

YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**



West Wirral Area Forum

Papers for the forum meeting

Tuesday 3rd July 2007

**West Kirby Concourse,
Grange Road,
West Kirby,
CH48 4HX**

7.00 - 9.00pm

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AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies
3. Area co-ordinators report
 - **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**
 - **Area Plan update**
4. Older Peoples Parliament
5. Public question time
6. Police - presentation on their role / beat / structures
7. Wirral Hospital Trust Engagement Strategy Presentation
8. Partner updates
 - **Police.**
 - **Wirral Primary Care Trust**
 - **Fire & Rescue Service**
 - **Community Safety Department**
9. Future meetings
10. Any other Business

West Wirral Area Forum

Area Co-ordinators Report

Tuesday 3rd July 2007

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SECTION ONE

Matters Arising

Minutes - West Wirral Area Forum - 13 February 2007

Present	
In the Chair	Cllr Gerry Ellis
Ward Councillor	DM Elderton , J Hale , GCJ Watt
Community Representatives	Gary Evans , Cynthia Radford
Lead Officer	Jim Wilkie (Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Kathy Doran (Chief Executive, Wirral PCT)
Merseyside Police	Inspector John Smith
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Tony Mooney
Council Officers	Lindsay Davidson (Deputy Head of Youth Service (Policy Development)) , Tara Dumas (Recycling Officer) , David Green (Director of Technical Services) , Caroline Laing (Manager, Anti-social Behaviour Team) , Howard Mortimer (Special Initiatives Team) , Peter Riley (Lottery Officer) , Mark Traynor (Streetscene Manager)
In attendance:	Stephen Hesford MP
Apologies	Jane Boulton , Cllr Jeff Green , Cllr D Kirwan , Ian McKellar

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Minute 10 - NEXT MEETING

Minute 1 - WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed approximately 70 members of the public, and the members of the Forum and the officers introduced themselves to the meeting.

Apologies – as shown above.

Minute 2 - MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 1 November 2006, which had been circulated as part of the Area Co-ordinator's report, were accepted as a correct record.

Minute 3 - AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Tracey Smith, Area Co-ordinator, presented a comprehensive report which consisted of the following:

Section 1: Minutes of the previous meeting.

Section 2: Local updates on various issues under the following headings:

- (a) Safe and stronger communities;
- (b) Healthy communities and older people;
- (c) Children and young people;
- (d) Economic development and enterprise;
- (e) Cross-cutting issues.

Section 3: Details of schemes funded through the Area Forum and of the progress that they were making.

Section 4: Update on the Local Area Plan.

Section 5: Youth issues.

Section 6: Update on Streetscene and waste issues and progress report on the Transport Capital Programme for 2007/08, which included the opportunity to put forward suggestions for local traffic schemes.

Because of the time taken in discussing other matters on the agenda, the report was not discussed, but it included contact details in case members of the public had any queries or required further information.

Minute 4 - PROVISION OF SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN NEWTON PARK: PRESENTATION

Ian McCabe, Youth Worker, introduced four young people – Luke Fennelly, Dave Chapman, Chris Doyle and Jack Brandreth -who gave a presentation on their project for improving sports facilities for young people in Newton Park (Suzie Burrige had also been involved in preparing the presentation, but was unable to be present). The young people explained that they had been concerned about the lack of facilities in and general condition of Newton Park - the basketball court had been badly designed, had rarely been used and was currently in a state of disrepair; what had been a football field had been fouled by dogs and the young people had resorted to playing football on the bowling green. This had brought them into conflict with local residents and the bowling fraternity.

Through the Kontaktabus and Ian McCabe, they had discussed their problems and been

advised of the funding which was becoming available from the Youth Opportunities Fund and the Youth Capital Fund: during 2006/07 approximately £350,000 had been made available for youth schemes within Wirral. They had submitted an application for a new football pitch, basketball court and somewhere to sit and talk. Their application had been successful and they have been awarded £24,500. An architect working for the Parks and Open Spaces division had designed the scheme.

The young people explained that getting approval had been what for them was a long process, how they had attended various meetings to convince those concerned of the need for the scheme and the support that they had been given by the Youth Service. There had also been public consultation and the project had been linked to the aims of the Council's Corporate Plan, in relation to the provision of recreational facilities. The young people were concerned that they should be making a positive contribution to the area and they stressed that the new facilities would be for younger children also.

The Chairman thanked them for their presentation and asked for questions from the meeting. A member of the public asked what guarantee there was that, if the facility attracted more young people, they would not spill out into Grange Cross Lane, where there were already problems from scooter riders and abuse of people playing bowls. Ian McCabe pointed out that the scheme was aimed at resolving potential conflicts. The Chairman suggested that any aggrieved members of the public should contact their ward councillors.

Another member of the public spoke on behalf of the young people - it was not their fault that the Park was in a poor condition and fouled by dogs. They were now trying to help the community. However, another made the point that young people had abused the bowling greens. It was important that people respected others rights to use the facilities.

Councillor Hale stated that he was impressed with the determination and spirit shown by the young people. There were other examples of damage to bowling facilities elsewhere, but the young people in this case were taking the correct approach. He also stressed the responsibility of dog owners to ensure that the fields were kept clean.

A resident of Newton Park felt that there was a need for more general investment in parks - children's play areas were not repaired when damaged, there was a shortage of bins for dog dirt and there needed to be provision for younger children. Everyone should be taking responsibility for the condition of the parks and they should be properly policed and monitored. Another member of the public asked whether the young people were committed to playing their part by maintaining their new facilities. They replied that they would do so.

A resident asked how many people had been prosecuted for dog fouling - it was a prime cause of complaint, but there appeared to be a reluctance to act. Inspector Smith replied that the number of community support officers was being increased, as were their powers, and they would be able to issue fixed penalty notices for offences such as dog fouling.

Councillor Elderton was anxious to avoid any polarisation of opinion between the younger and older residents of the area: the actions of a few could cause a general bad reputation, but this latest scheme provided a good opportunity for a meeting of minds.

Ian McCabe added that, in relation to the scheme in question, that had been the aim of the young people. Although consultation was not a required part of the process for securing funding, the young people had taken the trouble to go out in the rain in order to deliver leaflets about the scheme to local residents.

The Chairman thanked the young people, once again, for their presentation and for taking the trouble to answer questions from the meeting.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - That the Forum record its best wishes for the success of the project.

Minute 5 - REGENERATION OF HOYLAKE AND WEST KIRBY: PRESENTATION

Howard Mortimer, Head of the Council's Special Initiatives Team, provided a progress report on various aspects of the regeneration of Hoylake and West Kirby. He reminded the meeting of how it was hoped to make The Open the catalyst for investment in the area and that a Masterplan had been put in place to assist that process. Several sources of funding were potentially available - the Council, the North West Development Agency, the Mersey Waterfront programme, the National Lottery, the European Structural Fund and most importantly, the private sector. However, he stressed that none of those sources could be guaranteed. He outlined progress in relation to various elements of the regeneration programme:

(i) Market Street - this was aimed at improving the quality of the Streetscene, within Market Street and the first piece of work, Phase 1A was now complete. Phase 1B was currently under way and would be completed in April. The design work for the proposed Phase 2 between the Station and the Quadrant is due to be carried out this Autumn.

(ii) Hoylake Promenade - the area in question stretched for 1.5 miles. Ideas - would be drawn up this autumn and it was intended that there would be public consultation. Any improvements would have to be implemented in phases, "as resources allocated and part of any action would include recognition of the historic importance of Meols and Hoyl Lake."

(iii) Golf Resort - The concept for a Golf resort near Hoylake was currently being investigated. There are many challenges particularly in planning terms but there is significant interest from potential investors. A technical assessment will shortly be commissioned which will examine a range of physical factors including land conditions, flood risk, access and environmental impact issues.

(iv) The Sail project - this was an investment opportunity, to be funded fully by the private sector. Bids by three interested parties were currently being assessed.

(v) West Kirby Concourse - this project would also be delivered through the private sector. Four developers have now been shortlisted and will presently be asked to It is hoped that the proposals would include provision for a new surgery, fire station, a public square and some improvement to the frontage of the Concourse.(vi) Public realm improvements in West Kirby - these will include street furniture and canopies. Designs and costings were in preparation and consultation would take place between March and May.

(vii) Coastal projects - a number had been identified: Hilbre Island, Ashton Park, Victoria Gardens, the Boardwalk and Coronation Gardens. £300.000 of Council funding was currently being spent on improvements. This will conclude in August 2007

(viii) The Wirral Way - funding had been made available through the Mersey Waterfront programme, European Objective 1 and Wirral Council. The work includes improvements to the cycle and pedestrian paths.

(ix) Wirral Country Park - a bid of £1.5m is planned to the Heritage Lottery Fund this Autumn in support of a range of improvements. In summary, £4m had already been spent and some of the projects had been completed. Eight out of the nine elements of the programme (listed above) were currently being progressed, so that the regeneration programme was on target overall.

From the floor, Malcolm Saunders stressed that improvements should be in sympathy with the environment. He was disappointed that too much had already been done to the Wirral Way with surfacing, hedge cutting and provision of wooden fences, to the extent that it had lost its character. He believed the same had happened in the case of the footpath along the railway at Hoylake, by converting it to a cycle path. He was therefore concerned about proposed improvements for the boardwalk and for Hilbre Island. Howard Mortimer replied that the design work would take account of public views, and another member of the public stated that he preferred the Hoylake cycle path in its new form. A number of other comments were made from the meeting:

- Whilst some car parking bays had been sited along Market Street, parking was still allowed along the highway which caused a bottle-neck (see minute 6 below).

- None of the projects mentioned were aimed at Meols. Its shopping area was suffering from the condition of the canopies and from parking problems. Howard Mortimer replied that the Hoylake Promenade project would include Meols and he also indicated that the canopies by Meols Station potentially could be included by widening the scope of the project in (vi) above.

- Elaine Whalley stated that she was the Chair of a steering group looking at possible improvements covering the area between Kings Gap and Dove Point, where a significant number of historic artefacts had been found. The aim was to celebrate the history of the area, although proposals were only at an early stage.

- A member of the public asked about progress in relation to the grass on the beaches. Councillor Hale was able to report good news: following a well-attended meeting in November 2006, the Council had had discussions with Natural England and put its case to them. The Council had subsequently obtained permission to move the grass by mechanical means, and in fact the process had started that morning. It would be necessary to complete the exercise by the end of March. Much of the grass was already deeply rooted which meant that it might not all be cleared at the first attempt.

- An attraction was needed on the promenade, as there was currently nothing to see, and the area needed public toilets. The Chairman pointed out that there had been an agreement with a developer that his scheme, at the bottom end of Trinity Road, would include toilet facilities for the public. There was also the likelihood that work on the new

lifeboat station would start in June. Councillor Hale added that the scheme involving the public toilets had in fact been held up by Natural England because it partly encroached onto the beach area. He was enthusiastic about the historical project for the promenade and was also keen to see the Victorian fountain retained - currently sources of funding were being examined. The Chairman added, however, that the promenade was still primarily a residential area and whatever was undertaken would need to ensure that it was not spoilt.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - That Howard Mortimer be thanked for his presentation.

Minute 6 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (STREETSCENE)

The Forum agreed to combine the main Question Time with the reports on Streetscene and recycling (minute 7 below).

David Green was asked why litter bins in Grammar School Lane, had not been emptied for three week - it was a particularly bad example for the local school pupils. He replied that the Council's new waste contractor, Biffa, had been operating for four to five months. There had been some teething troubles, but the take-over had not been as bad as with previous contracts. They were currently rolling out new bin arrangements and he accepted that there had been some errors. The Council's Call Centre could provide up-to-date information. The Council had paid an additional £3m to the contractor to undertake recycling collections. With regard to the specific question on street cleanliness, that was to be improved and the contractor had a target of emptying litter bins by the time they were three-quarters full.

The current round of waste collections had been disrupted by the snow, which had created slippery pavements. The contractor's operatives had continued working until one of them had slipped and broken his arm, after which, for health and safety reasons, they had refused to continue. Subsequently, they had worked all Saturday and Sunday (at no cost to the Council) to clear the backlog.

With regard to points raised regarding regeneration matters (in minute 5 above), David Green stated that there would be extensive consultations on the second phase of improvements to the Wirral Way. In relation to Market Street, he stated that the contractor's performance on phase 1B was clearly better than for 1A. He would look into the issue of parking.

With regard to the proposed roundabout at Thurstaston crossroads, he stated that his officers were currently working on the ninth design. There had been a problem with the acquisition of land, with owners naturally reluctant to sell. However, matters were now proceeding: during the course of 2007/08 the statutory undertakers would carry out their diversions and the work would be put out to tender, with construction of the roundabout taking place during 2008/09.

With regard to the widening of Heron Road, it had been recognised as a strategic highway improvement - the scheme had been designed and planning permission obtained. It would involve straightening of the road, provision of a roundabout and a service road for residential properties. The likely cost was £3.5m which would be funded from the Transport Plan and the Council's capital programme. However, at the current

time, the adjacent landowners were refusing to sell. Negotiations would continue, but he envisaged that the process would take up to two more years.

A member of the public asked why the design of Saughall Massie Road near to Black Horse Hill Infant and Junior Schools was so poor - it did not cater properly for wheelchairs or pedestrians. David Green undertook to look into that matter. He explained that highway designs had to include and take account of an independent safety audit. He or one of his inspectors would arrange to meet on site to look at the problem.

A member of the public asked when work on the West Kirby Concourse was likely to start. He was advised that consultations would commence towards the autumn, but the work could only take place if funding became available and the public wanted it.

Lesley Young referred to previous assurances that funding was already in place for the Heron Road scheme. David Green explained that, under the Local Transport Plan, money was distributed on an annual basis. If it could not be spent on a particular scheme, it was re-allocated to other priorities within the Plan: the money could not be carried forward. However, it was a five-year plan and he was confident that the funding could be called upon when required.

Councillor Watt asked about problems with the gritting operation the previous Tuesday. David Green explained that the reports about problems in The Globe had been incorrect. The Council had in place robust plans for gritting. His staff had been out from 10.00pm to 2.00am on the Tuesday evening and, as a result of a change in the weather, they had gone out again early on Wednesday. Despite being advised of the facts, The Globe did not seem prepared to print a retraction.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - That David Green be thanked for his report.

Minute 7 - RECYCLING UPDATE

Tara Dumas, the Council's Environmental & Waste Services Manager, provided an update on the new recycling arrangements. Information packs were being sent out to houses and grey bins would be distributed in the West Wirral area from the following Monday. The information included details of a series of roadshows to explain to the public in more detail how the recycling would operate. The first collections of recyclable materials would take place from 16 April and continue on a fortnightly basis (all households would be provided with a calendar of dates).

With regard to what could go in the grey bins, lessons had been learnt from the early operations of the Merseyside Recycling Facility (MERF). There would be limitations on what plastic materials could be recycled - that was because of the limits on what the buyers of the materials were prepared to take. She hoped that the information leaflet made clear what was or was not acceptable, but, if anyone had a query, they could call the Streetscene number - 606 2004. The Government's Waste Resource Action programme had provided an additional £153,000 for communications and raising awareness of recycling issues. The Council would use that to appoint two officers who would deal with relevant matters, such as contamination.

Tara Dumas outlined a number of other points:

- with regard to flats, most had been visited to assess their suitability for inclusion in the scheme. Those that did not receive their own bin, would remain on the weekly residual collection;
- the garden waste collection service was being expanded and another 11,000 properties were getting brown bins, which would mean that almost all houses with gardens would then be covered. A leaflet and calendar would accompany the roll-out of those bins;
- Biffa accepted that its round arrangements were not yet as efficient as they might be, so they were looking to re-configure them, which might result in a change of collection day for some properties;
- households would also be recommended to participate in the home composting scheme, for which a separate bin could be purchased at a subsidised cost of £8;
- the Council currently recycled 13% of its waste collection, which would increase to 14% by 31 March; the target of 20% for 2007/08 had been revised to 23%.

She responded to comments and queries from the meeting:

- A member of the public asked about recent delays in collections and was advised that it had been necessary in some areas to give priority to residual waste collections, on the basis that there was unlikely to be as much garden waste at that time of the year. Streetscene could advise on the current timing of collections in such cases.

- Would an enforcement policy be operated?

Not at the current time. However, it would be necessary to address problems such as bins being left out on the wrong day and causing an obstruction. It was confirmed that Community Support Officers would not be involved in enforcement.

- Councillor Elderton asked about the issue of contamination if the wrong materials were placed in a particular bin. Tara Dumas explained that there was some leeway - the operatives at MERF had the capacity to separate such items, on a limited basis. The problem would be with residents who were not prepared to co-operate in separating their waste. In such cases, collection crews could stick a friendly warning on the bin and advise Streetscene, so that an approach could be made before the next collection round. Such arrangements would be kept under regular review.

- Councillor Watt referred to the fact that two types of brown bin collection were in operation. Tara Dumas explained that the large brown bins were for garden waste only. There had been a separate trial in some areas of the borough to recycle food waste, which would be sent to a separate facility. That policy was also under review.

David Green concluded the discussion by accepting that there had been problems with what was a major shift in waste collection arrangements. He asked that the public be patient. In the meantime, his staff were working very hard and approaching any problems with enthusiasm and a great willingness to help.

Minute Decision :

Resolved - That Tara Dumas be thanked for her report.

Minute 8 - PRIMARY CARE TRUST - PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

In view of the remaining time available, Kathy Doran referred the members of the

public to the information packs that were available at the meeting and the fact that the Public Health Annual Report was available on the PCT's website - www.wirralpct.nhs.uk.

The major public health issue was currently that of smoking. With legislation due to take effect from 1 July 2007, the PCT was keen to help as many people as possible to stop smoking, and support services were available at surgeries and pharmacies. Kathy Doran also drew attention to the fact that the PCT was involved in the 'Get Into Reading' project, which had been nominated for a National Award.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That Kathy Doran be thanked for her report.

Minute 9 - COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE - POLICE, FIRE SERVICE AND COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY SAFETY SERVICE

(A) Police

In view of the remaining time available, Inspector Smith agreed to postpone his presentation on the role of the Police and beat structures to the next meeting. He took the opportunity to warn the members of the public of a recent spate of daytime burglaries, where entry had been gained through rear windows and the target had been flat-screen televisions. However, West Wirral continued to be one of the safest areas in terms of crime.

A member of the public asked about the legal position in relation to lights on bicycles - most had either the new flashing version or no lights at all. Inspector Smith replied that the law required a 'steady' light (although in his opinion the flashing light was easier to see).

Another member of the public referred to several sightings of drivers in Grammar School Lane using mobile phones. Although he had reported one culprit to the Police, it appeared that no action would be taken unless a Police Officer actually saw the offence. Inspector Smith stated that the law would become stricter from the following month and the Police intended to have an intensive enforcement campaign. However, he confirmed that the Crown Prosecution Service felt unable to prosecute solely on the statement of a member of the public. David Green added that the Council had been working hard to reduce the number of deaths and injuries and road traffic accidents. He was aware of a high degree of non-compliance in relation to the use of mobile phones and, as a result, the Council would be providing a funding for an unmarked police vehicle to undertake observations of such offences.

(B) Fire and Rescue Service

Tony Mooney reported on the programme of home fire safety checks being undertaken. In particular, his staff were targeting hard to reach individuals - more than 400 had been visited in the previous few months. The campaign was proving successful, in that there had been a reduction of 50% in accidental fires in the area. He asked anyone who was aware of a vulnerable neighbour to advise the Fire Service. He also reported on the involvement of the Service, through its Youth Engagement Officer and its Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, in tackling various anti-social activities, including the setting of fires.

(C) Community Safety

Caroline Laing reported that the Council was one of a limited number of local authorities to whom the Government had given Respect status from January 2007. The initiative was aimed not only at enforcement in cases of anti-social behaviour but also at improving parenting and addressing underlying issues.

The members of the public were invited to speak to her at the end of the meeting on any matters of concern.

Minute 10 - NEXT MEETING

The Chairman announced that the next meeting would be held on 3 July at 7.00pm. The venue (to be announced) would be in the West Kirby area.

The agenda would include a presentation on the NHS.

Matters Arising

Minute 6 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (STREETSCENE)

A local resident raised an new issue of school buses going down China Farm Lane to access Hilbre & Caldy Schools. The buses are either Maroon or Blue and the residents asked could we ask via the schools that they use more appropriate routes.

Merseytravel responded by saying "With the lack of information, it is difficult to say what the buses are doing.

None of our contracts are routed down China Farm Lane, but trying to understand drivers' choice of route when not in service is problematic. We can write to all our operators in the area, requesting that they avoid China Farm Lane, but legally, if there is no prohibition of use by large vehicles, buses can use any suitable road."

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SECTION TWO

Safer & Stronger Communities

Unlicensed landlords urged to contact council

WIRRAL Council is calling for all owners and managing agents of large rented properties to contact them before the end of the month or risk prosecution.

From last summer, large houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) have been required to be licensed by the council to comply with new housing laws. If a property is three storeys or more in height, occupied by five persons or more or forming more than one household sharing some facilities such as a kitchen or bathroom, then it will require a license. Without one, the owner or managing agent will face prosecution and a fine of up to £20,000.

Alan Stennard, Director of Regeneration at Wirral Council, said: "Houses in multiple occupation present some of the biggest health and safety risks for residents, especially with the risk of fire. To protect residents' well-being we urge landlords and managing agents of HMOs in Wirral to contact the council immediately. "So far we have issued licenses to 35 owners and managing agents but we know there are far more properties that should be licensed. By the end of March, we will have allowed 10 months for landlords and agents to contact the council. From April 2007 we will begin to prosecute those who have failed to apply for this compulsory scheme."

If you own or manage a HMO you should contact the Private Sector Housing team on 0151 691 8118 now. After March 31st it will be an offence to run or manage unlicensed premises and after that date the council will increase the level of license fees to be charged to cover its enforcement costs.

Recycling Champions walking the streets of Wirral

WIRRAL Council has four new recycling champions to help residents really get to grips with what they can and can't recycle.

David Green, Director of Technical Services said: 'Incorrect use, or contamination of recycling can cause a lot of problems. Heavy items like alloy wheels have been recovered from bins which could have caused serious damage to the materials recovery facility (MRF) if not spotted. We also have a problem if people dispose of plastic film and plastic bags with their waste paper - the companies that buy the waste paper for recycling don't want it as it's full of plastic and useless.'

Residents who use their recycling bin incorrectly receive a note with their bin from the collection crews, explaining why the bin was not emptied. This is followed up with a visit from one of Wirral's new officers to help the householder with their recycling.

Said David Green: 'We appreciate that this is a new process for people to understand and follow, our Recycling Champions are here to help and provide alternative solutions if residents cannot cope with managing their waste.' The officers are out and about in Wirral all week including Saturdays and all will be carrying official Council identification. Anyone who fails to produce official Council ID is not a bona fide representative. You should refuse to deal with them and report them to the police.

Any Wirral resident is also welcome to request a visit from a recycling champion if they are unsure about the new scheme, by calling Streetscene on 0151 606 2004.

Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association

The Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association would like to hear from anyone worried about anti-social behaviour in their community.



Representing around 50 tenant and resident associations in Wirral, the Federation of Tenants and Residents Association sees first hand the effect anti social behaviour has. Anti social behaviour affects people's lives in so many ways. To help address this issue, Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association is organising an anti social behaviour conference in September at Tranmere Rovers FC.

The conference will provide an ideal opportunity for tenants and residents to meet and speak to the people who's jobs it is to reduce anti social behaviour in Wirral.

If you are interested in attending please contact Wirral Federation of Tenants and Residents Association on 0151 666 1770 or email wirralfed@hotmail.com

New Services at your local One Stop Shops

Since February this year the following services have been made newly available via your local One Stop Shop:

Licensing

The main change is that the Licensing Reception point at Wallasey Town Hall has closed to the public and therefore you are able to pick up and drop off forms plus get advice and information at any One Stop Shop on the following areas:

- Licenses for airport/chauffeur services
- New and renewal licence applications for Hackney/Private hire drivers
- Permits for house to house collections
- Lottery licences
- Personal licenses for the supply of alcohol at licensed premises
- New licenses or requests for variation of existing licenses for premises or club premises
- Review requests for premises or club premises licenses
- New and renewal license applications for private hire operators
- Applications for Street Collection licenses
- Temporary Event notices
- New and renewal licence applications for Hackney/Private hire vehicles

We will also check any proofs that you supply take payments where necessary and book any relevant tests/courses you will need to go on

Council job vacancies

If you see a vacancy you want to apply for, you can now go to any One Stop Shop and get an application pack for that job. You can also contact our Call Centre and a recruitment pack will be sent to you within a few days.

Also when you come to return the form you can take it back to any One Stop Shop and they will record that they have received it from you and give you a receipt. This means that you no longer have to go to Wallasey Town Hall to hand job applications in, and you can be guaranteed that the form is in before the closing date.

Streetscene

You can also access more Streetscene services at your local One Stop Shop so you can now request:

- Removal of any fly tipping
- To go on the Help List for bin collection
- Help following a missed bin collection
- Street cleaning
- A replacement bin following damage etc

Also don't forget if you have a query about when your bins are due to be collected you can do this via your local One Stop Shop, Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 or at www.wirral.gov.uk/recycling/

Tourism

One Stop Shops can now give information and advice on Wirral's tourist attractions and events on Wirral.

Pest Control

It is planned that from the end of June you will be able to request the Pest Control Service from your local One Stop Shop as well as being able to phone our Call Centre. We will be able to make the appointment for you there and then whilst you wait.

New Advice Surgeries

Bebington One Stop Shop

There is now a Police Surgery being held at Bebington One Stop Shop on the first Tuesday of each month. The times and dates for 2007 are as follows:

1pm-3pm 5th June 2007
1pm-3pm 3rd July 2007
1pm-3pm 7th August 2007
1pm-3pm 4th September 2007
1pm-3pm 2nd October 2007
1pm-3pm 6th November 2007
1pm-3pm 4th December 2007

Police and Community Support Officers will staff the surgery and will be there to discuss neighbourhood concerns of local residents.

Eastham One Stop Shop

There is a Police Surgery being held at Eastham One Stop Shop (next to the Library). The surgeries are held between 10.00am and 12 noon with the next one on the 18th June. They are then every 3 week after that. Officers will be handing out crime

prevention materials to encourage local people to improve their personal, home and car security

So pop into your One Stop Shop for further information on any council service – everything you could ask for under one roof.

For details of where your nearest One Stop Shop is please contact 0151 606 2000 or go to http://www.wirral.gov.uk/fn/one_stop_shops.htm

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Local Area Forum Update

Service Plans

Each year each fire station produces a service plan setting key objectives for that station to focus its activities on during that financial year. The objectives are agreed and are set in line with the Integrated Risk Management Plan for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service which can be viewed on our website merseyfire.gov.uk

Key objectives for all Wirral stations include:

- Use of local intelligence to access the “hard to reach” in the community to deliver Home Fire safety Checks.
- Affect a strategy to reduce fires in derelict properties.
- Continue to work with community partners to promote healthy lifestyles.
- Work with partner agencies to reduce the number of Road Traffic Collisions.
- Devise a strategy to reduce small fires in grasslands and open spaces with the Arson Reduction Advocate.
- Introduce a specialist Hazardous Materials response vehicle at Bromborough.

Home Fire Safety Checks

The number of home fire safety checks including the free fitting of smoke detectors carried out by operational crews in peoples homes in Wirral has increased by over 20% with 1700 carried out in April alone.

To get your free home fire safety check call 0800 731 5958.

Station Contact Numbers Ask for the Watch Manager

<u>Birkenhead</u>	0151 650 0422
<u>Bromborough</u>	0151 548 9258
<u>Heswall</u>	0151 342 4510
<u>Upton</u>	0151 678 0819
<u>Wallasey</u>	0151 630 3040
<u>West Kirby</u>	0151 625 1157

Information and details relating to particular areas will be available from the Wirral Management Team at the Forums.

Paul Gibson Wirral District Manager

Wirral Joint Community Safety Team Area Forum Update

All Wirral

- 3G cameras now available and in use in Tranmere and soon to be in Woodchurch
- The Home Office Minister Louise Casey has identified Wirral as one of the England's 'Respect Action Areas'. The 'Respect Housing Standard' an agreement with Registered Social Landlords will start in early June. Wirral's largest registered social Landlords are signed up to this initiative and will be meeting on a monthly basis to ensure standards are maintained.
- Police and Wirral Partnership Homes are working with the Wirral Joint Community Safety Team to reduce Criminal Damage to properties. This will act as a pilot project to be taken up by other registered social landlords.

East Wirral

- BT and NTL boxes which have been the target for graffiti across the eastern side of Wirral. Reparation work will be carried – launch next week – public to identify 'grotty' boxes and then Young Offenders will repaint them.

Liscard

- 46 gates Alleygates are being installed going in Devereux Road, work commencing in June 07

Birkenhead and Tranmere

- The much publicised 'talking CCTVs' are now being deployed starting with Charing Cross, Birkenhead.

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas

- An initiative to provide computers to pupils has worked with Wirral Joint Community Safety Team to ensure they are delivered and used in safety. Specialist Brigadoon Stealth software was deployed which disables and locates computers if stolen.

Healthier Communities & Older People

Wirral Hospital 
NHS Trust

Engagement Strategy - *The aim of this report is to 'set the scene' for presentations by the Trust at future forums, as part of our ongoing engagement strategy, at which more detail will be communicated about the Trust's plans for the next five years.*

Wirral Hospital: into a new era - The development of our Engagement Strategy marks the second phase in meeting our commitment to engage more closely with the communities we serve.

The first phase of this ongoing process came in February 2006 when we undertook a massive consultation programme in relation to our application for Foundation Trust Status "A Change for the Better". This consultation laid out our service plans for the next five years, which were then published as a formal part of our application to become a Foundation Trust. We are now half way through our application to become a Foundation Trust and feel that this is the right time to again engage with the communities we serve.

In the coming months, we will be talking – and listening – to people like you about our plans for the future. Hospital services are changing right across the country and it is important that we keep you up to date on developments. At future presentations we will be in a position to tell you more about our plans.

Agenda - Our aim for this brief report is to set the scene and remind you about:

- **who we are**, because sometimes there is confusion about who provides which health service
- **why we are changing** – we have to move with the times and respond to changing needs and demands, which I want to talk about
- And finally, **how we are changing**.

Who we are - Wirral Hospital NHS Trust manages two hospitals, providing services for approximately 320,000 people. Arrowe Park Hospital in Upton has around 900 beds and provides a complete range of acute health services. Clatterbridge Hospital in Bebington has around 200 beds for elective surgery (planned operations), rehabilitation services and care of older people. The Trust also manages the X-ray facilities, outpatient services and day hospital at Victoria Central Hospital and the Radiography Department at St Catherine's Hospital. The Trust budget is £220m and we employ around 6,000 staff across all our sites.

NHS Foundation Trust - All hospitals have to become Foundation Trust's (FTs) by 2008. NHS FTs are a new kind of NHS organisation. They are accountable to their Membership and to Parliament, rather than to the Department of Health. An independent regulator, Monitor, makes sure they meet requirements and reports on this to Parliament. FTs have Members and Governors – unlike current NHS trusts. Members elect Governors to represent them and to set direction for the organisation. The establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors is a key part of our ongoing engagement strategy. We are aiming for at least 13,000 public members – currently we have 6,000.

An NHS FT:

- provides free NHS services on the basis of individual need and not ability to pay
- has to meet NHS standards in everything that it does and will be inspected by the Healthcare Commission and other national bodies

- employs NHS staff on their current terms and conditions of employment
- is accountable to local people through a Council of Governors elected by its members
- has Members who provide a strong link between the services it provides and the local communities it serves
- has to provide real opportunities for staff, service users and carers to influence decision making
- is part of the NHS and cannot be privatised - the level of money it can earn by doing private health work is capped by law
- has to maintain good working relationships with other health and social care organisations

Changes in NHS nationally - The NHS has seen a massive increase in funding in recent years, which has brought significant improvements to the way in which patients receive their care and treatment. The dramatic reduction in the maximum waiting times for planned operations (18 months to 6 months) is just one example. As well as improving services for patients the increase in funding has also enabled significant increases in salaries for doctors and nurses both in hospitals and in primary care.

The Government has introduced a number of strategies to enable the NHS to maintain its progress and achieve further improvements both in terms of services to patients but also in terms of the efficiency with which these services are provided. These include:

- changing the way in which NHS trusts are funded. No longer do they receive an annual allocation at the start of the year, but instead are paid according to the number and type of patients they treat (Payment by Results)
- giving patients a choice of which hospital to attend, encouraging trusts to raise standards in order to attract patients through their doors
- offering services, which traditionally were provided in hospitals, closer to people's homes in community settings and developing community services to avoid some patients having to go into hospital
- ensuring NHS trusts become more efficient by requiring them to meet a 2.5% efficiency target by matching the best national or international levels of performance

Five year plan - Over the last 10 years Wirral Hospital NHS Trust has become one of the most successful NHS trusts in the country. It has a tremendously strong track record of robust financial management that has enabled the expansion of the range, quality and availability of services to patients. As well as reducing waiting times and balancing our books we have also been able to develop services locally that previously had only been provided in Liverpool. We need to make sure we keep improving and developing services while making realistic financial assumptions and meeting national efficiency requirements. To do this we have developed a five year plan which includes:

- Our plans to treat many more patients and so reduce waiting times to 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment by December 2008
- Our plans to spend over £10M a year on better equipment and facilities such as more single rooms and ward upgrades, parents accommodation and a new heart treatment laboratory

- Our plans to develop more specialist services locally to avoid patients having to travel to Liverpool

Achieving our plans will cost a lot of money and will require us to improve the way we provide services. Treating additional patients will bring more money into the Trust (our income is forecast to go up by around £40M over the five years) but this will not cover all of the extra costs we will face. Comparing ourselves to other hospitals suggests we can do things more efficiently. We have developed plans to improve the way we provide services by reducing the need for patients to come into hospital the night before their operation and making sure they can go home the day they have their operation. We are also planning to improve our elderly care and rehabilitation services, alongside developments in services in primary care, so that patients can be discharged earlier than they are now. We are also looking at the possibility of providing some services in partnership with other NHS organisations or other public sector providers.

Our proposals aim to treat many more patients but to reduce the Trust's running costs by just over £20 million over the next five years by providing services more efficiently for example by:

- Reducing our numbers of surgical beds by admitting patients on the day of their operation and converting beds into day-case beds so that more patients to go home the same day
- Reducing the number of beds we need for patients who do need to stay overnight, by working with primary care services to develop community services and by improving our discharge procedures

Moving forward together - The Trust has engaged with the local community regarding its application to become a Foundation Trust but clearly this has to be an ongoing process. As we are now half way through our Foundation Trust application it seems appropriate to undertake further engagement, which will then feed into and hopefully our ongoing strategy and the establishment of a membership and Assembly of Governors. Over the coming months and at future meetings we will be talking in more detail about our plans.

Children & Young People

Wirral Youth Service

Introduction

Wirral Youth Service provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. The Service's age range is 13-25 years; prioritising young people aged 13-19 years.

Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

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

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

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

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

Much of the work of the Youth Service takes place in one of sixteen open access youth clubs located across the Borough from Wallasey to Eastham and Birkenhead to West Kirby. 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 Kontaktabus.

Response

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

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

International Work

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

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 500 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

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

Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts

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

West Kirby Youth Club

Have been involved in a healthy eating project and have recently signed up to Health Promoting Youth Settings where young people spent a day at Branson Dale to find out more about the subject. They are developing a Youth Management Committee to feed in to the Youth Forums. They are currently looking at ways in which they can promote the youth club, i.e. working on designing a leaflet so they can publicise the club to their peers. Youth workers will also use these when they are on outreach publicising the Youth Club. They have taken part in the Wirral Wide football tournament that was held in the Soccer Dome as well as hosting a Prom Dress Fashion Show.

The Deeside Young People's Project

The Deeside Young People's Project undertakes Streetwork in the area, in particular, supporting community safety initiatives. Support has been given to young people who have been successful in obtaining funding to develop facilities at Newton Park

Ability vs. Ability...Nothing Else

A talent recognition day took place in Wirral for up to 60 youngsters with special needs.

The 'Ability vs. Ability...Nothing Else' event was held at Pensby Sports College on Tuesday 13th March between 10am and 2pm.

The youngsters came from both special schools and mainstream schools within Wirral between the ages of 7 and 19 years.

They took part in sporting events such as boccia, goalball, new age curling, multi-skills and floor lacrosse.

The event saw the launch of a new web-based education resource pack from the British Paralympic Association designed to raise awareness of the Paralympics and Paralympic athletes.

Special guests for the day included Jamie Andrews, a mountaineer who had his lower arms and legs amputated following an mountaineering accident, but went on to climb mountains and run a marathon, Martin Mansell, a former Paralympic Swimmer and chair of the British Paralympic Association, Mark Eccleston GB wheelchair tennis player and former world no1, and Derek Mountfield, formerly of Everton Football Club and now a multi-skills coach for the Pensby School Sport Partnership.

Further aquatic, athletics and racket-based events are planned for later in the Year

Wirral school children win recycling challenge

Schoolchildren across Wirral have scored a double jackpot simply by recycling old Yellow Pages directories - winning hundreds of pounds for their schools and raising enough money to plant and care for 70 native trees.

Twenty schools recently took on the Yellow Woods Challenge – the simple, educational and fun environmental campaign for schools run by Yellow Pages, working with the Woodland Trust – the UK's leading woodland conservation charity - and Wirral Council.

The schools had fun competing against each other, recycling over 6000 old Yellow Pages directories. Clare Mount Specialist Sports College beat off fierce competition, recycling an impressive 12.53 old Yellow Pages directories per pupil to take the 'Gold Oak' title and win £300. Kilgarth School has been named the 'Silver Birch' winner and receives £200, while Orretts Meadow School has been rewarded with £100 and the 'Bronze Beech' title.

Stanley Special School will also receive a £100 bonus prize from Yellow Pages for the school that builds the best giant sculpture using old Yellow Pages directories.

Richard Duggleby, head of external relations at Yell – the publisher of Yellow Pages directories, said: "For every pound we award to schools for recycling old Yellow Pages directories, we give a matching pound to the Woodland Trust. Thanks to the recycling efforts of residents and schools in Wirral, that's another £700 raised for the Trust."*

The Woodland Trust will use the money to support its 'Tree For All' campaign – the most ambitious children's tree-planting project ever launched in the UK.

Janice Hix, corporate partnerships manager with the Woodland Trust, said: "This is a very valuable contribution towards our goal. We're hoping to raise enough money

through the Yellow Woods Challenge this year to plant and care for more than five hectares of native woodland – an area as big as 13 football pitches. “Woodland is the UK’s richest wildlife habitat and offers benefits for the environment, for people and for communities. Tree planting is really important as we are one of the least wooded countries in Europe.”

The local competition has now closed, but the schools have several more chances to win thousands of pounds in the national competition for their recycling, environmental education, community involvement and sculpture building efforts.

David Green, Wirral Council’s Director of Technical Services added: “This has been a fantastic competition with over 5 tonnes of old directories diverted from landfill and recycled into cardboard. I congratulate our schools for their achievements locally and wish them all the best of luck in the national competition.”

For more information about the local and national Yellow Woods Challenge competition, please visit www.yellow-woods.co.uk

Thousands of Pounds available for Wirral Teenagers

Wirral’s teenagers will soon get the chance to bid for a share of hundreds of thousands of pounds to pay for projects and equipment to improve their lives.

A total of £377, 513 is available from the Youth Capital Fund and the Youth Opportunity Fund this year in the borough.

Application forms are available from April 2 – and must be submitted by midday on June 25. Wirral’s new grant panel of young people aged 13-19 will decide which projects are successful. Youth Capital Fund money is for capital projects – i.e. buying equipment, new builds or refurbishments.

Youth Opportunity Fund money is for places to go and things to do – i.e. projects, residential stays, trips which support young people’s personal development.

Applications should be made from groups or young people aged 13-19. Individuals can’t apply.

Last year the funds were oversubscribed by almost £1 million. Successful applications included a new minibus for a youth club, new equipment for parks and clubs, support for homeless young people, a booklet written by young carers to help others in their situation, residential and trips. Maureen McDaid, Head of Wirral’s Youth and Play Service, said: “Last year’s money has paid for some wonderful projects and broadened opportunities for Wirral’s young people. This year’s grant panel will have to make some tough decisions – they will be paying close attention to the benefits each application represents.”

To request an application pack or find out more about serving on this year’s grant panel please contact Youth and Play Service on 637 6370.

Economic Development and Enterprise

Fairtrade Guide available

A new Fairtrade Guide to Wirral is now available with details of local shops and cafes, more about the local campaign and about why it's important to support farmers in the developing world.

Wirral officially became a Fairtrade Borough in April 2006. In partnership with Wirral Council, the campaign has been led by the Fairworld Group – part of Wirral Local Agenda 21 Network – which includes representatives from many local churches, environmental and social justice groups.

The Guide lists dozens of local shops and cafés that stock products with the distinctive Fairtrade Mark on them. It also highlights the work local schools have done to spread the message.

It will be widely available at local libraries, One Stop Shops, Fairtrade shops and cafes, or by calling 0151 639 2121

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Latest news on changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collections

Residents urged to read their information packs as changes to Wirral's waste and recycling collections get underway. Wirral's new waste and recycling collections have begun, with residents being asked to use different types of bin for their waste and recyclable materials.

As the new collections roll out across Wirral, homes will use:

A brown bin, for garden waste only (with the exception of a limited number of homes who are taking part in a trial combined food and garden waste scheme). A grey bin, for 'dry' recyclables such as plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars, paper, cardboard, tins and cans. Their usual green wheelie bin for all other waste that can not be recycled.

The new service is being delivered area by area, and as each phase begins, residents in that area will receive an information pack and collections' calendar so everyone will know which bin is being collected when, and what to put in it.

The information you receive is specific and targeted to the street you live in, and is not applicable to a friend or neighbour, even one living nearby. You should ensure you read the instructions delivered to your home carefully and keep them in a safe place. We know that some residents are apprehensive about the new scheme, but this is one of the most convenient schemes around the country; instead of a number of different bins, bags and boxes for different types of waste, this gives residents the chance to use the minimum of means to recycle the maximum amount of waste - with no need for sorting. We do it for you.

Help is available from a number of sources: If you have access to the internet, use our [collection day search engine](#) for a road-by-road breakdown of latest collection information for your street. Alternatively you can call into any of Wirral's One Stop Shops, or to your local library, who will be able to access the internet for you for free.

The council call centre, Streetscene on- 606 2004 - will also be able to help, but please be aware that it is experiencing a high volume of calls at the moment and you may have to wait for assistance. We're sorry for any inconvenience you may be experiencing due to this.

These collections are being introduced to help the Council meet new recycling targets to cut down on the amount of waste it sends to landfill. In the long run, it will not only save precious resources for future generations, but will save council taxpayers money as it reduces the amount of landfill tax we have to pay.

Please bear with us while these changes settle down; as with any major change, it takes time for people to get used to new processes and new systems. We appreciate your patience and apologise for any inconvenience suffered while the service is established

SECTION THREE

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
West Kirby FC	To partially fund ground and fencing improvements, floodlights and alarm.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund.	Thanks to the grant we have been able to improve our main and training pitches considerably and enabled matches to be played throughout the season. The improved quality of the pitch has also meant more football clubs have and will be able to use the ground and its facilities.
Melrose Hall Appeal Fund	To contribute towards replacing flooring at Melrose Hall.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,000.00 towards replacing the flooring from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We have completed all the work on the floor at the hall and thank you most sincerely for the grant.
Wirral Holistic Care Services	To replace patio area and provide wheelchair access and handrails.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £300.00 towards this from the Community Safety Fund.	The patio are has been completely renovated, re-paved and made safe. Patients and volunteers are now able to make use of the lovely garden at the charity's premises with the help of your funding.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
The Society for Dogs in Distress	To contribute towards veterinary and kennelling costs associated with providing help to dogs and people in Wirral.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to part fund this.	So far we have made two donations to help with vets bills for dogs in Meols and Hoylake.
Wirral Squash Development Association	To contribute towards starting up a programme to develop sporting skills in young people aged between 11 and 14 years by provision of equipment and coaching.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this project from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding was used to purchase essential equipment and to run three separate days of squash training, which were attended by 108 young people from the following schools - West Kirby Grammar; Hilbre High and West Kirby Primary.
West Wirral Gang Show (WWGS) Theatre Group	To contribute towards the purchase of a smoke machine.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £300.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We have purchased the smoke machine and will be using this in our theatre group pantomime to create atmosphere. The machine is operated (under supervision) by a younger member of the group.
Hoylake Business Group	To contribute towards Christmas lights and fun day.	Panel considered this to be a very good project that will benefit the Hoylake community and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The fun day went very well, the morning fashion show was well received and all the models were local residents. The Santa Parade and children's party were excellent, and the Hoylake lights were lovely this year. Thank you for awarding the grant that made it all possible.

SECTION FOUR

Local Area Plan Update

Background The area plans were developed during 2004 to 2006 and launched in May 2006. In order to align them to Wirral's local area agreement, the area plans will be refreshed and reviewed on an annual basis to reflect Wirral and area forum priorities, and will follow the same delivery timeframe as the agreement.

Purpose The purpose of the area plans is to identify local issues, priorities and needs and to support and guide the forums in working towards addressing these throughout the year. The area plans are a development that will evolve over time as issues are addressed and new priorities emerge. The area plans aim to give an understanding of the local area in which residents live through the provision of information about what is in the area and statistical information about the needs of the local population. It also identifies local issues that have been raised through the forums and contributes towards achieving local area agreement priorities and outcomes.

The purpose of refreshing the plans is to standardise the 11 area plans ensuring they are easy to use and useful to residents. The proposed new structure will enable local issues and priorities to be identified and included in the area plans, this will ensure that through regular monitoring, Wirral Council and its partners are providing a dynamic and responsive approach to local issues.

Proposals for new look area plans It is proposed that the area plans will feature three main sections;

- Introduction
- Statistical Information
- Local priority action plan

Introduction This section will set out the purpose of the plans and introduce the members of the area forum. Contextual information about the area will still feature in this section, however in order to make these plans as user friendly and accessible as possible, this section will look to signpost to other websites and contact details for further information where appropriate.

Statistical Information In order to provide a standard approach to all of the area forum plans, the statistical information for each of the area plans will follow the same format and include the same content, adapted to show highlighted information for each of the forum areas. The section will focus on the individual area forum and also provide comparative information for Wirral to provide context.

Local priority action plan As part of the review of the existing area plans, each area co-ordinator will address the issues which feature in the local issues section of each plan and identify outstanding issues. These issues will transfer into the refreshed area plans to ensure they remain a key focus for the area forum. The owner of each action will be a named partner who will have responsibility to tackle this issue. Issues that have been resolved will not be taken forward into refreshed area plans. This will ensure that there is a clear focus on the key outstanding priorities and issues that are identified at a local level for each area forum. As new priorities are identified, they will also form part of the local priority action plan to be addressed at area forums and progressed through the responsible partner.

SECTION FIVE

Streetscene Update

Birkenhead Parking

New parking regulations came into force in Birkenhead Town Centre in April, which replaced the existing Disc Zone with a new Controlled Parking Zone.

Motorists now have to pay to park in the new parking zone, between the hours of 8:00am and 6:30pm. Wirral Council did allow for people to become accustomed to the new charges, by offering a few weeks 'grace period' where no parking fines were issued.

The charges have been introduced to reduce congestion and accidents, encourage people to use public transport, free up more parking spaces, and improve access for emergency vehicles and disabled drivers.

Changes to Speed Restrictions

Wirral Council received a number of enquiries and petitions expressing concern about the speed of traffic in sections of Telegraph Road, Column Road and Thurstaston Road. As part of a scheme to improve road safety it is proposed to reduce the speed limit along sections of these roads.

Consultation letters have been sent out to residents in the area, notices have been placed on site and the proposed orders appeared in the local press.

The proposed speed reductions are as follows:

- Telegraph Road and Column Road from Church Lane to Grange Cross Lane will be reduced from 50mph to 40mph.
- Drivers travelling along Column Road from Grange Cross Lane to Croome Drive will be forced to slow from 40mph to 30mph.
- The existing 50mph speed limit in Thurstaston Road from Telegraph Road to reduced to 40mph.

Residents Parking Zones

After many requests and complaints from residents about the lack of parking facilities outside their homes due to non-residents (students, shoppers, commuters) using the spaces, Wirral Council are running a **consultation** about possible Residents' Parking Zones. The consultation is in the very early stages and will be carried out in seven pilot areas across the borough.

The Council have no budget set aside for creating Residents' Parking Zones so are suggesting that all residents' who opt for a zone pay an approximate £75 set up charge per household. This funding would then go to signing, road markings, permit issuing and enforcement.

Residents in the seven pilot areas will be receiving a letter, leaflet and questionnaire. We urge everyone who receives this correspondence to state their views via the feedback questionnaire and return it.

No charges will be incurred by residents within existing zones.

The seven pilot areas are:

- **Atherton Street area, New Brighton** – near to New Brighton train station and a small number of businesses.
- **Alexandra Road area, West Kirby** – Near to boating lake, beach, shops and Coronation Gardens.
- **Grasmere Drive area, Wallasey** – Just outside of Liscard resident parking scheme. Near to local shops.
- **Barnston Lane area, Moreton** – To the north of an existing small scheme. Within Moreton town centre where there is generally low provision for commercial off-street parking.
- **Probyn Road/Ponsonby Road, Wallasey Village** – Near to train station.
- **Acacia Grove area, West Kirby** – Mixed residential/commercial use, close to train station, shopping centre and leisure areas.
- **Brookfield Road/Brookfield Gardens, West Kirby** – primarily residential with displaced parking related to nearby businesses and train station.

Road Safety Campaigns - Young pedestrians, young drivers and young passengers

Wirral Road Safety Partnership (Wirral Council & Merseyside Police) commissioned a radio advertisement campaign aimed at teenagers and young people. A series of three hard-hitting adverts were aired daily on Radio City 96.7 throughout March and April, urging young people to belt up when in car, and to take care as a pedestrian.

In addition to the air-time campaign, Wirral Road Safety and Radio City are hosting a competition between four Wirral high schools - Woodchurch, Park High, Rock Ferry High and The Wallasey School. This competition asks for students to compile a short road safety advert film, and spread the film to friends and other young people, via mobile phone and the internet etc. The winners will be announced in June.

Port Sunlight/Clatterbridge Cycle Route

Wirral Council is committed to promoting cycling as a healthy, sustainable mode of transport. The cycle route between Port Sunlight Railway Station and Clatterbridge Hospital is nearing completion and will increase road safety for cyclists who currently experience difficulties on main roads and at junctions. It will also encourage workers, visitors and residents of the area to take up cycling as a form of transport. To benefit pedestrians and cyclists, three toucan crossings have been installed in Brimstage Road, Church Road and Bromborough Road to enable them to cross the road safely.

The route will also enable thousands of local schoolchildren to get out on their bikes and into the fresh air by providing safe routes for them to cycle.

Traffic Safety Schemes

Since the last update at the beginning of the year, we have implemented the following traffic safety schemes:

Conway Street / Exmouth Street	Signal Improvement
Hoylake Road / Reeds Lane	Signal Improvement
Duke Street	New Puffin Crossing
Port Sunlight Station	New Refuge
Bebington Station	New Refuge
Greenfield Avenue / Dawpool Drive	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
Dock Road	Traffic Improvement
Birkenhead Park Station	Convert Zebra to Puffin Crossing
Manor Lane, Liscard	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
St. Georges Way, Thornton Hough	20mph zone / Traffic Calming
M53 exit slip road (Toyota Dealership)	Speed limit reduction / New Carriageway and markings / New signs

Highway Maintenance Contracts

The extensive procurement exercise for the future provision of all Highway Maintenance works continues. Consultants, Capita Symonds, are currently preparing options and reports to be put to Members. The contract will cover maintenance works such as footway and carriageway works, traffic signals, gully cleansing and street lighting.

Wirral on the Road to Recycling

Working alongside Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, Wirral Council is encouraging local companies to use recycled materials and where possible use them within Council business.

One example of this is how we are using 100% recycled plastic kerb stones for pavements around the borough. The kerbs are light, very hard wearing and are reducing the length of time it takes to repair roads. This ultimately will save the Council money and provide us with a more effective material for road reconstruction.

The kerbs mean the use of technical lifting equipment is unnecessary due to their light weight and it's therefore much safer for staff to use. All the pilot schemes have also shown us how hard wearing the material is.

Cigarette / Smoking-related Litter

Wirral Council are aware that when Wirral goes 'smokefree' on July 1st, there will be a backlash of cigarette litter.

In preparation for this, the installation of 50 cigarette bins is imminent in the Birkenhead and Liscard town centre areas. Discarding cigarette butts is an offence, as is dropping any litter, and is subject to a £75 fine.

To deter Wirral residents from committing the offence, we are warning them of the £75 fine. We are heading up an extensive advertising campaign, including adverts on billboards, bus stops, phone boxes and bus rears. Will also be hosting events to give away portable ashtrays (Stubbi pouches) and communicate the fact that people will be given £75 fines if they are caught dropping a cigarette stub, or any form of litter.

Major Surfacing Schemes

The Highway Maintenance Division has been very busy since the last review with the following surfacing schemes undertaken:

Footway works completed

Heswall Mount, Thingwall	Cestrian Drive, Thingwall
Rullerton Road, Wallasey (part)	Birchway, Gayton
Downham Road, Tranmere (part)	Aysgarth Road, Wallasey
Orchard Road, Moreton	Craigleigh Grove, Eastham
Parkway/Parkway Close, Irby	Holmlands Drive (Part) Oxton
Moseley Avenue, Wallasey	Haydock Road, New Brighton
135 -157 Thingwall Road Irby	Darmonds Green, West Kirby

Future footway works planned

Wakefield Drive, Leasowe	Devonshire Road, West Kirby
Caldwell Drive, Upton	Bassenthwaite Avene, Claughton
Burlingham Avenue, West Kirby (part)	Upton Road (part) Claughton
The Laund, Wallasey	Nursury Close, Oxton
Derwent Drive, Liscard	Grafton Street (part) Birkenhead
Dalmorton Road (part) New Brighton	Well Lane, Bebington
Croxteth Avenue, Liscard	Fieldway, Bebington
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard	

Carriageway resurfacing completed

Trinity/Eddisbury/Kingswood/Berwyn Roads, Wallasey	Gorsedale Road (part) Seacombe
Wright Street, Wallasey	Beryl Road, Claughton
Kinglake Road, Wallasey (part)	St Elmo Road, Liscard
Lingdale Road North, Claughton	Hoscote Park, West Kirby
Adelaide Road, Birkenhead	Elm Grove, Hoylake
Byron Close, Prenton	Orchard Grange, Moreton
Redcar Road, Wallasey	Twickenham Drive (part) Leasowe
Moseley Avenue, Liscard	Darmonds Green, West Kirby
Palmerston Road, Wallasey	Redhouse Lane, West Kirby

Carriageway resurfacing planned

Sherlock Lane, Poulton	Neville Road, Bromborough
Brompton Avenue, Wallasey	Dibbins Hey (part), Clatterbridge
Haydock Road, New Brighton	Wirral Mount, Clatterbridge
Chadwick Street, Moreton	Patterdale Road, Clatterbridge
Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge	Devonshire Road (part) Birkenhead
Derwent Drive, Liscard	Townsend/Challis/Curlender Roads, Bidston
Hawarden Avenue, Liscard	Bedford Road (part) Rock Ferry
Wharfedale Road, Wallasey	New Chester Road (part) Rock Ferry
Aysgarth Road, Wallasey	Bridge Street, (part) Birkenhead
The Laund, Wallasey	Argyle Street,(part) Birkenhead
Perrin Road. Wallasey	Mount Road (part) Bebington
Acres Road, Bebington	
Richmond Close, Bebington	

Tall Ships 2008

Plans are already underway to manage the huge amount of traffic that the Tall Ships 2008 event will attract. The event is set to take place between 18-21 July NEXT YEAR (2008). We are working with Merseytravel, Culture Company and Liverpool Council to create a suitable park and ride site on Wirral and to ensure East Wirral's streets are not gridlocked when the event is taking place.

Walk to School Week 2007

Wirral Council have been working hard to ensure as many schools as possible encourage their students to walk to school by setting up 'walking bus' programmes throughout the year. Walk to School Week is Monday 21 – Friday 25 May 2007. The Mayor of Wirral, Phil Gilchrist will be joining a walking bus to Woodchurch Primary School on Wednesday May 23 at 8.30am and then St Joseph's Primary School, Seacombe on Friday May 25 8.30am.

Garden Recycling

Garden waste brown bins have now been delivered to most homes that have a garden. This includes an extra 11,500 households previously without a garden collection scheme and brings the total to approximately 85,000 households.

Collection calendars have been delivered to all households with a brown bin. Collection days have been changed in order to provide greater balance of collection rounds and more logical route plans. Unfortunately, after being considerably let down by the distribution company some households did not receive their calendars. Wirral Council is now collating this information and arranging for calendars to be delivered as quickly as possible.

There have been some teething problems getting residents on to the new collection days, however the contractor are now catching up with collections and bins are being presented with lots of garden recycling.

Paper and Packaging Recycling

The new paper and packaging scheme has now been extended to more residents bringing the total households to 110,000. Plastic bottles, glass, paper, cardboard, tins and cans are being collected, combined, from the kerb-side and taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Bidston where they are separated and sent to local processors for turning into new products.

The final phase (excluding flats) is beginning with the grey wheelie bins being distributed currently. All residents will be on the scheme by 11 June, this includes a further 33,000 properties.

Comprehensive information and advertising for the scheme has been provided to all residents. The Council applied for funding from the Waste Resource Action Program (WRAP) for the communications activities and this was awarded providing Wirral with an extensive marketing campaign. The marketing literature was used as good-practice by WRAP. Wirral's website has been updated and provides all the most recent information for residents.

Some problems occurred at the beginning of the recent roll-out of the bins. This was mainly due to the contractor playing catch up after the Easter Bank Holiday's as residents were unaware collections would take place. This led to a back-log of bins to collect and caused some problems with delayed collections. The Council did experience high volumes of calls to Streetscene and negative press coverage, however since the scheme has begun, residents have presented huge amounts of recycling and have really taken ownership of the scheme.

Wirral saw almost treble the volume of recycling within the first four weeks on the paper and packaging scheme with a 95% participation rate. It is anticipated that Wirral will exceed our recycling target of 23% next year. Wirral is very encouraged about the standard of recycling with very few bins having to be rejected for contamination, i.e. wrong items presented for collection in a recycling bin.

Home Composting

WRAP (Waste Resource Action Program) are funding a home compost incentive scheme for Wirral residents throughout 2007. Residents can purchase home composters for as little as £8 including free delivery. The scheme also provides residents with an information starter kit, access to a compost help line and regular newsletters with helpful hints. Details of the scheme are posted on the Council's website. In addition Wrap will carry out several borough wide leaflet drops promoting the scheme to every household in the borough.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES TO STREETSCENE & TRANSPORT SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –23 MAY 2007

Update on Integrated Transport Block

Senior officers from my Department have engaged with each of the eleven Area Forums in the June 2006 cycle of meetings.

Nine out of the eleven Area Forums had decided that the whole of the Integrated Transport Block allocation remains at the centre for use on a borough wide basis. Bromborough and Eastham and Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forums expressed a desire to have a share of the budget allocated locally.

It was noted that this would mean that the two Area Forums would receive 1/11th each of the Integrated Transport Block for local allocation and that any projects within those areas above that level of funding would not be able to proceed.

I am expecting suggestions at the June 2007 cycle of Area Forums, which will be considered, where appropriate.

Suggestions already received from some of the Area Forums have already been considered along with all other requests received for Speed Reduction and Aids to Movement schemes. Requests for Speed Reduction schemes are included within a separate report to this Committee. The remaining initiatives within the Aids to Movement programme are considered below.

I do, however, propose to bring a separate report to your Committee following the next cycle of Area Forum meetings and report on the requests made within the Bromborough and Eastham, and Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forums, identifying Aids to Movement schemes to be implemented from the allocated share of the Integrated Transport Block.

SECTION SIX

Equality and Diversity

Introduction

Welcome to this new section of the forum's report! This will be a regular feature in future and if anyone has any comments, ideas or items they would like to see included in this section, they will be most welcome.

What is Equality and Diversity?

The ESLG (Equality Standard for Local Government) assesses how we are performing in respect of gender, race and disability. The standard provides a framework for delivering continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

There are 6 strands/pillars of the Equality Standard:

- Race
- Disability
- Gender
- Age
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion or belief

We currently have a statutory duty to produce schemes which address any negative impact in respect of race, disability and gender, all of which can be found on the Council's website.

http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm

The Equality Standard has 5 levels, Wirral is aiming to achieve level 2 by December 2007. A validation exercise took place recently where 'critical friends' were invited to help assess us informally as an Authority in order for us to reach level 2. The process for level 2 is self assessment and includes colleagues from other local authorities, Age Concern, Youth Service, Jigsaw, Wirral Change, WIRED and Women's Enterprise Breakthrough.

The Council has mechanisms to ensure all departments regularly discuss equalities. There is also a Corporate Group which meets bi-monthly to assess the progress of departments through the equality agenda. In this way we hope to address any areas of weaknesses in our employment practice or service delivery.

If you are interested to find out more please visit our website and your views/comments would be appreciated and fed back to the Corporate Group.

Useful groups/contacts

Clint Agard, Wirral Change - Wirral Change is a Black and Racial Minority Outreach Service which offers information, advice and guidance on jobs, education, training, self-employment and signposting to other services for Racial Minority people on the Wirral. We offer drop-in sessions for internet access/job search. We also now have a new service which provides immigration advice.

For further information please contact Clint on 0151 650 5428

Margaret Jones, Chair - Wirral Disabled People's Forum - The Wirral Disabled People's Forum meets four times a year at different accessible venues across the Wirral. The Forum exists to discuss issues that are of importance to disabled people and their carers and to ensure that their views are taken forward to the relevant bodies where decisions are being made. By doing this disabled people in Wirral have the opportunity to influence services in the area.

For further information please contact Margaret on 0151 327 5508

Peter Barnett, Wirral LGB&T Forum (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) - A forum for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender community has been set up; this has been done with the support of the NETWORK (WVCSN), Wirral Borough Council and Merseyside Police. At this moment in time we are setting up the core group to assess the policy's and aims of the forum, if any one is interested in joining the core group please email us at wirralgbt_forum@yahoo.co.uk

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