



## Area Forum (Oxton and Prenton)

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 28 June 2011
<b>Time:</b>	7.00 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Woodchurch Primary School, Woodchurch Road, Birkenhead, Wirral CH42 9LJ (drop-in session) 6.30pm

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## AGENDA

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS::
2. MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY'S FORUM AND AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:
3. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS:
4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:
5. PARTNER UPDATES:
6. FUTURE MEETINGS:
  - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011

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# Wirral's Area Forums



## Oxton and Prenton Area Forum

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011 7-9pm**

**Drop in 6.30pm**

**Woodchurch Road Primary School**

**Woodchurch Road, Birkenhead, CH42 9LJ**

**Papers for the forum meeting**

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**Community Engagement Team, Corporate Services, Town Hall, Brighton Street,**

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## **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
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**OXTON AND PRENTON AREA FORUM**  
**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 7-9pm**  
**Drop in 6.30pm**  
**Woodchurch Road Primary School**  
**Woodchurch Road, Birkenhead, CH42 9LJ**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome and introductions**
- 2. Minutes from February's forum and Area Co-ordinator's report**
- 3. Neighbourhood Plans**
- 4. Public question time**
- 5. Partner updates**
- 6. Future meetings: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October venue to be confirmed**

## Introduction: Membership of the area forum

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

**Councillor Ann Bridson**  
Prenton Ward  
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annbridson@wirral.gov.uk

**Councillor Denise Realey**  
Prenton Ward  
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**Councillor Paul Doughty**  
Prenton Ward  
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**Councillor S.E. Kelly**  
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**Councillor Alan Brighthouse**  
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**Councillor Mrs Patricia Williams  
(Chair)**  
Oxton Ward  
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**Louise Harland-Davies**  
**Area Co-ordinator**  
Tel 0151 691 8695  
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**Rob Beresford**

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

**Patrick Toosey**  
**Community Representative, Oxton**  
Oxton Society

**Sarah Goulding**  
**Community Representative, Oxton**  
Friends of the Arno and Oxton Fields

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

**Inspector Roy McGregor (Oxton)**  
**0151 709 6010**

**Inspector Brian Griffiths (Prenton)**  
**0151 709 6010**

**Merseyside Fire and Rescue**  
**Birkenhead Fire Station**  
**0151 296 5325**

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

# Section One

## Minutes

### OXTON AND PRENTON AREA FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING AT THE BELMONT SUITE, TRANMERE ROVERS  
FC, BIRKENHEAD,  
on Tuesday, 22 February 2011

**Present:**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Cllr. Pat Williams (Chair)</b>
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Cllr A Bridson, Cllr. A Brighthouse, Cllr. S Holbrook Cllr S Kelly, Cllr D Realey</b>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Rob Beresford, Head of Regulation</b>
<b>Area Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Louise Harland-Davies</b>
<b>Community Representatives</b>	<b>Alan Dollery, Sarah Goulding, Patrick Toosey</b>
<b>Merseyside Police</b>	<b>Sergeant Mark Roberts: Sergeant Sam Parker</b>
<b>Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service</b>	<b>Terry Murphy</b>
<b>Community Safety</b>	<b>Steve Preston</b>
<b>NHS Wirral</b>	<b>Sheila Hillhouse</b>
<b>Wirral University Teaching Hospital: NHS Foundation Trust</b>	<b>Sandra Shannon</b>
<b>Street Scene Manager</b>	<b>Gary Cummings</b>
<b>Council Officers</b>	<b>Jim Lester, Head of Cultural Services Peter Riley, National Lottery Project Manager</b>
<b><u>Apologies:</u></b>	<b>Inspector Roy McGregor, Merseyside Police.</b>

#### **1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair, Councillor P Williams, welcomed Area Forum members and 25 members of the public to the meeting. A microphone was available for anyone wished to use it.

The Chair welcomed new members/representatives Sandra Shannon, Wirral University Teaching Hospital, Sheila Hillhouse, NHS Wirral, Sergeant Mark Roberts and Sergeant Sam Parker, Merseyside Police and Terry Murphy, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service.

Apologies for absence were received from Inspector Roy McGregor, Merseyside Police.

## **2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER FORUM.**

The minutes of the October Forum were included in Section One of the Area Co-ordinator's report.

**Minute decision: That the minutes of the meeting of the Area Forum of 19 October 2010 be confirmed as a true record, subject to the inclusion of Cllr Denise Realey in the list of those present.**

**Matter arising:** The Area Co-ordinator drew attention to page 11 of her report and the response received to a query raised by Patrick Dowling on Street Lighting Equipment in and around Oxtown Village.

## **3 AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT.**

Section Two of the Area Co-ordinator's report contained local updates. The attention of the Area Forum was drawn to the progress report on the Council's consultation programme *'Wirral's Future: Be a part of it'*. The decisions will feed into the Council's new Corporate Plan in due course.

Information was given on the availability of funding from *Your Wirral*. The Area Co-ordinator will send application forms, on request, to local groups and organisations who wish to apply for funding. The closing date is 25 April.

The area forum has been asked for suggestions for the siting of grit bins funded from the Winter Resilience Fund. Cards showing locations of bins already requested in 2011/12, and asking for precise locations of additional bins, were available at the meeting.

**Minute decision: To thank the Area Co-ordinator for her report.**

## **4 FINDINGS FROM THE REVIEW OF THE PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE PROCUREMENT EXERCISE [PACSPE].**

The Chair welcomed Jim Lester, Head of Cultural Services, and invited him to talk about the review of the Parks and Countryside Service Procurement Exercise.

Jim Lester explained that his responsibilities include Art Galleries and Museums, in addition to Parks and Countryside services.

The review of services started in June 2008 and a report taken to Cabinet in July 2010 included an outline business case prepared by independent consultants looking at various options for the Council to consider. At the meeting in July, elected members decided that, with some exceptions, all the services should be kept together and provided by a single contractor.

The scope of the exercise was to look at all the points of work and consider which services should be kept in scope and those that should be excluded. In January 2011, the Director of Engineering Services reported to Cabinet on the areas that should not be included, namely the Landican Crematorium and Bereavement Services, the Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm, schools' grounds, the Lifeguard Service, golf pavilions [but not the day to day management of the golf courses] allotments and charges for allotments. These services would transfer to Asset Management.

The contracts for grounds maintenance, grass cutting, management of the Parks' Ranger Service, maintenance of hedges, trees and grass verges and areas of open space associated with that will be brought into the single contract.

The contract will be worth between £6 and £9 million. Research into what neighbouring local authorities are doing indicates that the contractor brings innovation and different ways of working and that considerable savings can be made with a single contract. Biffa manages the bin collection service and Highway Maintenance recently transferred to Colas, and both services are doing well.



Currently, Wirral Council employs between 150/160 staff to deliver the services, although the numbers have reduced by a recent voluntary exercise. The remaining staff will transfer to the new contractor and their existing pay and conditions will be protected under TUPE regulations.

Consultations and regular discussions have taken place with the staff and representatives from groups including user groups, specialist user groups, [eg people representing golf clubs, football and bowling clubs, Friends' groups and people involved with heritage and the arts.

The next round of meetings will take place in March 2011 in Wallasey Town Hall. The Parks workshop will be on 3 March, bereavement service focus session on 8 March, the golf session on 15 March, and the sports session, particularly on bowls and football, on 23 March. The main purpose of the sessions will be to provide more detailed information on the services and the feedback received will be used to inform the new contract.

Efforts have been made to identify all the representative groups of Friends across Wirral. New groups are welcome and details of any group that has not already been approached would be appreciated from members of the public to ensure they are included in the process.

The specification will be completed by the end of March/early April, tenders will be invited for return in the Autumn, with a view to the new contract starting early in 2012.

Parks are owned by the Council and they will remain in the ownership of the Council. The delivery of the contract will be monitored working in partnership with the contractor and will involve user groups. The expectation is that the contractor will work with the user groups and attend meetings such as Area Forums.

Jim Lester responded to questions:

**Q [Cllr Bridson] Can you explain how the contract will be monitored to make sure that standards are maintained, or improved?**

A . A requirement will be built into the submission that the contractor must demonstrate how they intend to maintain standards.

A set of key performance indicators are being developed – for example, on the standards expected for parks that are awarded a Green Flag.

Penalties will be applied if the contractor does not comply with the standards expected. The contract is a ten year contract to allow the contractor to take a long term view and build up equipment and machinery and to ensure that sufficient staff are recruited and are trained appropriately.

**Q [Cllr Realey]. The 150/160 staff. What happens with each group of staff, some are engaged in direct work and some in the office?**

A We have lost about 40 staff – a mixture of front of house and back room staff – through early voluntary retirement/severance. Members have already agreed that some staff will be replaced by seasonal workers. We think we will have appropriate cover as normal for this year.

In the future, the contractor will look at staffing levels over time. The contractor will determine staffing levels, but cannot reduce or change the standards of delivery without the agreement of the Local Authority.

**Q [Alan Dollery]. I accept that it is a completely separate issue, but are the charges for pitches likely to increase?**

A The Local Authority will remain responsible for all income generated through hire charges. Decisions are made by Elected Members and this year the charges will increase by 3%.

**Q The litter in Duck Pond Lane. The Friends do a valuable job but will there be any overlap between Biffa and the new provider for litter collection?**

A The Parks and Countryside Service is responsible for litter picking. It is accepted that improvements are needed in Duck Pond Lane. It is hoped that the new contract will improve standards.

**Q [Chair]: I received reports of broken glass in the children's play area over the weekend, but staff were not available to deal with it at that time. Part of the resolution of the Budget Cabinet last night was that cleaning will be undertaken if necessary during weekends. The resolution is subject to final approval at the Budget Council meeting next week.**

**Q [Cllr Brighthouse] Who makes the Green Flag Award?**

A It is the Civic Society nationally. People are keen to improve the standard of parks and they came up with the idea of the Green Flag. Trained judges use set criteria to judge whether the standards have been met. The process is done annually on an individual basis. A small fee is payable.

There are 12 Green Flags in Wirral and the aim is to increase the number of Green Flags so that everyone who lives in Wirral has access to a Green Flag park.

The Park must have a Friends' Group and the Council works with local Friends' Groups to help the park get the Green Flag.

**Q [Cllr Holbrook] The contractor has to apply for and obtain some kind of affiliation status to the Merseyside Pension Fund, so that transferred staff remain in the Fund. The way it has been done by other contracts if the contractor does not go down that route is to transfer staff to a scheme with comparable benefits. It is extremely likely that any contractor would want the staff to remain within the Merseyside Pension Fund, and we as a Council will be encouraging any contractors to do that because it is the most secure route for our employees.**

The Chair thanked Jim Lester for the presentation.

## **5 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS**

### **Support and advice available from Community Foundations for Merseyside.**

Graham Batey gave a presentation on a range of funding programmes currently administered by the Community Foundation for Merseyside and the themes they target.

The foundation works closely with a range of donors and partners to help them connect with local voluntary and community groups across Merseyside. The foundation undertakes an annual Local Needs Analysis with input from grant applicants, donors, staff and volunteers, to help identify the issues which most need addressing on Merseyside.

Six themes have been identified as the issues most affecting Merseyside this year. These themes feed into the grant programmes on offer and can help make a difference in local communities.

Funds are available for projects which target children and young people, the local community and wider environment, seek to engage the community and increase community participation, tackle worklessness and related problems through training and employment, improve all aspects of people's lives physically, emotionally and socially, and projects based around arts and cultural activities which improve wellbeing and increase community participation.

To be eligible to apply, the organisation must have a Constitution, Accounts, a Bank Statement and, where applicable, a Safeguarding Policy.

Information on the themes is available on the website [www.cfmerseyside.org.uk](http://www.cfmerseyside.org.uk).

Application forms were available at the Area Forum.

The Chair thanked Graham for the presentation.

## **6 NATIONAL LOTTERY**

The Chair welcomed Peter Riley, Wirral Council's National Lottery Project Manager.

Peter explained that for every £1 spent on a national lottery ticket, 28p goes to good causes and funding is distributed to Arts, Heritage, Sport England and the Big Lottery. His role is to help groups in Wirral obtain some of that money.

The Awards for All programme gives grants ranging from £300 to £10,000, and is available to every group provided they have a constitution, a bank account with two signatories, a committee with at least three members, a Chair, Secretary and a Treasurer. Registered charities automatically qualify but this is not a requirement.

Although Lottery regulations do not allow him to write applications for groups, Peter Riley is prepared to look at applications and advise on 'Lottery speak' etc. He urged any community group that is properly constituted and has an idea they want to run with, to contact him and he would offer advice. If a group has had an application rejected in the past, he would be willing to advise how it can be turned around. If he felt that an application did not meet Lottery requirements, he would advise accordingly.

Hundreds of groups across Wirral have bid successfully for grants up to £10,000, receiving in total about £2.5 million just from Awards for All. There are fifteen different programmes that groups can apply for.

Peter would welcome requests for information and would leave his contact details with the Area Co-ordinator.

Peter responded to the questions:

**Q [Cllr Brighthouse]. You do a fantastic job, the money goes to all sorts of groups, but how do you monitor what it is spent on? Do you get to situations where you have to try to recoup funds because they are not being used properly?**

**A** The National Lottery do the monitoring, not me. My job is to help groups get the money. We do not monitor it.

The panel for Awards for All meet monthly. It is an open application process. You can download an application form but they will monitor you. As far as I am aware, there has only been one project in Wirral where funds have been clawed back.

**Q [Mr Dollery]. Does Lottery funding cover paid staff to run the project?**

**A** It depends on which programme you go to. There are many different programmes. To qualify for Awards for All it has to be a new activity, not something you are doing already. Potentially, you can apply for up to £10,000. The lottery will fund equipment, sessional staff to run the programme or activity, but will not fund ongoing costs for rent, heating and lighting. Groups have the opportunity to receive £10,000 within a period of two years from the date of the application.

Reaching Communities provides lottery funding for a new project for a five year period and will fund salaries.

The caveat is that funding is getting very tight and is more competitive. At least three months should be allowed from the date of the application

Lottery funding is not a one-off programme. Groups can re-apply. The Lottery will give feedback on why they think a project does not qualify.

Peter can help groups to re-word the application etc so that groups can re-apply.

The Chair thanked Peter Riley for the presentation.

## **7 VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY ACTION WIRRAL [VCAW]**

The Chair welcomed Linda Denham, Community Support Manager, Community Action Wirral.

Linda Denham explained that VCA Wirral offices are based in The Fire Station, Exmouth Street, Birkenhead, in Wallasey at 220-224 Liscard Road, and in Pennant House, 63 The Village, Bebington.

The mission of VCA Wirral is to provide effective support for local groups, organisations and individuals in order to enhance the quality of people's lives and build strong communities.

The strands are –

Community Support –which offers advice and support on Funding, monitoring performance and quality, Governance, Training and Volunteering.

Community Development – Wirral Link, which is an independent network made up of individuals, community groups and organisations working together to speak as one voice to influence and shape local health and social care services.

Wirral Third Sector Assembly – local third sector organisations which support the creation of local networks and partnership working to improve outcomes for local people by improving communication across all sectors.

Wirral ProHelp provides free professional advice and support to local community groups and voluntary organisations.

Commissioning and procurement – support to organisations and groups by offering a toolkit developed by VCA Wirral.

Business Development offers an online Centre ICT suite, e-learning, branding services, business planning and social enterprise, office rentals, room and equipment hire.

Wirral Compact – an agreement between the public sector and the voluntary and community sector which aims to improve the way they work together.

Linda Denham gave examples of the support available to organisations and some project ideas.

The Chair thanked Linda Denham for an interesting and informative presentation.

## **8 CENSUS 2011**

Frank McGinley explained that he was one of eleven area co-ordinators working under one Census manager for the whole of Wirral. He was co-ordinator for Neston, Claughton and North Prenton.

He began his presentation with a quiz on when the census started, the population of Wirral in 2001, the percentage of returned census forms. All the questions were answered correctly by members of the public.

The census day, 27 March 2011, will be publicised in the media and reminders and information will be given to coincide with popular TV programmes.

The census will provide a snapshot of the population on 27 March 2011 and the information will be used to fund local councils. There is a legal requirement to fill in the census form and non-compliance can lead to a £1,000 fine.

Census forms will be sent by Royal Mail to each address in early March. Returns can be returned via Royal Mail or can be filled in on line. Householders must show everyone who was resident at the address on 27 March.

A collector will call to addresses where the form has not been returned, and this will be followed by a second visit if the form has still not been returned.

Help is available by the helpline 0300 0201 101, by texting 18001,0300 0201 160, via local authorities' support and information services, and local drop in centres.

Cllr Holbrook emphasised the importance of people completing the census because it impacts on the amount of grant that local councils receive.

Frank McGinley responded to questions

**Q Will help be available for the elderly and vulnerable, and people who will not open the door etc and need help?**

A If there is a situation where people know where these people are, they should contact us and we will go in and help in that way. We have a specialist group who will try to access the 'hard to reach'. We also liaise with wardens, etc.

**Q Is anything available to support the Polish community?**

A We have leaflets in Polish and we have a translator. We do on an area basis where we know pockets of people live.

**Q What happens if you are abroad on the day?**

A It is the normal place of residence. I will find the answer to that separately.

**Q Is information passed on? I know private companies can obtain this information from the Census and Council and then send their literature.**

A The Census does not deal with individual properties. No-one will be told the number of bedrooms and gardens etc. It is not broken down. What the Council do I don't know.

A [Bob Beresford]: I'm not sure what you are referring to but I am not aware we would generate any information, and certainly not on a commercial basis. I will discuss the issue separately with you after the meeting, or leave your name and address with the area co-ordinator and you will be contacted.

The Chair thanked Frank McGinley for the presentation.

## **9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Q [Richard Neale]: There is a suggestion that there is a planning application in the Townfield shopping area that might result in a Tesco store, and there are concerns about the validity of the application.**

A [Bob Beresford] I am aware of an application made by a land owner in Townfield Close to vary an existing planning permission. I understand planning permission was given for four small units and the application is to vary that for one larger unit. The application will be going to the Planning Committee at the end of March. People are being consulted on the application and that will be open until the March meeting.

If you have any views you can make representations. Details of the application are on Wirral's website.



A [Cllr Kelly]. I spoke to the Planning Officer this week and she told me she has informed the agent that the Council would expect an application of this sort to be a full application, and not an exchange of conditions.

The name Tesco was in the frame because the agent also deals with Tesco's planning applications.

I have spoken to Claughton councillors so that ward members have a joint approach in reviewing the impact of the proposal on the existing parade. I understand that the Planning Committee is at the end of March but the consultation process is now over.

**Q [Paul Haywood]: Are people in the area aware of this application? People often don't find out what is going on until the construction starts. The Oxtton councillors should be putting a flier out in the Townfield area to highlight the things going on. I was the instigator of a playing field for children in that area. I think it is a shame that you three people who represent this area are not going out and notifying local residents of Townfield, or the school, until after it is approved that there will be a supermarket that will overburden that road, and the school at the corner.**

A [Chair/Cllr Kelly]: It is being done. We are in the process of delivering information in the area of Hargrave/Townfield estates and currently people are being informed. We have not yet been in contact with the school, but yes, we are informing the residents. I have spoken to Councillor George Davies and I am sure he will be informing residents in the Claughton area.

The owner of the post office is organising a petition, so it is unlikely that people who use the post office will be ignorant of the application.

**Q [Mr Dollery] A new sandwich bar/cafe has opened in Prenton Hall Road, and information has been given out about opening hours etc. but I can't get much information other than it was taken over by the owners of the Premier shop.**

A [Cllr Bridson] The premises are owned by Wirral Partnership Homes. We have to find out whether they are setting the conditions or the Council's Planning Department or Licensing Department. The application for the sandwich bar went in several years ago and was not taken up. It is likely that the permission is about to run out and will have to be taken up. We will look into that and let you know.

Minute decision:

Area co-ordinator to liaise with Cllr Bridson to provide an update regarding sandwich bar/café in Prenton Hall Road

## 10 PARTNER UPDATES

The Chair drew attention to the information on Partner Updates and invited questions.

The Area Forum responded to a number of questions and comments on Grit Bins.

Requests for grit bins to be re-located, removed or replaced will be actioned when bins are being installed in new locations. [When making requests for bins, it is important to specify the exact location where bins are required].

A definitive list will be drawn up at the end of the current programme. Ways are being considered of securing the bins and improving their appearance.

**Q [Cllr Kelly]. Referring to the list of carriageway resurfacing, whilst Gerald Road was resurfaced to a high standard, the surface of**

**Shrewsbury Road is very disappointing. The process involved a substance being sprayed onto the carriageway and covered by grit which has since worn away. The dust and chippings spread onto the pavements and are carried into people's homes on their shoes.**

**Using a cheaper method is a false economy because it is likely to involve remedial work and more expenditure later on.**

A [Gary Cummings]. The process used is a cheaper option, but a more expensive option would probably mean that work would not be done.

The process involves sand and stone being driven down into the sprayed service, but loose chippings does not mean that the process has failed. The contractor will be asked to look at Shrewsbury Road and if it has failed to decide what needs to be done to rectify it.

**Q A request was made some time ago for work on the pavements in Cambridge Road. Why have all the paving stones been taken up in Woodchurch Road and replaced with tarmac?**

A There is constant vehicle override in Woodchurch Road and tarmac is the best material in these circumstances; it avoids the need to return time and time again to repair/replace paving stones

**Q [Cllr Realey] People pay to park at Arrowe Park Hospital, but the car parks have so many holes they are dangerous.**

A [Gary Cummings] Hospital car parks are not the responsibility of the Council  
Sandra Shannon [WUTHT] offered to take back the matter.

**Q [Mr Dollery]. The island outside the post office and the library in Prenton. If Gary looks at the records people are there every week putting the kerbstones back. I had a letter from Gary twelve months ago stating he was looking into the matter. Have you any thought on taking the whole island away?**

A [Gary Cummins]: Some work will be done tomorrow morning to do with physically removing the island and re-aligning it. The way forward is to remove the island. Information is being collated on all the money spent on the island in the last two years to justify the expenditure needed to remove the island. Hopefully, the island will be removed in the next financial year.

**Q [Cllr. Bridson] Has anyone any comments to make on the new traffic lights on the island on the M53? The feedback I am receiving is that everyone is happy. There were 62 incidents in the last year, and none since the new scheme was introduced. Has anyone any complaints?**

A [Mr Dollery] There was one comment in the Press that the lights were like Christmas lights, but it is a massive improvement in the area.

Minute decision:

WUHT to provide an update regarding car park surfaces at Arrowe Park Hospital

## **11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and venue for the next meeting will be confirmed.

The Chair thanked everyone and closed the meeting of the Area Forum at 9pm

## Matters arising

**Car park surfaces at Arrowe Park Hospital:** Car parks have been reviewed and appear in fairly good condition.

### **Ownership of sandwich bar, Prenton Hall Road, Response from Environmental Health Department and Asset Management Department**

- No Pest Activity: Environmental Health assured Wirral Partnership Homes following a site visit prior to opening that no pest activity was noted on the premises. Further monitoring visits will be made
- Food Hygiene: the owner of the sandwich business has been advised of the standards required to meet food hygiene legislation and was supplied with a food registration form.
- Opening times: planning permission was granted for the shop to trade between 8am and 6.30 pm Monday to Friday and not on Sundays or bank holidays. (the shop is often closed by 4pm.)
- Seating: planning permission is for cafe/sandwich bar use which allows seating.
- Supply to other shops: The food prepared at this shop can be supplied to other shops.

## 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.

They involve local ward councillors, police, NHS Wirral, University Teaching Hospital Trust, fire safety representatives etc along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council.

Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.



# Community Safety Update

**Legal action against the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour have included:**

**WIRRAL  
ANTI-SOCIAL  
BEHAVIOUR  
TEAM**

## **Reported January 2011:**

- Two 12-year old cousins from **Birkenhead** were issued with interim Anti-Social Behaviour Orders pending a full hearing (see below);

## **Reported February 2011:**

- Two 12-year old cousins from **Birkenhead** were issued with 2-year Anti-Social Behaviour Orders following alleged anti-social behaviour including abusive behaviour and the harassment of local businesses and their customers.

## **Reported March 2011:**

- 16-year old female was issued with an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Order pending a full hearing (see below).

## **Reported April 2011:**

- 16-year old female was issued with a 2-year Anti-Social Behaviour Order following a catalogue of abusive and threatening behaviour.

### **➤ 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.**

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

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

At the beginning of May the Trust launched a widespread staff and public engagement programme, called *Treating you well into the future*. A 28 page staff and public engagement document which outlined the proposals for change was published on the Trust's website at: [www.whnt/nhs.uk/treatingyouwellintothefuture/](http://www.whnt/nhs.uk/treatingyouwellintothefuture/), circulated widely to staff and key stakeholders and promoted within the local community.

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 and recognising that the Trust needs to make the best use of these hospitals, avoiding duplication of services and working more efficiently.

The 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.

During the engagement period, which ended on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011, we actively sought 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.

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 and the outcome of the engagement programme will be widely communicated during July.

## **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.

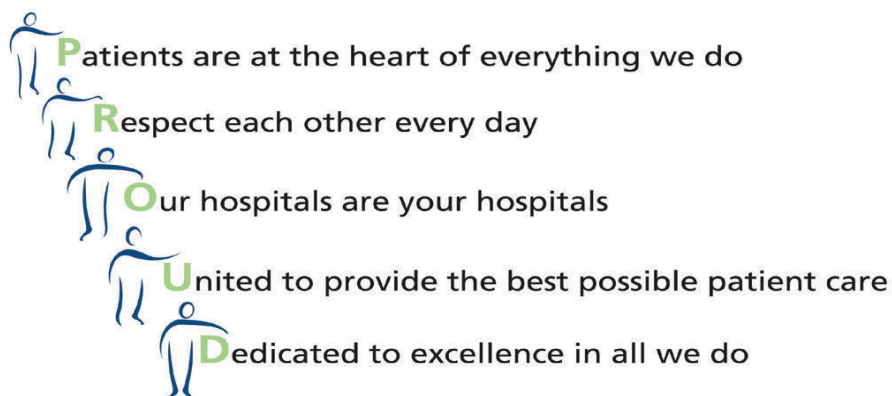
### **Oxygen Services**

- 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

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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.

## YOUTH SERVICE

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 and 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.

**Birkenhead Youth Hub** (Shaftsbury YC). The Hub's dance troupe organised a Dance Show for family and friends and raised £900, with half the money raised being donated to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Young people produced art work to celebrate Chinese New Year and display material was produced to highlight Holocaust Awareness Day. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is now up and running with growing interest shown from the Young people

**North Birkenhead Outreach Team.** A group of young people were successful with a Youth Opportunity Fund bid earlier in the year. The last of the positive activities have been taking place over the past few months and they have included: Oaklands weekend, relationship and sex education workshops, mountain biking in Delamere Forest, theatre trips and bowling.

## STREETSCENE

### *Traffic Management Updates*

The following Traffic Management scheme has been completed since the last round of Area Forum reports:

- Townfield Lane, Oxton – Vehicle Activated Sign

### **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 are:

Road Name	Limits	Ward	Estimate £s	Category
Aylesbury Avenue	All	Oxton	25,000	Structural Footway
Banbury Way	All	Oxton	25,000	Structural Footway
Bidston Road	Wexford Road to Ashburton Road	Oxton	10,000	Surface Treatment to Footway
Budworth Road	All	Oxton	27,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Grafton Street	All	Oxton	5,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Holm Lane	Overton Way to Talbot Road and Davenham Avenue to Redwood Close	Oxton	50,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Ingestre Road/Mill Hill	Storeton Road to Talbot Road	Oxton	45,000	Structural Carriageway
Wexford Road	All	Oxton	19,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Woodchurch Road	Palmwood Close to Prenton Dell Road	Oxton/Prenton	45,000	Structural Carriageway
Woodchurch Road	Holm Lane junction	Oxton/Prenton	20,000	Structural Carriageway
Woodchurch Road	Duck Pond Lane junction	Oxton/Prenton	30,000	Structural Carriageway

Woodchurch Road	Holmlands Drive to Bowness Avenue	Oxton/Prenton	20,000	Structural Footway
Garrick Road	All	Prenton	40,000	Structural Footway
Golf Links Road	All	Prenton	17,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Johnson Road	All	Prenton	25,000	Structural Footway
North Road	All	Prenton	16,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Parkvale Avenue	All	Prenton	14,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Prenton Road West	All	Prenton	26,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Prenton Way	All	Prenton	33,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Rocky Bank Road	All	Prenton	9,500	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Waring Avenue	All	Prenton	5,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor

#### *Network Condition and Assessment Criteria*

- i. 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:
- ii. In accordance with national best practice the Council undertakes surveys of the highway network in order to determine the condition of the carriageways.
- iii. Areas of constant repairs; mainly due to vehicle over-ride; are highlighted in the Highway Inspectors' safety inspections.
- iv. Particular roads brought to the Council's attention, as warranting significant repair, by Area Forums, Elected Members, the public and Streetscene officers.

- v. Feedback from the Council's Term Maintenance Contractor regarding the suitability of different repair solutions depending on the existing road condition and use
- vi. 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 - Prenton High School For Girls
- Green Facilities Champion - 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 Carolyne Hankey on 0151 606 5448, [carolyne.a.hankey@merseyside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:carolyne.a.hankey@merseyside.pnn.police.uk).



Cheshire and Wirral Partnership   
NHS Foundation Trust

## Leading professor opens Gilmore Unit

A leading professor unveiled a new treatment unit on behalf of CWP Alcohol Service in February.

The service, which is run by Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) and provides advice and support for people with alcohol related problems, recently relocated onto the St Catherine's hospital site and named its new home 'The Gilmore Unit' in honour of Professor Sir Ian Gilmore, who is widely recognised for his work in the field of substance misuse.



Professor Sir Ian Gilmore, who was knighted in the 2010 Queen's Birthday Honours, said: "At last people on the Wirral with addiction problems can be cared for in state of the art facilities that show that they deserve as much support and respect as those with other types of issues with their health."

John Saunders, a Wirral resident and former service user, said: “The pressure and emotions experienced by someone receiving treatment for an addiction are extremely complex and can be affected by any number of external factors. Receiving treatment in an environment as bright and welcoming as the Gilmore Unit will be a massive boost to current and future service users.

”CWP were instrumental in helping me to turn my life around and with this facility they will be able to do the same for so many people in the future.”

Anyone currently experiencing alcohol related problems can contact CWP Alcohol Service on 0800 988 1421 for impartial advice and support.

### **CWP launch North West carers strategy**

Over 100 people attended the North West launch of the ‘Triangle of Care’ strategy in February.

The event, run in partnership with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, aimed at strengthening and building partnerships with carers and families.



Nigel Crompton, CWP service development manager, said: “Carers were invited to come along to discuss and learn more about care planning and treatment of people with mental health issues in acute inpatient and home treatment services. We were really pleased to see so many representatives from all eight mental health Trusts across the North West.

Speakers on the day included Paul Rooney, the national acute care programme lead, and Alan Worthington, the carer advisor to the national acute care programme.

### **Wirral learning disability unit amongst UK elite**

A learning disability unit in Oxton has received national recognition for the level of service it provides.

Kent House, which is operated by Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP), has been awarded the Accreditation for Inpatient Mental Health Services for Learning Disabilities (AIMS-LD) by the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Centre for Quality Improvement, one of only seven units in the UK to have achieved this.



Adrian Moss, CWP’s general manager for learning disability services, said: “This is excellent news. The AIMS-LD quality mark is much coveted and the standards of service required to obtain it are extremely difficult to achieve. The staff at Kent House deserve to be recognised for the work they do and the difference they make to people’s lives.”



Andy Styring, CWP's director of operations, said: "We are proud of the level at which our learning disability services operate. This achievement rightly ranks the Kent House unit amongst the best in the country."

### **CWP gets 'back on track' with Wirral students**

A national pilot to get Wirral mental health service users "back on track" with their education has been hailed a success.



The twelve week programme, which started in January and is run in partnership with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's Early Intervention Team, Wirral and Wirral MET College, enables CWP clients to improve their confidence, build self esteem, and start working towards a full or part time course at the college.

Robert Lupton, CWP lead practitioner within the Wirral early intervention team, said: "The course has seen young people with considerable difficulties, low self esteem and poor motivation, make dramatic steps in their recovery. We hope to run the course again soon on the back of this success"

CWP's early intervention team client, James, said: "It has less of a classroom feel about it, first time I've looked forward to something in a while. It gives me different things to do and it's the first time I've spoken out loud in a class so this has given me confidence."

Sue Higginson, assistant principal from Wirral MET College, said: "This is part of our Personal Community Development Learning Programme, designed specifically to support people in our community who suffer from a range of mental health related issues. I am delighted to see what a difference it is making!"

### **Service users sample European glory**

Service users of a local mental health trust (CWP) were given the rare opportunity to lift one of Liverpool Football Club's European Cups.

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's (CWP) Early Intervention Team on the Wirral were visited by an official from LFC who was accompanied by the trophy that the club captured so famously in 2005.



Robert Lupton, a lead practitioner for CWP's Early Intervention team, said: "The service users were thrilled to be able to have their photograph taken with the trophy. They were also able to discuss their physical health and well-being with Liverpool's community workers and received goody bags and signed posters from the club."

He continued: "We work in regular partnership with Liverpool Football club, who offer our service users free coaching sessions as well as tickets for reserves team matches and tours of the club museum."

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