

# AREA FORUM (HESWALL AND PENSBY & THINGWALL)

Wednesday, 29 February 2012

## Present:

Councillor	L Rowlands (Chair)
Councillors	P Johnson R Wilkins M Johnston
Lead Officer	Jim Lester
Senior Consultation Manager	Tracey Smith
Community Safety	Jim Thompson, Mike Collins
Merseyside Police	Inspector Mick Blease
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service	Keith Woodhams, Natalie Hayes
Apologies	Mark Armstrong, Councillor Hodson, Councillor McCubbin

## 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- *Minutes are a summary only, issues raised with individual officers after the main meeting are actioned separately with the relevant officer, minutes from area forums will highlight the main actions only.*

Welcomed over 60 members of public to the Heswall, Pensby & Thingwall Area Forum.

## 2 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Tracey Smith gave a presentation on “your neighbourhood” The street where you live theme, part of the Neighbourhood Plan for the area.

### **Key Points that were highlighted for the area forum to address:**

- **Road Safety & Maintenance**
  - Parking
  - Speeding
  - Pedestrian crossing
  - Pot holes
  - Uneven pavements

- **Street Cleanliness**
  - Weekly collections for green bins
  - Dog fouling
- **Parks & Leisure**
  - Improve play areas
  - Recreational facilities

**What next:** June 2012 - all 11 area forums will cover the next themes of “Your Family” and “Your Economy”. All themes will be collated and form an action plan to address issues and developments for the local area.

### 3 **PARTNER UPDATES**

- **Fire Service - Natalie Hayes**

The Wirral District is led by Paul Murphy who has overall responsibility for the 6 Community Fire Stations along with the Wirral Community Safety Team which is located at Wallasey Fire Station. The Community Safety Team is a cross functional team which consists of both operational and advocacy staff, and is structured to focus on the Prevention and Protection of Wirral’s communities through engagement with the most vulnerable individuals in our communities.

Wirral Community Safety Team are currently developing and publishing a Wirral Community Safety Plan which will be accompanied by 6 Wirral Community Fire Stations Plans that are linked to the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan.

We have held a series of planning meetings at local fire stations, involving partners and staff in the design and delivery of community safety activities to improve responsiveness to local needs. The Plans recognise the diverse nature of the communities of Wirral and will enable our Community Safety activity to be tailored specifically to the needs of the local community and complement the delivery of agreed local priorities.

The initiatives within each of the plans will be bespoke to that area however there will be cross cutting themes for the Wirral which will include:

- The reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires, Deaths & Injuries
- Road Traffic Collisions Education and Reduction
- Reduction in incidents of arson and anti-social behavior
- Seasonal Activities – Fire Watch & Bonfire Strategy

Some of the more innovative initiatives which will be included will be:

- Homeless project
- Excess winter death initiative
- Fire Fit Active Challenge

Feedback on Bonfire period for 2011 – extremely successful on Wirral with an obvious decrease in ASB fires across the District. Local events supported this with Beechwood & Ballantyne and Ridgeway High School holding bonfire night events.

- **Merseyside Police - Inspector Mick Blease**

Gave an update on the services they run i.e. Have Your Say meetings, Surgeries and One to One sessions that residents can attend to raise issues.

Team/Staff are not being reduced only downsized, we have lost a PCSO as they have moved to Wallasey. There has been a review of all PCSO's and they are spread across Wirral. This area still has 7 PCSO's.

Heswall is a safe area including Hoylake and West Kirby.

- 172 less ASB's by 30%
- Domestic Violence down by 29%
- House burglaries down by 50%
- Theft from burglaries down by 30%
- 17 arrests in connection with 3 robberies of off license – this is under review and there is a team of officers working on this.

- **Community Safety – Jim Thompson/Mike Collins**

Mike Collins gave update on the development of the Dog Fouling Enforcement Team they now have 5 permanent officers tackling this, have issued over 70 tickets, currently working in parks and open spaces, service operates 7 days a week and covers the whole of Wirra including roads/pavements. Officers are in uniform but also operate non-uniform tackling hot stop areas. Also working with local schools on educating our young people. Fixed penalties have been issued at £50, this is a criminal offence and worse cases can go to court and be fined up to £1,000 and a criminal record.

Working in partnership with Police on project called "Stay Safe" service operates 24/7 and includes the security of parks.

Councilor Mark Johnston spent half day with the Dog Fouling Team and found it valuable and to learn about their service. Mark has given the team a list of priority roads that need monitoring.

Jim Thompson informed the forum of the partnership working between Fire, Police, and Council addressing crime and safety. All organisations are working towards the bon fire strategy plan for 2012.

#### 4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

##### **Pensby Road**

- Resident has lost their white lines o/s there house due to the resurfacing on this Road
  - Mark Johnston advised that Pensby Road will be resurfaced again and it wasn't completed this will be at a cost to Colas

##### **Grit Bins**

- All funding has been allocated for 2011/2012 – new request for a grit bin on Telegraph Road/Pensby Road by Lloyds Bank
- Lack of Grit Bins in Wirral Partnership Home area – Tracey Smith to liaise with WPH

##### **CCTV**

- CCTV provision needed in Heswall/Crossroads – Jim Thompson to liaise with Ian Lowrie and feedback to Tracey Smith
  - There is no additional funding for CCTV

##### **Reporting Incidents**

- Resident wanted to report a racial discrimination/harassment incident. Visited local police station and was told they couldn't deal with this sort of complaint and sent her to another police station.
  - Mick Blease informed the forum that the SIGMA Team is based at Bebington and that he will look into this

## Signage

- Request for better/additional signage needed near Bridge, Farmhall Drive, Wirral Way etc regarding lorries and heavy traffic

## Traffic Issues

- **Free Parking** starts at 3pm, can it be earlier or free
  - Mark Johnston informed the forum free parking after 3pm, costs the Council over 400,000 per year, this is a new initiative and council will review this.
- **Free parking** around Ravenscroft, this is being used by Taxis and there is little or no parking for customers, Heswall Taxis to be investigated. Tracey Smith to liaise with Technical Services on this matter.

**Response from Technical Services Department** - This is something that has been raised in recent years and it would appear there is no formal action that can be taken. The taxis are private motor vehicles and re classed the same as other vehicles in that they can park there for 1 hour Monday to Saturday 8am- 6pm. Outside of these times it is unrestricted. We are unable to stop them for parking there unless they exceed the time restriction.

- **Request for Report/Information on all Car Parking Charges** for Wirral. Suggestion made is that some car parks don't pay for themselves and therefore would be beneficial to be free.

Jim Lester informed the forum that there has to be a balance between car parking charges, free parking and limited parking i.e. one or two hours etc as if all car parking was free this would not help parking and may be taken for granted. Jim Lester to look into providing report/information on charges to report back to the next forum meeting in June 2012.

- **Parking around Heswall** needs reviewing and the introduction of parking charges as people park there all day and get the bus to Liverpool, leaving no spaces for local people to park and shop.
- **Kylemore/Fishers Lane** – problems with speeding cars, lorries parking, double parking. There are 3 primary schools within this area, and parking is awful, dangerous parking, parking over people's drives especially round school times. A petition of over 1000 signatures has been submitted and residents would like something done about it
  - Schools have a walking bus service and encourage cycle initiatives, Tracey advised the forum that speeding is a priority for the forum area and is part of the neighbourhood plan findings
- **Boundary Lane/Miner Road** to be reviewed as they are having problems with parking especially on double yellow lines. Police to look into this.
- **Parking on pavements** especially in the Pensby area and Birches Close – to be reviewed and Tracey to liaise with Wirral Partnership Homes on this matter.
- **20 MPH** - There has been a budget allocated to address speeding especially around the 20mph schemes. £275,000 will be used in high risk areas including residential areas near schools.
- **Pensall House** - What is happening with this building was used by Age Concern.
  - Response from Asset Management - The Council owns Pensall House. Although it has mostly been vacated Age UK Wirral still operates a day care

service for it. They will eventually vacate the accommodation they use in Pensall House and move services to other locations, once this has been done We will then dispose of Pensall House

- **Young Drivers** – to look into a campaign for young people to carry no more than one passenger, suggestion for the forum to write to local MP on looking into this. Other options to liaise with Youth Parliament, any new law has to go to the Houses of Parliament. Police raised concerns about what would the penalties be and how would it be enforced also not all young people drive dangerously.
  - Young or recently qualified drivers have been given a cash incentive to improve their driving skills by taking an advanced driving course. In an initiative from our Road Safety team motorists aged between 17 and 25 can obtain £70 off a 'Pass Plus' or 'Skill for Life' course. To obtain their vouchers, young drivers must attend a 'Drive 2 Arrive' workshop delivered by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service. The interactive workshop uses real life photos and video clips along with road safety advertisements deemed too graphic to be broadcast in Great Britain. The workshops highlight to youngsters the 5 main dangers they face; speeding, mobile phones, seatbelts, drink/drug driving and showing off. By taking the 'Pass Plus' or 'Skill for Life' course, young drivers can gain experience of driving on motorways, something they will never have experienced on their driving lessons, as well as driving at night, in poor weather conditions and on rural roads and busy town centres. The scheme has full backing of the newly formed Wirral Road Safety Practitioners Forum, made up of the emergency services, driving schools and instructors, transport providers, School Governors, the Older People's Parliament, Road Peace and other services involved with making our roads safer.

Statistics show that new drivers are more likely to have an accident in the first two years after passing their test because of their lack of driving experience. If you know a young driver who would benefit from the scheme they can register at [www.wirral.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/roadsafety)

Response from Road Safety Department - Currently there are no legal restrictions on how many passengers a qualified driver can take, but there are some examples of limitations being applied in other Countries. The Government will need to lead on this but as an authority we could be supportive of it ourselves. Road Safety are considering how they might develop a "young drivers contract" between newly qualified/young drivers and their parents which would suggest something similar but only on a voluntary basis for those who signed up to it. This will take some time to develop and promote.

**Road Safety within Schools** – Fire Service visit schools and educate young people, however they have struggled to try and visit the following schools: Caldby 6<sup>th</sup> Formers and Neston 6<sup>th</sup> Formers. Tracey Smith to liaise with David Rees in Road Safety.

**Public Transport** – lack of Transport for the local area especially in the evenings. Young people can not travel to places and they don't have anything to do.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Van was stopped and issued with a traffic order, concerns have been raised by residents with people going round taking items from properties without permission, also items that have been left out for charity organizations, these have also been taken by others. Police are looking into this seriously, as scrap is quite valuable and this can be taken to any scrap yard and bought/sold no questions asked.

- Date of next forum will be: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at Pensby Primary School, Greenbank Drive, Pensby CH61 5UE
- Anyone who is interested in being part of the Neighbourhood Plan developments to contact the Community Engagement Team. Tel: 0151 691 8026 email: [traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk)