANNUAL REVIEW OF USE OF SECTION 30 DISPERSAL ORDERS IN WIRRAL –
2006/07**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Section 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act, 2003 allows the Police, following consultation and agreement with the Council, to designate communities, suffering from significant levels of anti social behaviour, as Dispersal Zones. Such designation which has been used on nine occasions during 2006 – 07, these actions can lead to considerable reductions in levels of anti social behaviour in an area whilst in force. Further analysis based upon the use on Wirral of Section 30 Orders during the last two years does however illustrate ways in which the use of Section 30 Orders can be improved and lead to greater reductions in the levels of anti social behaviour.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Section 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 provides powers for the dispersal of groups and removal of persons under 16 to their place of residence. These powers can be enacted when a Police Officer has reasonable grounds for believing that:

- Members of the public have been intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed as a result of the presence or behaviour of groups.
- The anti social behaviour is a significant and persistent problem in the area.

2.2 The powers are enforceable by Police Officers within the identified area for a maximum period of six months only. However, whilst the authorisation for a Section 30 Order to begin within a community is given by a Police Officer of the rank of Superintendent, the authorisation may not be given without the consent of the Local Authority. The officer with delegated authority to agree to the implementation of a Section 30 Order is the Director of Regeneration.

2.3 When assessing if an area has a significant and persistent problem all categories of anti social behaviour incidents reported to the Police on Wirral are analysed and mapped.

2.4 The process to obtain a Section 30 Order on Wirral, requires that efforts to resolve the anti social behaviour by first dealing with the issue at the Joint Agency Group (JAG). This is a monthly meeting of several partnership agencies focussed upon reducing levels of anti social behaviour. Only if the (JAG) intervention fails to resolve the issue is a Section 30 Order sought.

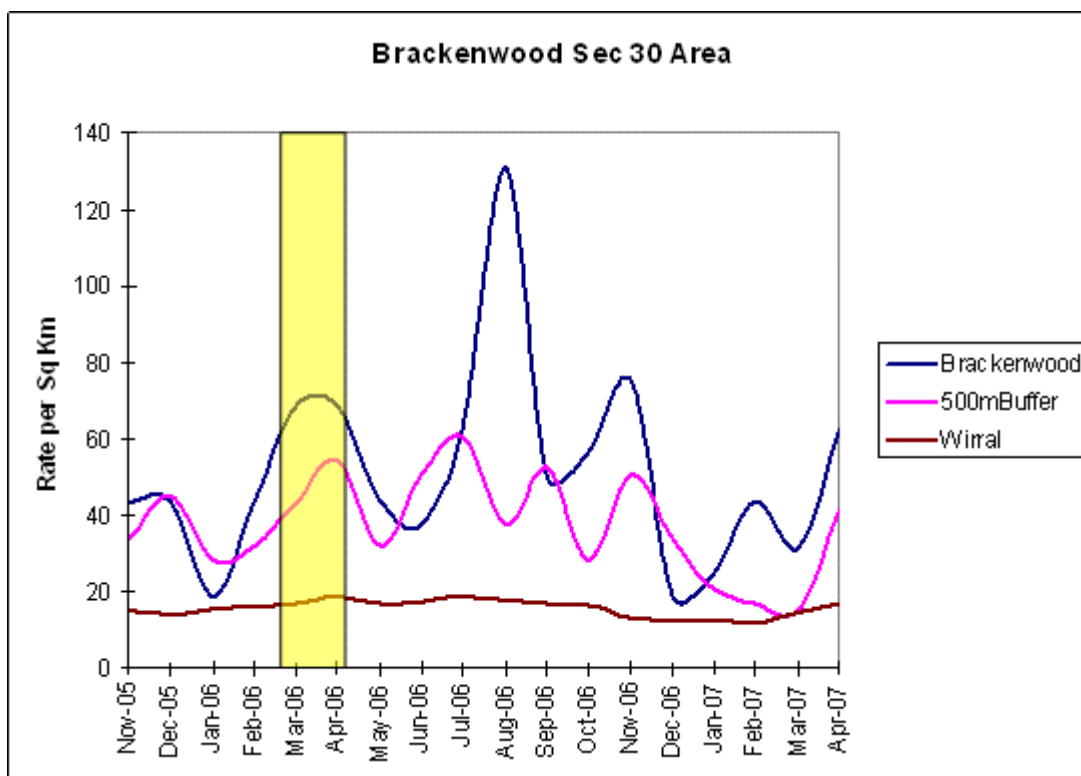
2.5 Section 30 Orders are ineffectual without proper resourcing and policing. The larger the community area designated, the greater the number of resources that will be required to police it.

3.0 REVIEW OF DISPERSAL ORDERS USED ON WIRRAL

- 3.1 Over the last two years the power to designate a community as a dispersal zone using Section 30 powers has been used on a total of 16 occasions. Seven Section 30 Orders were agreed and implemented on Wirral during 2005 -06 and during 2006 - 07 nine Section 30 Orders have been agreed and implemented.
- 3.2 The following method of analysis was used to measure the impact of Section 30 Orders implemented during 2006 - 07. The rate of measurement was disorder (per sq km) for:
1. Wirral as a whole
 2. Within each of the Section 30 areas
 3. The area immediately surrounding (less than 500 metres) S30 areas
- 3.3 The above three measures directly compare disorder rates within each Section 30 area with both that on the outskirts of the area (to test for displacement), and the Wirral as a whole to illustrate overall seasonal trends. A summary of Section 30s implemented during 2006 - 07, their location and impact now follows

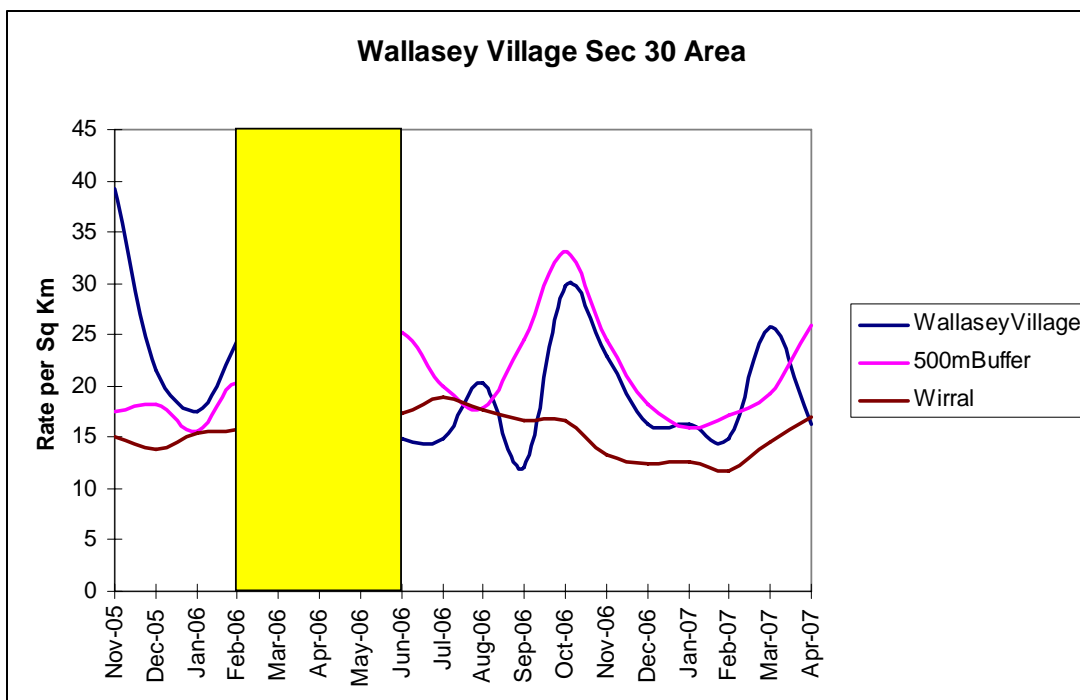
3.4 Brackenwood

- **Obtained** – 20/02/2006. Ended 07/04/2006
- **Boundary** - Mount Rd, Bracken Lane; Brackenwood Road; Teehey Lane; Heath Road; Footpath to Tew Tree Road; Rowan Grove; Cedar Avenue and back to Brackenwood Road. The area also includes Teehay Lane and Town Lane
- **Location** – Residential area
- **Reason** – Adults generally causing annoyance
- **Statistics** – Disorder peaked in the Section 30 area and the displacement area whilst the Section 30 was active. Disorder peaked again well above Wirral levels three months after the Section 30 ended.



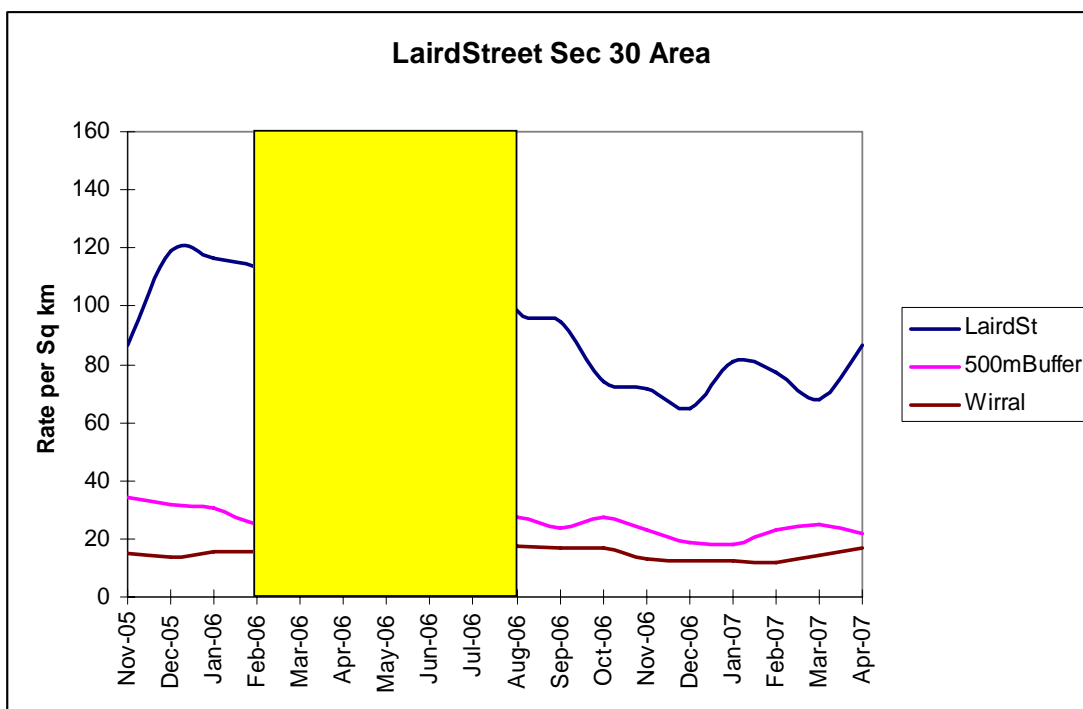
3.4 Wallasey Village

- **Obtained – 03/02/2006. Ended 02/06/2006**
- **Boundary** – Wallasey Village; St Hilary Brow; Belvidere Road; Rolleston Drive; Sea Road; then follow line of railway through to Harrison Drive
- **Location** – Residential area
- **Reason** – Gangs of up to 100 youths drinking / abusive behaviour/criminal damage. The main problems appear to be in the parks, church grounds and a golf course.
- **Statistics** –Whilst the Section 30 Order was active levels of anti social behaviour reduced, but this reduction was not sustained more than three months after the Section 30 ended. Disorder appears to have been displaced to outside the Designated Zone.



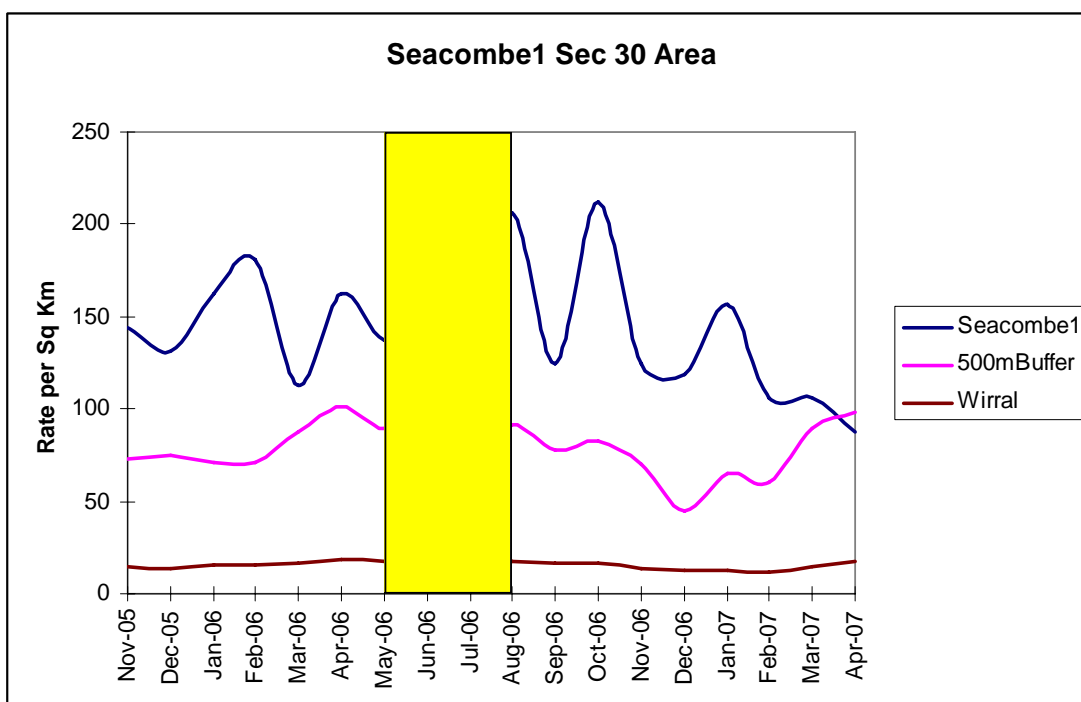
3.6 Laird Street

- **Obtained** – 24/02/2006. Ended 24/08/06
- **Boundary** – Beaufort Road; Cavendish Street; Park Road North; Norman Street; Sumner Road rear of Bluebell Avenue to Tollemache Road
- **Location** – Residential area
- **Reason** – Various complaints highlighted include under age drinking, rowdy behaviour, assaults, graffiti, criminal damage, illegal use of mopeds and scooters, verbal abuse, harassment and intimidation. There are also problems in relation to criminal matters e.g. theft, criminal damage, violence and public order issues
- **Statistics.** Levels of anti social behaviour increased twice during the life of the Section 30 Order.



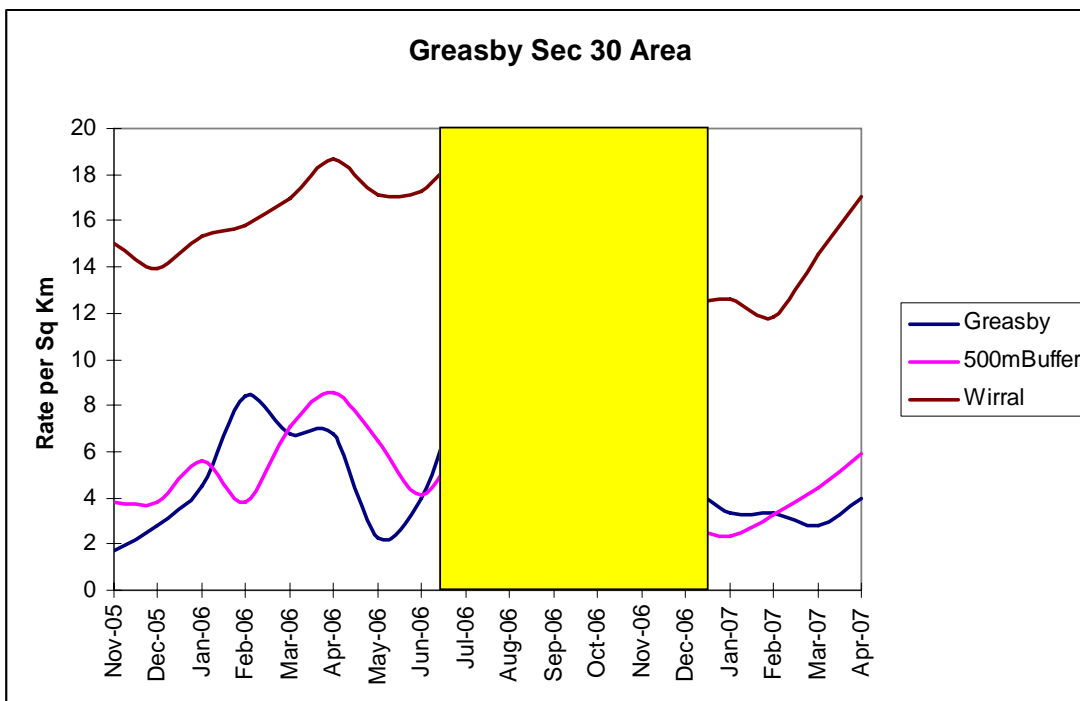
3.7 Seacombe No 1

- **Obtained** – 04/05/2006. **Ended** 04/08/06.
- **Boundary** - Seacombe Ferry; St Pauls Road; Oakdale Avenue; Oakdale Road; Gorsedale Road; Rycroft Road; Poulton Road; Borough Road; Ferry View Road
- **Location** – Residential area
- **Area Size**- 0.1587 Square Kilometre
- **Reason** – Numerous complaints in relation to anti-social behaviour which include under-age drinking, rowdy behaviour, assaults, criminal damage, verbal abuse, harassment & intimidation
- **Statistics** –Disorder continued to rise during lifetime of the Section 30 Order and also peaked two months after end of Section 30.



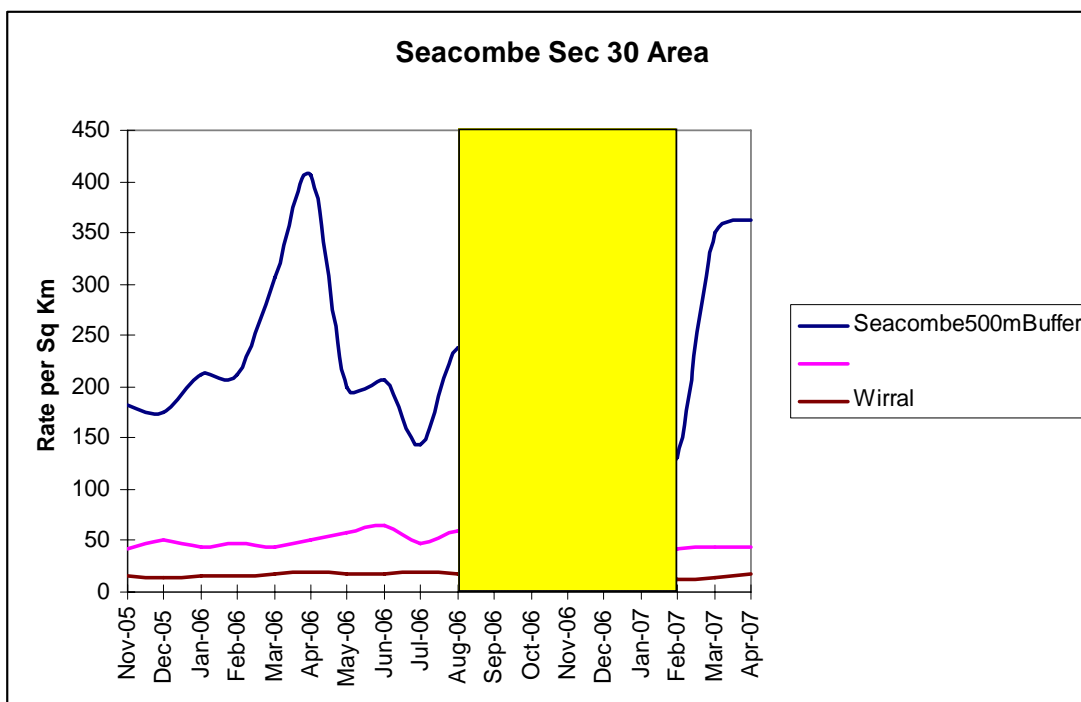
3.8 Greasby

- **Obtained** – 19/06/2006. Ended 19/12/06
- **Boundary** – Arrowebrook Lane; Hillbark Road; Greasby Brook; Arrowe Brook will include all of Greasby
- **Location** – Residential area
- **Reason** – Numerous complaints in relation to anti-social behaviour including criminal damage, harassment, under-age drinking & rowdy behaviour
- **Statistics** – Area has a disorder rate far lower than Wirral average. Rate of anti social behaviour fell during Section 30 in line with Wirral’s overall seasonal drop.



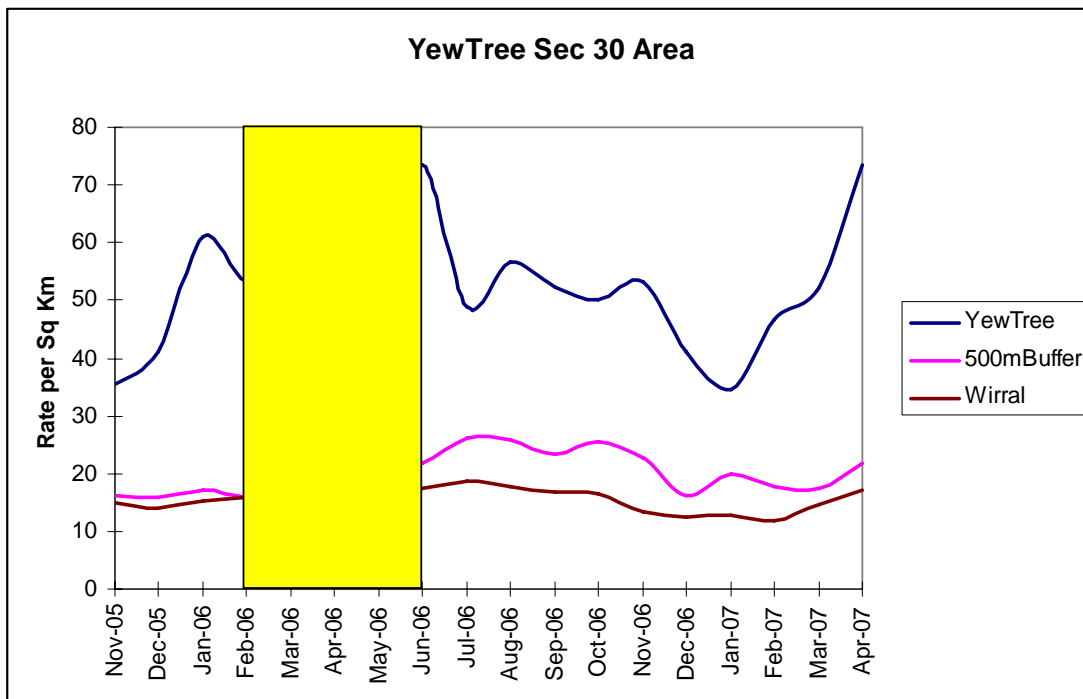
3.9 Seacombe No 2

- **Obtained** – 18/08/2006. Ended 18/02/07
- **Boundary** – Behind houses at the rear of Birkenhead Road; St Pauls Road; Wheatland Lane; Kelvin Road
- **Location** – Residential area
- **Reason** – Numerous complaints in relation to anti-social behaviour which include criminal damage, under-age drinking and rowdy behaviour
- **Statistics** Overall drop whilst Section 30 Order is in place but this reduction was not sustained. One month following the end of the Order a huge rise in disorder was evident which is consistent with historical trend for anti social behaviour in this area.



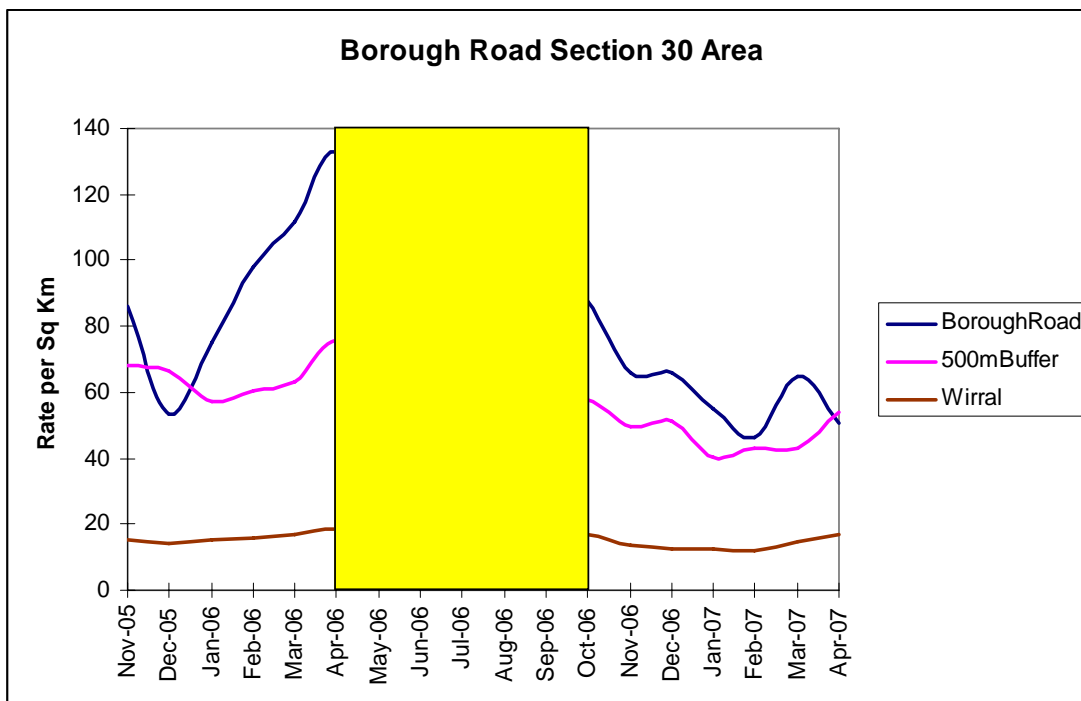
3.10 Yew Tree

- **Obtained** – 20/06/2006. Ended on 19/02/2006
- **Boundary** – Pasture Road; Hoylake Road; Pasture Road; Railway Line; M53; Bidston-by-pass; Fender Lane
- **Location** – Residential area
- **Reason** – Numerous calls in relation to anti-social behaviour, under-age drinking and mini-motors
- **Statistics** – Disorder rises over the lifetime of the Section 30 and 10 months later, is currently rising again.



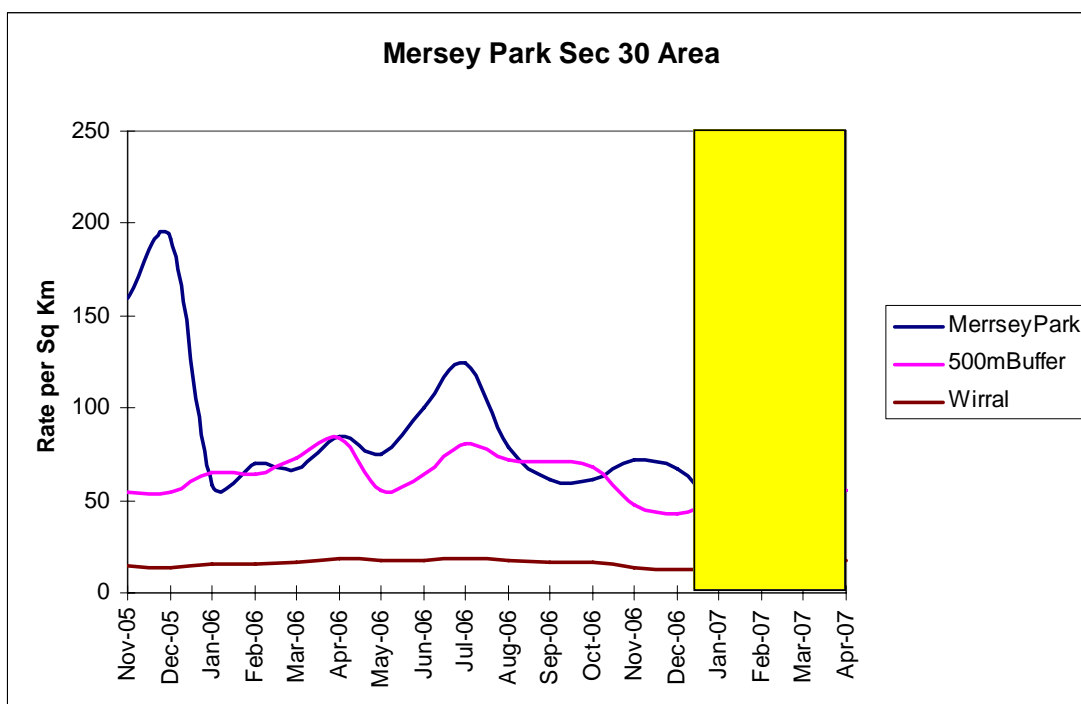
3.11 Borough Road

- **Obtained** – 16/10/2006 – 16/04/2006
- **Boundary** – Borough Road; Whetstone Lane; Derby Road; Greenway Road; Mount Road; Storeton Road; Singleton Avenue; Woodchurch Road; Oxtan Road; Cook Street
- **Location** – Residential/Park areas
- **Reason** – Numerous complaints of anti-social behaviour, under-age drinking, criminal damage, graffiti and rowdy abusive behaviour
- **Statistics** – Previously rising disorder rate abated immediately on inception of Section 30 and reversed. Significant and sustained reduction without displacement.



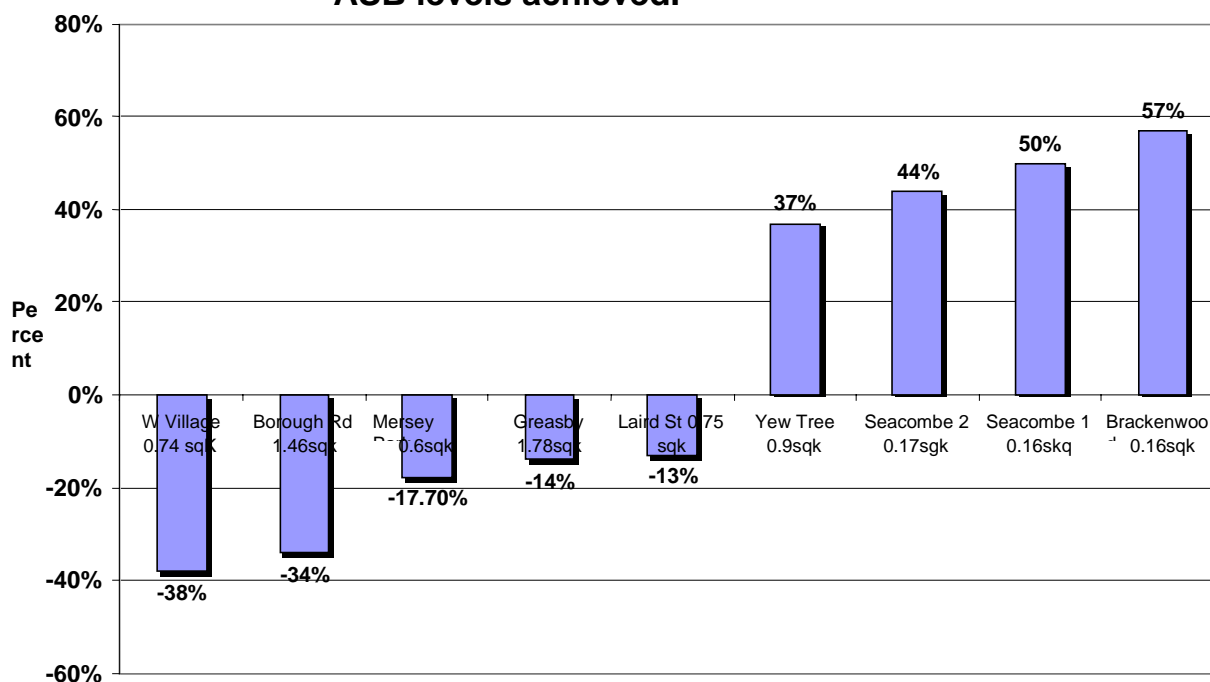
3.12 Mersey Park/Victoria Park

- **Obtained** – 11/12/2006. Ended 08/05/2007
- **Boundary** – Old Chester Road; Sidney Road; Allerton Road; Church Road, Bebington Road; Bedford Avenue
- **Location** – Residential/Park areas
- **Reason** – Numerous complaints of anti-social behaviour, gangs with weapons, criminal damage, under-age drinking and rowdy abusive behaviour
- **Statistics** – There is evidence of displacement outside of the Section 30 area but an overall reduction in anti social behaviour levels during the lifetime of the Order. Sustainability is not measured as the Order ended only recently.



3.13 The costs applied to manage and enforce the Section 30 Order once designated are opportunity costs to the Council and Police. The Section 30 Order does not qualify that designated community for additional financial resource. Analysis of Section 30 Orders during 2006 - 07 illustrates a mixed level of success in reducing anti social behaviour.

ASB levels achieved.



3.1.4 Positive figures on the above table illustrate an increase in anti social behaviour levels during the life of the Order. Negative figures illustrate a reduction in anti social behaviour during the life of the Order.

3.1.5 Analysis of performance over the last two years indicates that a change in the use of Section 30 Orders may result in a greater impact being achieved from their implementation.

3.1.6 Analysis of Section 30s during 2005 - 06 and a review of the graphs included earlier within this report illustrates that reductions in anti social behaviour are not sustained beyond three months after the designation ends. Anti social behaviour levels recorded post designation can also be higher than levels recorded pre or during the existence of the Section 30 Order. This may be resolved by the requirement for an exit strategy to be included as part of the Section 30 application which details post Section 30 Order interventions. This would be a change to existing Section 30 processes.

3.1.7 The use of a Section 30 Order as a tool to reduce anti social behaviour levels at times of traditional peaks in this type of behaviour would appear not to be a factor in all cases where a Section 30 Order is implemented. It is also clear from the scales on the graphs contained within this report and analysis of 2005 - 06 Orders that the qualifying criteria for a Section 30 Order "significant and persistent problem" is assessed differently. The hypothesis is that a more targeted implementation of Section 30 Orders into areas of greatest need and in which historical trends in anti social behaviour levels are also considered may deliver greater reductions from the use of Section 30 Orders. This strategic use of Section 30 Orders has not previously been followed.

4.0 FINANCIAL & STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 In appropriate application of this legislation will have an adverse impact upon the effective use of Council resources.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no LA21 issues arising directly from this report.

7.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Section 30 Orders are applicable to any area of Wirral.

8.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

9.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The implication is that anti social behaviour will be tackled in a planned and intelligence lead approach.

10.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no planning implications arising from this report.

11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 There are no background papers arising from this report.

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 That Members note the review of the use of Section 30 Orders throughout Wirral 2006/07.

Alan Stennard
Director of Regeneration

This report was prepared by Steve McGilvray, Community Safety Team Co-ordinator, who can be contacted on 606 5485.