



## Area Forum (Liscard and Seacombe)

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Date:</b>  | <b>Tuesday, 21 June 2011</b>  |
| <b>Time:</b>  | <b>6.30 pm</b>  |
| <b>Venue:</b> | The Allandale Youth Works, Oakdale Road,<br>Seacombe, Wirral CH44 7HP |

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### AGENDA

1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES:**
2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING: (Pages 1 - 22)**
  - Previous meeting in February 2011
3. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS:**
  - Development of plans for the local area
4. **WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN YOUR LOCAL AREA:**
  - Partner organisations to give local updates on what has been happening in the area
5. **PUBLIC OPEN FORUM:**
  - Opportunity for resident to raise issues and speak to forum members & partners from other organisations



# Wirral's Area Forums



## Liscard & Seacombe Area Forum

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011**

**The Allandale Youth Works Oakdale Road,  
Seacombe, Wirral, CH44 7HP**

**New start time meeting starts at 6.30pm**

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**Community Engagement Team**

**Corporate Services**

**Town Hall, Brighton Street**

**Wallasey**

**Wirral**

**CH44 8ED**

# Contents

## Section One

### Area Forum Items

- Minutes from last Meeting 3 - 8
- Issues/responses 9

## Section Two

### Local Updates

- Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team/Safer Wirral 10
- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service 10 – 12
- Alcohol Scrutiny Review - Information 12 – 14
- Wirral University Teaching Hospital 14 – 16
- Streetscene 16 – 19
  - Highway Management Scheme for Liscard Appendix 1 20
  - Highway Management Scheme for Seacombe Appendix 1 21
- Youth Service 22 – 23

## Code of Conduct for Area Forums

- Indicate to the Chairperson when you would like to speak
- Let invited speakers finish what they have to say
- Respect others right to be heard
- Do not use abusive or offensive language
- Do not make any discriminatory remarks
- Do not have private conversations while meeting is in progress

# Section One

## Area Forum (Liscard and Seacombe) Thursday 17th February 2011

### Present:-

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Chair:  | Cllr A Jones   |
| Councillors:  | K Hayes, J Keeley, D Knowles, D Dodd   |
| Lead Officer:   | Mark Smith (Head of Service)   |
| Area Co-Ordinator:  | Michelle Gray  |
| Merseyside Police:  | Andy Bragg, Mike Barrett   |
| Merseyside Fire & Rescue:                                 | Tony Mooney  |
| Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust: | Jo Goodfellow  |
| Community Safety Officer:                                 | Jim Thompson, Steve Preston  |
| Older Peoples Parliament:                                 | Stan Thompson  |
| Faith Representative:                                     | Father Leon Ostaszewski  |
| Community Representative:                                 | Ken Harrison, Carole Thomas, Joseph Lee, Diane Ledder  |
| In attendance:  | David Ball (Head of Strategic Development & Regeneration), Ema Boddison (Minute Taker) Peter Cummings (United Utilities), Tony Kenwright (Census Co-ordinator) |

### 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES:

- *Minutes are a summary of the meeting, issues raised with individual officers after the main meeting are actioned separately.*

Apologies were made for the change of room. The Chair, Councillor Adrian Jones, welcomed forum members and 16 members of the public. He then went on to introduce Tony Kenwright and Peter Cummings and David Ball who will be giving presentations. Apologies were received from Cllr John Salter, NHS and Richard Hoare from Arriva who could not attend due to personal reasons however Michelle Gray announced that if anybody had any questions for Richard Hoare they could direct them to her at the end of the meeting or e-mail him on [hoarer@arrivanw.co.uk](mailto:hoarer@arrivanw.co.uk)

### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - including Area Co-ordinators report:

- **Amendments** On page 3 of the report should read John Drew.
- **Play Builder**  
The allocated Play Builder amount for Central Park is £50,000 for play area improvements. The development of the year 2 Playbuilder has been put on hold. The Play Builder grant has been de-ring fenced, and a final decision as to how much grant Wirral will be allocated to complete the year 2 programme has yet to be announced by the government.

We now have £16,000 from Playbuilder to spend on improvements at Central Park. The original allocation of funding for Playbuilder was reduced as part of the Government's Spending Review and we have looked to use that money to do some work on all of the play areas included in the programme rather than reduce the number of sites. Although I commented on the bandstand issue I have no "ownership" of this and do not know who it belongs to at the present time. More particularly I

commented on the fact that it was not a functioning bandstand but a shelter that looked like a bandstand!

**Q:** David Hanlon, Central Park, we had Roger Calvert here last time, since then, the football dressing rooms are in a state.

**A:** Cllr Adrian Jones, Money is available for Football Pitches, this will be raised with Roger Calvert. (response received 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011):

- The money that is available for football pitches is for improving the pitches particularly the drainage. The Council has however made funding available over the next two years for pavilions and park buildings and currently a condition survey is being undertaken to help decide what work is required. All Park buildings are now the responsibility of Asset Management in the Department of Law, HR and Asset Management who will be doing the work. Dave Hanlon may however have been referring to the cleanliness of the pavilion which I will bring to the attention of our staff who do the cleaning if there is a problem.

**Q:** Diane Ledder I was astonished to read in the paper that the Council had found £50k to do the shops up. We were wondering if it was the same £50k put aside ring fenced for the park. I have raised this at every meeting. It best not be the play fund money as it was specifically ring fenced to deal with the park.

**Q:** Cllr Adrian Jones, Liscard Hall is no longer with us but when it was there were many meetings about this and £50k was set aside and they want to know if that is the same money.

**Q:** Diane Ledder they said they could not find it for the park and now they have!

**A:** David Ball it is different money, it comes from a grant from central funds.

**Comment:** Carole Thomas needs to be clarified as it is confusing.

(response received from Roger Calvert 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011):

- The money for the shops will not be from this funding as the money for Playbuilder is from Central Government. Wirral are spending the full reduced allocation on the play areas originally identified as part of the initiative; however this has led to a reduction to the individual schemes – this accounts for the reduction at Central Park from £50 to £16K.

**Q:** Could you explain Wirral's Community budget policy via strategic procedures, who they are and how it works?

**A:** Cllr Adrian Jones, a Chief Officer will have to research and report on it.

**A:** Mark Smith I will certainly take that back with me and report back to you.

- The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

### **3. EMPTY SHOPS FUNDING:**

David Ball – explained that the Council had received a government grant of just over £52k and that Cabinet had agreed that this funding should be targeted to three areas - Bromborough District Centre, New Ferry District Centre and Brighton Street/King Street in Egremont.. The money which is split equally in three ways and totals £17,500 for Egremont can be spent to tackle the issues of empty shops which are a major issue in the Egremont area. However, it needs to be noted that the money, though welcome, will not tackle all of the empty shop issues that the area faces.

Cabinet met in early 2011 and wants to work with Area Forums to develop proposals for the funding which will then be reported by to Cabinet for final approval.

Neil Mitchell from the Regeneration Team is the Project Officer and he will work with Members, traders and the Community to develop the proposals for the funding.

**Q:** Cllr Darren Dodd asked why was it decided that none of the money would be spent in Liscard Town Centre the money could be better spent there?

**A:** David Ball said that a report was put to Cabinet which identifies it is a difficult process to allocate funding. The basis used was the current list of vacancy rates which identified areas with the greatest need and Brighton Street and King Street have very high vacancy rates. It should be noted that the Council is working actively with Liscard Traders to address the challenges they face..

**Comment:** Carole Thomas you have been working heavily over the past 2 years with Liscard Traders and have a good working relationship.

**Q:** Father Leon Ostaszewski – Can the money be spent on existing shops?

**A:** David Ball – the money needs to be used to bring empty properties back into some form of productive use.

#### **4. PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE PROCUREMENT EXERCISE:**

Mark Smith updated the forum on the developments for this service. Costs the council around 13.5 million and covers areas such as parks & country services, cemetery services, rangers, beach/life guards, etc.

The council is currently reviewing this service and Cabinet resolved procurement on service delivery. This service will be delivered by an external contractor and will deliver the same or a better service that is already in place.

#### **Key Points:**

- Contract to go out to an external organisation
- Tenders to be in by Mid April 2011
- Decisions made by June 2011
- Award to a single contractor by early September 2011
- New contractor in place by Christmas 2011
- Series of workshops with members and staff and those who are interested in the following subject areas:
  - sports/clubs
  - golfing
  - bereavement services
  - parks & countryside
- One large contract worth around 8 million, awarded to the best tender

#### **All to be held at Wallasey Town Hall:**

|                 |                  |                       |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 3rd March 2011  | Committee Room 1 | Parks and Open Spaces |
| 8th March 2011  | Committee Room 3 | Bereavement           |
| 5th March 2011  | Committee Room 3 | Golf                  |
| 23rd March 2011 | Committee Room 1 | Sport and Recreation  |

**Q:** Cllr D Knowles been down this route a number of times when delegated the bins to Biffa, Streetscene, Colas, Wirral Partnership Homes and a lot of our workforce works for them now. Can you see one provider looking after parks and gardens as I can think of companies who will look after football pitches and maintain them? Am I jumping ahead?

**A:** Mark Smith at the moment with have existing Council work force protected by TUPE transfer. We ask big providers what the feeling of sub contractor would be and most firms have said they would carry out the work themselves.

**Q:** Father Leon Ostaszewski next year there are no park keepers – is that correct in Central Park?

**A:** Mark Smith we do have Rangers.

**Q:** Cllr Darren Dodd I am not happy with this, we will have to bring in a non local firm as there isn't a local firm big enough.

**A:** Mark Smith it will attract a National Firm with big presence who will set up local office. The Council have various local labour policies to make sure local people employed.

**Q:** Diane Ledger re: allotments at the moment I am a tenant of the Council am I going to cease being a WBC tenant?

**A:** Mark Smith will be kept outside the scope and I can confirm the allotments will be managed the same way.

**Q:** Diane Ledger I am the Chair of Central Park Partnership and since the ranger retired in December I have had a lot of texts, e-mails etc. The Wall Garden is popular and there is no one to make arrangements with for photos, school visits etc. The gardens are not open at weekends and am not happy with this.

**Comment:** Cllr Adrian Jones people in Liscard and Seacombe are aggrieved.

**A:** Mark Smith I will take it away with me.

**Q:** The consultation process was flawed. You said there were four consultations, are these consultations open to the public or are we having to people chosen specifically for this? People are not seeing consultation as meaningful.

**A:** Cllr Adrian Jones I think officers are in a difficult position if they are asked to answer political questions..

**A:** Mark Smith our approach to consultation has a large number of outside stakeholders and user groups. There are extensive meetings with friends and user groups. There is robust equality working with the likes of the Older Peoples Parliament, youth forum and people like that.

**Q:** David Hanlon re: football pitches Central Park and Ryecroft Road are currently very good but in Liscard they are being taken over. Will there be assurances that they will be looked after?

**A:** Mark Smith ongoing process at the moment we want people to come along to the sports workshop and tell us, we had one before Christmas.

**Comment:** Ken Harrison I was at that meeting and it was swamped by bowlers, 80-90 of the people there were bowlers and 4 footballers were there. It is unfair and biased.

**A:** Mark Smith the point here is if there are views and groups of people that we don't know about, then please let us know – we certainly invited more than four! If we were light on footballers then I will take that back with me.

## **5. WHATS BEEN HAPPENING IN YOUR LOCAL AREA:**

**Q:** With regards to the motorbikes along the promenade at weekends, ones with 3 wheels use the beach and I reported them a child had no helmet on. What is happening?

**A:** Andy Bragg it is public land so they need insurance and they certainly should not be on the beach, we are aware of them. We do stop them and they do generally have insurance and once they have been stopped they rarely come back. If they haven't got a helmet on then we would be reluctant to chase them as if they get injured we are responsible.

**A:** Jim Thompson we are doing other things as well. There are a lot of cameras around Wirral which will produce a photo of evidential value and Community Patrol are also on the beach on a regular basis.

**Q:** I have seen quads with no helmets!

**A:** They don't need a helmet as it is 3/4 wheels it is the drivers' choice.

**Q:** Stan Thompson the camera at Magazine Lane, is it working?

**A:** Steve Preston, yes.

**Q:** There is a spate of burglaries at the moment, travelling type have took residence!

**A:** Andy Bragg we are suffering at the moment. As we speak staff are out issuing 2 warrants. There have been a number of arrests. Leaflets highlight to close doors properly and phone numbers are on the news letter. Please be careful, lately people have been



kicking footballs over the back walls and when the residents go and get it they get money robbed.

**Comment:** Father Leon Ostaszewski Wirral Partnership Homes hosted a meeting and I would like to thank the Community Safety Team and Police for their input, nice lunch as well.

**Merseyside Fire and Rescue:**

Tony Mooney explained that there was a full report in the papers. (pages 9 – 10)

**Q:** Stan Thompson how is the youth project going?

**A:** Tony Mooney going very well. Duke of Edinburgh and Fire Cadets soon which offers youth club, qualifications and a youth hub. We will also be running obesity and lifestyle classes. Schools will be actively involved and are on board and want us. The Police will be our joint agency so this will give us a good chance of catching them before the anti social behaviour begins.

**Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust:**

Jo Goodfellow Ice and snow in December had our staff walking into work then we had to deal with swine flu and now nurovirus which is very difficult to contain. The public have been very good and I would just like to thank the public for bearing with us and staff for their hard work. Announced that the Duchess of Wessex is coming on 2nd March to open the new Women and Children's hospital. There is an extensive report contained in the papers. (Pages 19 – 21)

**Older Peoples Parliament:**

Full report in papers (pages 11 – 15)

**Q:** Stan Thompson – Would like to thank Councillors for the Island at Mariners Park between Lonsdale Centre and Manor Road, there is a dreadful bend there. Most hideous blind bend there but can't seem to get someone to look at it, needs yellow lines.

**A:** Cllr Adrian Jones – Mark will take it back with him

**Q:** Cllr J Keeley – Could the speed activated sign be moved to before the bend?

**A:** Mark Smith – I am quite confident we can move it; I will take it back with me.

**6. GENERAL PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

**Q:** What are you doing about dog muck? I believe wardens have been laid off.

**A:** Cllr Adrian Jones there are people who would not qualify for a shot-gun certificate, far less a firearms certificate, but can easily acquire "killer" dogs. Responsible dog owners deserve respect. In my view a new licensing system should be introduced for ownership of large dogs.

**A:** Mark Smith Page 19 of the report details the steps we are taking in tackling dog fouling. Let us know as we do have Enforcement Officers.

**A:** Steve Preston we have funding and we are taking on another 6 and they are going out on their quads tomorrow.

**Comments:**

- Cllr Adrian Jones Streetscene for dog foul number is 666 5256
- Jim Thompson we have given out 1000s of bags to people in parks.
- Pavements in Wallasey Road, Liscard are a disgrace.
- Cllr James Keeney – camera in that road has collapsed in front of Barclays.
- Carole Thomas – by St Peter and Paul's Church grit bins on Atherton Road, that was gritted but the other side was not gritted at all. Gorse hill was not gritted either. People who live there were cut off and it is a main access to schools.

**Q:** Father Leon Ostaszewski – Belvedere Road condition is worse and it is not due to the bad weather.

**A:** Mark Smith – surfacing on the Belvedere Road will commence in next years programme, I have an e-mail here off Chris Jones.

**Q:** Cllr Karen Hayes – behind Iceland in Licscard, the grid is lose and banging all day can you take that back please Mark?

**Comments:**

- Carole Thomas – bus stop behind McDonalds, I have seen cars parked and then they drive away on their phones.
- Cllr James Keeley – I have witnessed Police issue fixed penalties on a number of occasions.
- Andy Bragg – This area is policed.

**History Day:**

Father Leon Ostaszewski – announced that on Saturday 5th March at Birkenhead Town Hall, 10am – 4pm is a History Day, there will be 40 stands and it is free.

The Chair Cllr Adrian Jones thanked all who attended and closed the meeting and announced the next area forum would take place on Tuesday 21st June 2011 venue to be confirmed.

**AOB:**

- **Information was available at the forum meeting on the following topics:**

**United Utilities:** Information cards were available detailing the programme of works for the area. Website also gives up to date information, as is updated daily. Peter said there will be full consultation with residents, including letters, leaflets drops, adverts in paper etc.

**Census 2011**

The census is a snapshot of the whole population and gathers data on how many people live here, how we live our lives, how many children we have, if we have a car etc, it also collects data about what services we need in our area, like schools, hospitals, houses, roads & transport to name just a few. Census Day is scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Wirral's Census 10 years ago, had a really good return however it was recorded that about 6% did not return forms and this cost around £13 million in funding for Wirral.

**Key Points:**

- Personal information will not be shared with any other government department, third party or anyone.
- Protected by law for 100 years
- Compulsory – if you don't take part, you could be fined up to £1,000
- Posted out in early March to each household
- Return via royal mail using pre-paid envelope or
- Complete on-line [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

**Information:**

- Helpline 0300 0201 101/Text Relay 18001 0300 0201 160
- Individual Appointment – contact Helpline
- Local Charities, Support and Information Services
- Local Drop-in sessions
- Translation services available

**Merseytravel:**

- David Hanlan handed Michelle Gray a Merseytravel Passenger Reporting Form this will be available at all future meetings for residents to raise transport issues

## **Update on Issues:**

**Could you explain Wirral's Community budget policy via strategic procedures, who they are and how it works?**

- Corporate Services will need to explain the Council's policy / approach on this.

**Diane Ledder I am the Chair of Central Park Partnership and since the ranger retired in December I have had a lot of texts, e-mails etc. The Wall Garden is popular and there is no one to make arrangements with for photos, school visits etc. The gardens are not open at weekends and am not happy with this.**

- Jim Lester to respond.

**Stan Thompson – Would like to thank Councillors for the Island at Mariners Park between Lonsdale Centre and Manor Road, there is a dreadful bend there. Most hideous blind bend there but can't seem to get someone to look at it, needs yellow lines.**

- Logged on CRM 481503 and assigned to Joey Smith.

**Speed activated sign be moved to before the bend?**

- Logged on CRM 481536 and assigned to Joey Smith.

**Behind Iceland in Liscard, the grid is lose and banging all day can this be looked at.**

- Logged on CRM to highway maintenance.

# Section Two

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services.



**Update provided by Wirral Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team  
(Integrated Youth Support Service, Children & Young People's Department)**

➤ **ASBO helped boy (March 2011)**

A teenager and his parents, in an interview with the Wirral Globe, reported how an Anti-Social Behaviour Order [issued against him by the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team] has helped him turn his life around.

The teenager suffering from Asperger's Syndrome was given an ASBO because of his behaviour. The youngster, who also suffers Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) was issued with Order after a string of complaints about him. His parents, who initially fought against their child being put under the stigma of an ASBO, spoke out to say it helped him turn his life around.

The young man was 13 years old when he was issued with an ASBO for his continued disturbance in his neighbourhood. The teenager's 2009 ASBO, which recently expired, came after a string of incidents involving verbal abuse and threats to Wirral Council staff. His mum said she tried to get the ASBO lifted many times. She said: *"He was just a nuisance, plain and simple. But I did fight the ASBO because my son has ADHD and asperger's syndrome so I didn't think he would be able to keep to the restrictions imposed upon him. But he surprised us all and got into the habit of not going where he wasn't allowed and improving his behaviour. I think the ASBO definitely helped him because he knows now that if he puts a foot out of line, there may be bigger consequences."*

➤ **Calling all local young people (March 2011)**

A young sports instructor from Wirral called on other young people to join her to take part in an event to raise money for this year's Red Nose Day. Chloe Tolman, 20, organised a fancy dress 5-a-side football tournament to raise money for Comic Relief which took place at Seacombe's Soccerdome.

The event was supported by officers from the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Youth Offending Service, Youth & Play Service and Sports Development Unit.



## Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

**The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at.**

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

For a **FREE Home Fire Safety Check**, including **FREE smoke alarm installation** if required please contact Fire Service Direct on FREE phone 0800 731 5958. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) news can be followed via our website Merseyfire.gov.uk we can also be found on social network sites - @Merseyfire on Twitter or visit our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/merseyfire.

### **Integrated Risk Management Plan:**

MFRS are committed to integrated working with other authorities, agencies and the voluntary sector to improve public safety and well being. We have an Integrated Risk Management Plan which is a local strategic plan that outlines the measures intended to be taken to continue the modernisation and improvement of services to the people of Merseyside.

Wirral has developed a local IRMP taking account of specific risks and community concerns. The main action points for 2011-2012 have been identified as:

- 1) Road Safety: - To work with partners to provide appropriate education and training thereby delivering improved road safety across the borough.
- 2) Fire Cadets: - The first course of Cadets is now under way at Wallasey fire station.
- 3) Site Specific Risk Information: - Station have commenced a new initiative to identify and plan for managing risk at vulnerable locations and premises... This will enable MFRS to target response and improve community safety.
- 4) Wirral healthy Homes Initiative. Enhance and expand the Wirral Healthy Homes Initiative to reduce risk in homes from the private rented sector through a series of targeted campaigns.
- 5) Reduction of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) in Wirral - Support and enhance the partnership responsible for the reduction of anti-social behaviour. Additional MFRS staffing resources have been embedded within the Merseyside Police ASB team and the Community Safety Team.
- 6) Wirral Stronger Communities Initiative: - Engage with partners to deliver Community Safety Initiatives in the Morpeth Dock area of the Wirral.
- 7) Risk Reduction in the Home: - MFRS resources are being targeted at those most at risk with the objective of reducing risk within the community.
- 8) Health, Safety & Welfare: - MFRS will address emerging issues by developing solutions at local level to improve health, safety and welfare in the workplace.
- 9) Environmental Impact: MFRS staff will help minimise the Service's impact on the environment by reducing overall carbon emissions, conserving energy and minimising other pollution.
- 10) Fire Prevention: - MFRS staff are to take an active role in the safeguarding of members of the public in licensed premises on Merseyside by conducting inspections during hours of operation.
- 11) Equality & Diversity: - MFRS staff will contribute to delivering our service equitably to all communities and individuals by considering the needs and risks associated with their communities and to develop innovative ways of addressing those needs and risks.
- 12) Corporate Social Responsibility: - MFRS staff will take an innovative approach to engaging with voluntary and charitable organisations to deliver benefits to our communities whilst contributing to the overall aims of MFRS

### **Accidental Dwelling Fires:**

Last years campaign to reduce the incidence of accidental dwelling delivered a 10% reduction over the last 12 months... Intelligence shows that the majority of such fires originate in the kitchen and this is supported by current statistics:

|                 |                 |                                      |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>February</b> | <b>21 fires</b> | <b>12 originating in the kitchen</b> |
| <b>March</b>    | <b>14 Fires</b> | <b>9 originating in the kitchen</b>  |
| <b>April</b>    | <b>13 fires</b> | <b>6 originating in the kitchen</b>  |

**We are continuing with our targeted campaign to achieve a further reduction.**

### **Wirral FireWatch:**

Every summer, firefighters see a dramatic rise in the number of grass and rubbish fires, particularly during spells of hot weather and the school holidays.

In Wirral, land around Bidston Hill, Thurstaston Common and Caldys Hill is often left blackened and scorched by fires during the summer. MFRS staff will engage with young people in schools and youth clubs and while patrolling the green space areas to inform them about the dangers of starting small fires. MFRS staff, supported by partner agencies will undertake patrols in areas where small fires are



most likely to occur. They will also work alongside other agencies to remove any build-up of combustible materials and provide advice to people living in "hotspot" areas on how they can reduce the risk of fires in their community. Whilst we want people to enjoy themselves following a few simple tips could help improve community safety:

- Always extinguish your cigarette and any other smoking materials properly.
- Store your wheelie bin away from the windows and doors of your property and where possible, store it behind locked gates.
- Dispose of barbecues responsibly.
- Don't leave bottles or glass in woodland areas -sunlight shining through glass can start fires so take them home or put them in a bin.

**If you discover a fire or someone starting one, report it immediately by calling 999.**

## **WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL ALCOHOL SCRUTINY REVIEW**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report provides background information regarding the Final Report of the Alcohol Scrutiny Review. It is provided to the Area Forum meeting for information purposes only.

### **Background**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Programme Board, held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009, members agreed to undertake an in-depth scrutiny review regarding progress towards implementation of the Alcohol Strategy in Wirral. The Board members agreed that volunteers should be sought from among scrutiny members to form a Panel.
- 1.2 Subsequently, the following members volunteered to be members of the Panel:
  - Councillor Dave Mitchell (Chair)
  - Councillor Sue Taylor
  - Councillor Chris Meaden
  - Councillor Ann Bridson

### **2. Focus for the Review**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Programme Board agreed the Scope for the review in January 2010. Due to the enormous breadth of the topic, it was agreed to focus on specific areas, concentrating particularly on those issues which are within the direct responsibility of the Council. The panel members proposed that, due to the high profile and significance of excessive drinking among young people, the central focus of the review should be the "access to alcohol by young people in Wirral".
- 2.2 The main issues for the review were identified in the Scope document as:
  - What is the impact of alcohol on young people in Wirral?
  - What is the impact of young people drinking alcohol having on other residents of Wirral?
  - What is already being done to enable young people to make good choices regarding alcohol?
  - What are the key issues relating to access and availability: Where? Price? Promotions?
  - What restrictions of access to alcohol exist at present?
  - What additional restrictions of access are available and which have been successfully used elsewhere?
  - Can Council policies be sensibly amended relating to the access and availability of alcohol, particularly with respect to young people?

### **3. Evidence Gathering and the Report**

The Panel have used a number of methods to gather evidence for the review:

- Meetings with key officers
- Visits by panel members to local communities accompanied by Youth Outreach workers
- Written evidence

#### **4. Scrutiny Review Recommendations**

In considering the evidence found during the review, the Panel Members formulated the recommendations listed below:

##### **A. Wirral Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy as a Council priority**

It is recognised that 'Tackle alcohol harm' is a Priority for Improvement in the Council's Corporate Plan for 2010/11 and an Aim for 2008-2013. Given the statistical evidence of alcohol harm in Wirral, the Cabinet is encouraged to ensure that alcohol misuse remains a priority among the Council's objectives for the foreseeable future. Financial support for the service should follow its recognition as a priority service.

##### **B. Funding**

In the past, the alcohol harm reduction services have been provided from a variety of short-term funding streams. This does not promote long-term stability in service provision. In the future, Cabinet is urged to promote long-term planning for the delivery of service by encouraging budgeting for the service over a longer time-frame.

##### **C. Performance Management**

Cabinet is urged to support the implementation of a series of performance indicators which will measure the outcomes of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, including the preventative aspects of the work and the impact on young people. Further development of suitable data-sharing arrangements among the partners, using a single set of data wherever possible, would be beneficial.

##### **D. Education of young people**

Council is requested to recognise the importance and continued priority of education for young people regarding the dangers of alcohol misuse. Education is recognised as a cornerstone of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. The support of all agencies, including schools, health authorities, the Police, Fire & Rescue Service and the voluntary sector, as well as Wirral Council, is fundamental to the delivery of this service. There is concern that appropriate alcohol awareness education should be available to young people in Years 5 and 6 at primary school. Research shows children aged ten and eleven are the most vulnerable age group regarding alcohol.

##### **E. Legislative framework**

Wirral Council Cabinet is encouraged to lobby the Home Office for changes in the law aimed at reducing the supply of alcohol to young people by:

- Limiting the promotion of the sale of alcohol, for example, through 'happy hours'
- Restricting the use of alcohol as a 'loss leader' by supermarkets and other retail outlets
- Reducing the promotion of alcohol through advertising
- Reducing the scale of proxy sales by imposing greater fines on those purchasing alcohol on behalf of under-age drinkers

##### **F. Minimum unit pricing for alcohol**

The Review Panel supports the principle of minimum unit pricing for alcohol. Council is requested to engage positively in the process to introduce a regional minimum price for alcohol in the Merseyside region.

##### **G. Cumulative Impact Policy**

Council should actively seek to introduce a Cumulative Impact Policy, as has been introduced by Local Authorities such as Liverpool and Brighton, in order to tackle the increase in outlets in specific hotspot areas.

##### **H. Trading Standards**

The work of Trading Standards is considered an important element in combating the sale of alcohol to young people. An additional £40,000 was included in the 2010/11 budget of the Council to enable Trading Standards to continue tackling under-age sales of alcohol using a number of methods, including test purchasing, which had led to a reduction in sales to under-age young people. Cabinet is urged to retain that financial support.

##### **I. Alcohol-related hospital admissions**

All agencies, including Wirral DAAT, are encouraged to ensure that the excellent advice services currently available to support young people who are subject to alcohol-related hospital admissions are continued and, if necessary, expanded.

##### **J. Relationship with Magistrates**

The Council is encouraged to further develop a tripartite relationship with magistrates and the Police in order to cultivate a mutual understanding of issues relating to the application of licensing laws in the courts.

##### **K. Multi-agency working**

Wirral Council Cabinet is invited to congratulate all of the agencies and staff involved in the delivery of the Wirral Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. Although much progress remains to be made in tackling the problem of alcohol misuse in Wirral, the impressive partnership working already in place provides a firm foundation for future progress. The Outreach Workers are among the key front-line staff who engage directly with young people and are responsible for the delivery of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. In the current difficult financial circumstances for public services, the protection of the front-line staff should be recognised as a priority in the onward delivery of the strategy. The approach of strong multi-agency working should continue to be supported in the future.

## 5. Outcomes of the Scrutiny Review

In January 2011, the Scrutiny Programme Board approved the Alcohol Scrutiny Review and, among other resolutions, agreed that the report be referred for consideration by each of the Area Forums.

Subsequently, Wirral Council Cabinet, at the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011, resolved the following:

- i. That the Cabinet welcomes the report and notes the hard work put in by the Alcohol Scrutiny Panel and the Scrutiny Programme Board in carrying out the review.
- ii. That the Cabinet expresses its concern about the serious issues for the health, safety and wellbeing of young people that the report raises and all of the recommendations of the Panel be accepted.
- iii. That it be noted that recommendation A is picked up in the Corporate Plan and that recommendation H has already been acted on in the Budget.
- iv. That the Scrutiny Review be referred to the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee, with a request that it gives specific attention to recommendations E, F, G and J.
- v. That the report be referred to the LSP Executive with a request that it gives specific attention to recommendations B, C, D, I and K.
- vi. That the Director of Public Health be requested to be the lead officer for co-ordinating the response of the Council and other agencies to the report.

## 6. Complete Report

The complete scrutiny report, 'Access to Alcohol by Young People in Wirral', is available at the following link: <http://bit.ly/alcreport>

**wirral.gov.uk**

- **Council & Democracy**
  - Council Meeting & Minutes
  - Document Library
  - Overview & Scrutiny
  - Scrutiny Reviews
    - Click on Alcohol Scrutiny Review Report

**Wirral University Teaching Hospital**   
NHS Foundation Trust

The Trust is pleased to be able to participate in the Local Area Forums and welcomes the opportunity to brief Wirral residents and our partner organisations on topical issues. Representing the Trust at each Forum will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the elected Public Governor for the host constituency. This report sets out the main challenges and opportunities for the Trust over the coming months and highlights achievements and service developments:

### 1. Treating you well into the future

On May 9<sup>th</sup> the Trust launched a widespread staff and public engagement programme, called *Treating you well into the future*. This is the title of a 28 page staff and public engagement document and a four page summary, both of which are published on the Trust's website at: [www.whnt/nhs.uk/treatingyouwellintothefuture/](http://www.whnt/nhs.uk/treatingyouwellintothefuture/)

The aim of *Treating you well into the future* is to ensure a vibrant future for both Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals whilst continuing to deliver safe, high quality patient care and services in the



years to come. The Trust needs to make the best use of these hospitals, avoiding duplication of services and working more efficiently.

We are therefore proposing changes to some services at both hospitals and are actively seeking the views and opinions of everyone with an interest in local hospital services including staff, patients and carers, Foundation Trust Members and Governors, partners, statutory and voluntary organisations and the general public.

These proposals are **not** about closing Clatterbridge Hospital. Nor are they about cutting services or costs. On the contrary, the level of investment needed to develop the proposals would be between £12.8 million and £28 million.

**The *Treating you well into the future*** document sets out the reasons why the Trust needs to make changes to some services. These range from clinical and quality issues - the Trust's top priority - to estates and financial considerations. The document also highlights three options and two sub options for change along with their anticipated benefits, an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses and their projected costs.

The document also sets out the ways in which staff and public can express their views and we would urge everyone with an interest to make their views known by answering the eight engagement questions. Responses can be made either on-line via the website (as above) or by completing and returning the form in the document, via the freepost address provided. The Trust's Board of Directors are committed to taking everyone's views into account before a final decision is taken on the way forward at the end of June. **The closing date for the receipt of comments is 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011** and the outcome will be widely communicated during July.

The engagement documents may be obtained on request in different formats - including hard copy, easy read, audio, large print or other languages – by:

- emailing: [wih-tr.engagement@nhs.net](mailto:wih-tr.engagement@nhs.net)
- phoning: the Communications and Marketing Team on 0151 604 7003

Hard copies of the documents will be available in local authority one stop shops, libraries and GP surgeries.

## **2. Providing Excellence in Healthcare**

We are pleased to announce that three of our services have recently been acknowledged as amongst the best in the North West or in the country:

### **Stroke Services in the Top Ten**

- Services for Wirral people who have suffered a stroke are amongst the best in the country according to the Care Quality Commission.
- Services provided from both Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals and in the community across Wirral were judged to be 'best performing' and ranked in the top 10 in the country for primary care trust areas.
- Our Early Supported Discharge Team has been especially praised for the support it gives to stroke patients and their families.
- The work of the Team complements the other high quality services provided for stroke patients on Wirral including preventative work undertaken by GPs and the speed at which thrombolysis (clot-busting drugs) are given at Arrowe Park Hospital to patients whose stroke is caused by a clot, rather than a bleed.

### **Community Midwives**

- The Birkenhead Community Midwife Team scooped one of the UK's top midwifery prizes, the 'Innovation in Midwifery' Award, for their 'Mums and Midwives' shop project, at the recent Royal College of Midwives Annual Awards.
- Opened in 2009 and based in The Grange and Pyramids Shopping Centre in Birkenhead, the 'Mums and Midwives' shop is open five days a week. Staffed by a team of community midwives, it provides local women with an easily accessible place in the community where they can get advice on a range of pregnancy and postnatal issues.

### **Oxygen Services**

- The Cardio Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), pulmonary rehabilitation and home oxygen service based at Victoria Central Health Centre has also just scooped a prestigious

award. The community based team, comprising staff from our Trust and NHS Wirral, was a winner at the first NHS North West Respiratory Awards in the category of Best Oxygen Service.

- The service was launched in autumn 2009 with the aim of improving the quality of care for patients with COPD and patients in need of home oxygen. So far more than 1,300 patients have benefited from the service and focus groups have shown that patients are extremely satisfied with the service

### 3. Our Core Values

Our Trust has adopted a set of core values to help shape our culture and character and guide decision-making.

### 4. Controlling Infection

The Trust is committed to reducing the incidence of healthcare associated infections. We are one of the few trusts nationally to screen admitted medical & surgical patients for MRSA (meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*). This has reduced the risk of those patients who carry the germ harmlessly from developing an infection and reduces the risk of cross-infection to other patients.

We have implemented improved antibiotic prescribing practice and increased our isolation facilities. We also investigate **all** serious infections so that we can learn from them and take action to improve practice where necessary. We routinely publish our infection rates on our website and information can also be found on the Health Protection Agency's website [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

- **MRSA Bacteraemias** – we are pleased to be able to report that there have been NO cases of MRSA bacteraemia across the Trust since September 2010. This has been achieved as a result of many new trust-wide initiatives that all staff have incorporated within their daily practices.
- The incidence of ***Clostridium Difficile*** has also significantly reduced over recent months and we are well below the threshold number set by the Primary Care Trust.

### 5. Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) Assessment Results 2011

- The Trust has just received it's 2011 PEAT assessment results for environment, food and privacy and dignity for each hospital as follows:

| Site Name              | Environment Score | Food Score | Privacy & Dignity Score |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Arrowe Park Hospital   | Excellent         | Excellent  | Excellent               |
| Clatterbridge Hospital | Good              | Excellent  | Excellent               |

### 6. Assembly of Governors

The Trust's Assembly of Governors meets in public at least 4 times year. Both Public and Staff Members of the Trust and members of the public are welcome to attend. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00pm in the Education Centre, Arrowe Park Hospital. Further details about this meeting or about how to become a Foundation Trust Public Member, is available from the Membership Office at Arrowe Park Hospital ☎ 0800 012 1356

#### For more information...

Our easy access website can provide lots of useful information for patients, the public, staff and GPs about the Trust and its services. Go to [www.whnt.nhs.uk](http://www.whnt.nhs.uk) The website is speech enabled for browsers with sight related problems and the easy click, 'email a patient' facility continues to be a popular feature

#### Come and Join Us!

As a Foundation Trust we want to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have 8,500 Public Members and are keen to recruit more. Public Members can get involved as much or as little as they like – from just receiving 'Public Membership News', our regular newsletter, to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. To join on-line go to [www.whnt.nhs.uk](http://www.whnt.nhs.uk) or complete the form enclosed in this information pack and return it to the freepost address given.

## Area Forum Streetscene Update – June 2011

### Traffic Management:

The following Traffic Management schemes have been completed since the last round of Area Forum reports:

- St Pauls Road – Pedestrian refuge (Due for completion May 2011)
- Seacombe Ferry Link, Seacombe – Cycling Strategy Scheme (Due for completion May 2011)
- Seacombe Promenade, Seacombe – Cycling Strategy Scheme
- Gorsey Lane / Norwood Road – Local Safety Scheme (Due for completion May 2011)

### Environment Event:

Monday 25th July a day of environmental events for young people with theatre, music and art. For more details contact Lynn Struver, Education Officer, Waste and Recycling - 0151 606 2004.

**Highway Management:** Last year each Forum was given the opportunity to contribute to the current Structural Maintenance Programme and submit lists of roads they considered to be local priorities for significant repair. Each suggested road was assessed according to the criteria below and if successful included in the programme.

#### The current programme of schemes attached as Appendix 1 (page 20)

**Network Condition and Assessment Criteria:** In order to fulfil its duty to maintain the highway, it is necessary to consider how the Council will prioritise the maintenance schemes to be undertaken and what treatment of the prioritised schemes should comprise in order to repair and prevent further deterioration of those lengths of road and footway. The following criteria are used in carrying out this analysis:

- (i) In accordance with national best practice the Council undertakes surveys of the highway network in order to determine the condition of the carriageways.
- (ii) Areas of constant repairs; mainly due to vehicle over-ride; are highlighted in the Highway Inspectors' safety inspections.
- (iii) Particular roads brought to the Council's attention, as warranting significant repair, by Area Forums, Elected Members, the public and Streetscene officers.
- (iv) Feedback from the Council's Term Maintenance Contractor regarding the suitability of different repair solutions depending on the existing road condition and use.

Road casualty information, where collisions with road surface condition as a potential causation factor, to determine whether prioritising a scheme in the programme may also address a recognised road safety concern.

**Technical Services** are now in the process of preparing the Structural Maintenance Programme for 2012/2013 and would once again appreciate your assistance in providing lengths of roads and pavements that should be considered for resurfacing or reconstructing due to their poor condition. Please submit any roads for consideration by contacting your local Councillor or the Community Engagement team on 0151 691 8695, alternatively email, [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) no later than 1 August 2011.

**Waste and Recycling** Wirral Council has exceeded its recycling target of 37% for 2010/11 - we are now recycling 40% of our waste. The increase in recycling has been as a result of recycling the Borough's street sweepings and also an overall reduction in the weight of refuse produced per household. Well done and thank you to all our residents for their hard work.

In March, Wirral Council rolled out a recycling service to all properties in hard to access areas (bag collection rounds). 350 properties have received a new box for recyclable material, to be collected on a weekly basis. We are now very close to 100% of Wirral households having a kerbside recycling service - just two more properties to go!

Wirral Council will be holding a compost giveaway on Sat 11th June at Port Sunlight Garden Centre from 9am till 1pm. Bags of compost will be available on a first come first serve basis, one bag per customer. Information will also be available on home composting and [www.getcomposting.com](http://www.getcomposting.com), where residents can purchase low cost compost bins, wormeries and water butts.

The Waste and Environment section have employed our third and final round of Future Job Fund posts - 6 Assistant Recycling Project Officers have joined the team until September 2011. These officers will continue the good work being done to tackle contamination of the grey recycling bins. Since May 2010, the Assistant Recycling Project Officers have worked with the Biffa crews in the worst performing areas and have seen a 50% reduction in the number of bins rejected for contamination. A secondary project has begun, auditing properties presenting two or more green bins for refuse. The aim of this project is to ensure that all properties presenting two bins are authorised to do so and also to keep accurate records for future reviews.

Due to the success of the Future Job Fund projects, the Waste and Environment Team has received authorisation to employ 6 full time staff in these posts. We anticipate beginning the recruitment process in July/August, so as to ensure continuity.

**Local Transport Plan 3** The Third Local Transport Plan for Merseyside became active from 1st April 2011.

The plan sets out the implementation plans in the short term to 2015 and looks to the longer term strategy for 2024 on how to improve transport in Merseyside.

The Third Local Transport Plan has the following vision: 'A city region committed to a low carbon future, which has a transport network and mobility culture that positively contributes to a thriving economy and the health and wellbeing of its citizens and where sustainable travel is the option of choice'.

**The Local Transport Plan has six goals:**

- Help create the right conditions for sustainable economic growth by supporting the priorities of the Liverpool City Region, the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnerships.
- Provide and promote a clean, low emission transport system which is resilient to changes to climate and oil availability.
- Ensure the transport system promotes and enables improved health and wellbeing and road safety.
- Ensure equality of travel opportunity for all, through a transport system that allows people to connect easily with employment, education, healthcare, other essential services and leisure and recreational opportunities.
- Ensure the transport network supports the economic success of the city region by the efficient movement of people and goods.
- Maintain our assets to a high standard. (Please note all goals have equal status).

**The Local Transport Plan and supporting annexes are available to download from [www.transportmerseyside.org](http://www.transportmerseyside.org) or by contacting 0151 330 1294**

**School Environment Awards** The Wirral Council School Environment Awards, in association with Biffa and Tranmere Rovers, are now in their third year and have seen some very successful, exciting and challenging projects being rewarded to schools across Wirral. The awards are open to all schools and provide recognition to schools studying a range of environmental topics that are strongly linked to the National Curriculum and compliment work towards Eco Schools.

**This year's winners were:**

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| • Energy Awareness Award -                      | Greenleas primary School   |
| • Mayor's Outstanding Contribution Award -      | Irby Primary School        |
| • Wirral Ranger's Wildlife Conservation Award - | Hoylake Holy Trinity       |
| • Junior Road Safety Officer's Award -          | Great Meols Primary School |
| • Road Safety Participation Award -             | Upton Hall School, FCJ     |
| • Biffa Schools Recycling Award -               | Stanton Rd Primary School  |

- Tranmere Rovers Community Award -
- Green Facilities Champion -

Prenton High School For Girls  
University Academy of Birkenhead

**Street Cleansing** Wirral's street cleansing contractors Biffa have adopted a new 'area based' approach to cleaning the borough. Wirral has been divided into four areas meaning that each area has its own designated cleansing operatives, supervisors and manager.

This change in approach identifies the following opportunities for improvements:

Geographical ownership is created for frontline operatives and management. This not only highlights locations presenting a reoccurring challenge but creates an extra element of ownership and pride in the cleanliness of any one particular location.

Localised working will reduce the distances that cleansing vehicles will need to cover. This will obviously reduce fuel costs but will also lower carbon emissions for the street cleansing service as a whole. This will aid in Biffa and Wirral's aim to make the service as environmentally sustainable as possible.

**Big Tidy Up's** From May, Tidy Ups will begin in those wards who have allocated money through the 'You Decide' funding. In West Wirral we will be engaging Tranmere Together to work with a number of local organisations.

**Community Speedwatch** Is speeding a problem in your neighbourhood? Make a difference by joining the Wirral Community Speedwatch team and help to make Wirral's roads safer. Community Speedwatch allows Wirral residents concerned about speeding in their local area to monitor motorist's speed using state of the art radar guns. The scheme aims to tackle areas where the dangers of careless driving and speeding are a real concern to local people. For more information on becoming a Community Speedwatch Volunteer contact Carlyne Hankey on 0151 606 5448  
[carolyne.a.hankey@merseyside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:carolyne.a.hankey@merseyside.pnn.police.uk)



| <b>Liscard</b> | <b>Limits</b>                | <b>Cost £'s</b> | <b>Category</b>   | <b>Work Description</b>   |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Brittania Road | All                          | 5,000           | Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor | Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor |
| Manor Road     | Liscard Village/Grosvenor St | 20,000          | Structural Carriageway  | Resurface Carriageway   |

| <b>Seacombe</b> | <b>Limits</b>               | <b>Cost £'s</b> | <b>Category</b>   | <b>Work Description</b>   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Adelaide Street | All                         | 4,600           | Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor | Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor     |
| Gorse Lane      | Roundabout to Poulton Road  | 80,000          | Structural Carriageway  | Resurface Carriageway   |
| Kenilworth Road | All                         | 15,000          | Structural Footway  | L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway. |
| Palatine Road   | All                         | 20,000          | Structural Footway  | L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway. |
| Wheatland Lane  | Poulton Road to St Pauls Rd | 45,000          | Structural Carriageway  | Resurface Carriageway   |

**Highway Management** Last year each Forum was given the opportunity to contribute to the current Structural Maintenance Programme and submit lists of roads they considered to be local priorities for significant repair.

**Michelle Gray Community Engagement Co-ordinator** has full copy of report [michellegray@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:michellegray@wirral.gov.uk) /0151 691 8213.

# Wirral Youth Service

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

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

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

- Youth clubs
- Street work projects
- "Kontaktabuses"
- "Wirral Youth Theatre" and Youth Arts
- "Response" – Advice, support, advocacy and information service/Substance Misuse Service
- 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 fourteen open access youth clubs located across the Borough. Street work teams of youth workers make contact with young people who do not access the service elsewhere, build relationships with them and in negotiation with the young people, develop programmes which address their specific needs. This work is delivered on the streets, through project work and on mobile Kontaktabuses.

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

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

**Duke of Edinburgh's Award** The Youth Service holds the operating licence for administering and running the DofE. The Youth Service is therefore able to issue individual operating licences to single units such as schools, youth clubs and uniformed organisations. Young people within the borough are able to participate in at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels and are offered a wide and diverse menu of opportunities. A well equipped Open Award Centre is able to provide comprehensive and quality expedition training for those wishing to attempt their expedition or exploration. Young people are encouraged to make improved use of their leisure time and by participating in the DofE they are guided towards, helping their own communities, acquiring new skills, keeping fit and taking on new and exciting challenges. Anyone aged between 14 and 25 can take part in the DofE regardless of background or ability and participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

**Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (WYT)** 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. WYT has now relocated to the Gilbrook School site in Birkenhead.

**You Decide Funding** There are projects being planned in a number of wards across the face of Wirral using the You Decide funding. The outputs of these projects will be maximised by the joint working of partners in the Integrated Youth Support Service including Youth sports and the Anti-social Behaviour team.

**Wallasey Youth Hub** has been delivering a Virtual Baby project. 19 young people have been split into two groups. The sessions are about problems and pressures, ambitions for the future, alcohol, risk taking behaviour and relationships and sex education. Oldershaw School use the Hub as an offsite facility during the day so mentors and teachers can work more intently with young people with learning and social needs. As a result of this work, six young people from the school have started coming to the Hub in the evening to take part in the Virtual Baby course. Four senior members from the Hub are doing their 'V awards, one young person has just gained 100 hours and two others have completed fifty hours volunteering. The Hub has been working with young people around differences and similarities in Cultures. Nine young people visited China Town in Liverpool to celebrate Chinese New Year. In partnership with the outreach team, 35 young people had a meal in a Greek restaurant. Here the young people learnt about Greek culture, tasting traditional food, learning key phrases in Greek and taking part in dancing and smashing plates. The Hub is about to start a joint project with the Fire Service, the Wirral Fire Cadets Programme. The Fire Cadets Programme will run every Thursday evening and will offer young people the chance to gain new skills whilst working towards a BTEC Level 2.

**South/East Wallasey Outreach Team** is working in partnership with Oldershaw School; the team are involved in a Positive Opportunities for Progression (POP) project. This project is a 12 week programme which aims to engage young people at risk of exclusion and raise aspirations. The team has also engaged young people in various activities including football, fishing, team building and the opportunity to gain an Asdan Qualification.