

# AREA FORUM (LISCARD AND SEACOMBE)

Wednesday, 20 February 2013

## Present:

Councillors	D Dodd AER Jones C Jones B Mooney J Salter J Williamson
Police Commissioner	Jane Kennedy
Community Representatives	Carole Thomas, Carol Seery
Faith Representative	Father Leon Ostaszewski
Lead Officer	Mark Camborne
Neighbourhood Officer	Michelle Gray
Street Scene Manager	Chris Jones
Community Safety	Mike Collins
Merseyside Fire & Rescue	Mike Buratti
Merseyside Police	Inspector Justin Diggins
In Attendance	Heidi Jones (Community Alcohol Partnership) Ema Boddison (Minute Taker), Helen Gallagher (Neighbourhoods & Engagement)

## 1 **WELCOME**

The Chair, Councillor Darren Dodd, welcomed forum members and 7 members of the public.

### **Mark Camborne read a statement regarding Neighbourhood Working Statement:**

*A report proposing a new approach for Neighbourhood Working was recommended by Cabinet in January, and will now be voted on by all Councillors in the coming weeks.*

*The new Neighbourhood Working Approach will create four Neighbourhood teams in Wirral and devolve decision making and budgets directly to local communities.*

*It aims to tackle issues at source and target resources based on the needs of individual areas. Budgets and decision making would be devolved to local areas, to be designated according to need.*

*Multi-agency teams, made up of public services including the local authority, police, and health, would be based in communities.*

*The move will result in the abolition of the existing 11 Area Forums.*

*Instead, local committees, chaired by Councillors and working with residents, would have a key role in drawing down and allocating resources, based on a Neighbourhood plan which would have strong input from local people.*

*The benefits of joining up services and sharing knowledge are already well documented, reducing costs, promoting good practice, and enabling early intervention to reduce the demands on public services. Not only can they result in better, more effective services, but they are the way forward in terms of working more closely and effectively with Members, partners, and local people.*

*Wirrals budget deficit is well documented, and initial reports that this new way of working can not only reduce costs, but also result in better outcomes for local people, can only be welcomed.*

*Wirral still has a way to go in finalising plans for Neighbourhood Teams, but it is proposed that a Neighbourhood Team will be established in each of Wirrals' four Parliamentary constituency areas, with staff and services being located within them.*

*Each team will be report to its own Public Service Board, which includes public services such as the Council, Police, Health and Education. This team will co-ordinate the delivery of a Neighbourhood Plan.*

*The Neighborhood Plans will be produced by each area's Constituency Committee, to be chaired by a Councillor and including councillors, community representatives, voluntary and community sector representatives, and - by invitation - the local MP. This plan will outline each area's needs and priorities.*

*An over-arching Wirral Together Public Service Board will have overall responsibility for the successful implementation of the scheme and for the Neighbourhood Plans.*

*Should the proposal be agreed, teams will begin working in communities from May 1.*

**Neighbourhood Funding** - Michelle Gray, Advised the forum that £30,000 had been released to each of the 11 Neighbourhood Forums for them to allocate accordingly the Liscard & Seacombe Panel met on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and agreed to fund a number of applications. Difficult decisions had to be made and with only having £30,000 to allocate this Neighbourhood Forum was heavily over subscribed receiving over 40 applications. Panel wanted to support those local groups that operated within the Liscard and Seacombe wards and for all residents to benefit especially young people and older people and those who are vulnerable to benefit from these successful bids.

- *Please note those organisations that were successful have been listed and the end of these minutes*

**Police Commissioner** - Jane Kennedy explained she has been newly elected to replace the Police Authority. She went on to explain how she receives a budget from the Government to commission then pass onto the Police. Jane Kennedy has requested an increase in Council Tax of 2% which will introduce a revenue of nearly £900,000. She went onto explain how she will manage the commissioning of voluntary organisations who help reduce crime. She will consult on police and crime action plan and set priorities for policing which Merseyside Police Forces will adopt (questionnaires where available at the meeting)

**Public member** – the Chief Constable of Merseyside met people from Wirral and he said his priorities were the neighbourhoods and residents.

**Jane Kennedy** – I meet with Chief Constable every 2 weeks and he has made it very clear his dedication to neighbourhood policing

**Cllr Adrian Jones** –First of all congratulations. I was a member of the Police Authority for 5 years and an analysis was made that the 17 Councillors who were members worked 179 hours per week – How are you coping? How would you do what 17 Councillors done?

**Jane Kennedy** – I have to make the best of a situation and I have a good team of staff and between us we are doing all the statutory duties we are required to do. I am certainly working 6 days a week and many evenings.

**Cllr Bernie Mooney** – first of all thank you for choosing our area forum. I sense a change in the community. When I started we had severe problems but these have been contained thanks to Justin. However, because of the change of benefits I am sensing a change and a shift in localism and peoples values. I am worried about the way people are feeling.

**Jane Kennedy** – there is clearly a cause of anxiety but I would say it is too early to say. I feel we are still in the early days of cuts and more people are looking for work so there will be more anxiety in society. I hope it proves not to be the case.

**Inspector Justin Diggins** – with regards to the social housing element in terms of crime we have seen a slight increase in shoplifting where people who have lost their job and need to feed the family.

**Cllr Jeanette Williamson** – Congratulations. One of the issues you have prioritised is domestic violence. I think this is becoming a defining issue and this is also a big priority for me and I am glad you are prioritising this.

**Father Leon Ostaszewski** – I was chairman of Churches together for 6 years and we are having a meeting with the Chief Executive and we were wondering if you be able to attend anything like that?

**Jane Kennedy** – yes of course.  
With regards to domestic violence it is a big issue for example, peoples drinking habits have changed since the smoking ban in pubs so people are buying drink from

shops and taking it home. Therefore, Police are seeing more domestic violence cases and less drunk and disorderly. What I want to do is make sure we get the best service we can.

**Cllr John Salter** – Merseyside Police decided 3 years ago to combine all Police Stations and move to Birkenhead North. I was wondering if you could be our advocate and this started?

**Jane Kennedy** – I have to yet to look at details. When the Police Authority was in place there was a strong view to get this started.

**Cllr Darren Dodd** – how can people contact you?

**Actions:**

- Advise Father Leon Ostaszewski to contact the office directly to extend an invitation to the Commissioner? He can do this via email [info@merseysidepcc.info](mailto:info@merseysidepcc.info) or he can phone in 0151 236 4748.
- Cllr John Salter asked about developments re the Wirral Area Command Centre, the Commissioner said she would look into this.

**Contact for the Commission:**

**Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside:**

**Tel:** 0151 285 5509

**Website:** <http://www.merseysidepcc.info>

**twitter:** [@MerseysidePCC](https://twitter.com/MerseysidePCC)

**email:** [jane.kennedy@merseysidepcc.info](mailto:jane.kennedy@merseysidepcc.info)

## 2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Approved

## 3 EAST WALLASEY COMMUNITY ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIP

Launched on the 25th February 2013, it is the first CAP in the North West. Targeting the Seacombe through to New Brighton Area. The aim is 'To create a culture where young people drink responsibly, minors are only able to access alcohol under responsible and informed supervision, and safe consumption limits are understood'.

Although CAP's form part of the Government's alcohol strategy, it is very much about tailoring the project to the local needs using existing local resources.

The main areas of work will focus on reducing under 18's access to alcohol, through underage sales work; reducing proxy sales; as a consequence we should see a reduction in alcohol related anti social behaviour and look to improve the health of young people in the long term. One of the main aims of the CAP is working in partnership with local licensed premises and seeing them as being part of the solution.

Partners involved in the project include; Trading Standards, Wirral Licensing, Community Safety, Merseyside Police and their Police Licensing section, Targeted and Universal Youth Support, including Response and Sports and Recreation. The CAP also looks to engage the local retailers and community/voluntary groups.

The CAP will focus on educating children, parents, retailers and the public about the dangers of children drinking and we will look to change the perceptions that underage drinking or buying alcohol on behalf of children is acceptable. In addition, though to be used as a last resort, non-compliance will be dealt with through enforcement.

**Public Member** – Liscard Partnership are concerned re: off licences selling alcohol and the fact that there seems to be a new off licence opening every week.

**Heidi Jones** – the licensing department will be able to help you with that. I will put you in touch with them.

## 4 PARTNER UPDATES INCLUDING - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**Police – Inspector Justin Diggins** – I would like to commend Heidi for her presentation this is a golden opportunity for the next 6-12 months. People breaking in homes is not an issue in this area. Urged public if they have a UPVC door please lock the door and not just lift the door handle. Don't leave keys near the door. He also warned people of shed security and garages.

**Community Safety – Mike Collins** – Unfortunately break ins in schools have risen but we have been at the seen quite quick. Urged public if they see anyone suspicious to report them. Explained community safety operate over 100 cameras over Wirral. Mike explained her was the manager in charge of the dog fouling team which has been successful and also community safety are in partnership with trading standards with regards to cold callers and trying to get people to report them. Bonfire night was successful and community safety now have super soakers in the back of their vans which saves fire engines being called to small fires.

**Merseyside Fire and Rescue – Mike Buratti** – bonfire was extremely successful one of the highest performing in Merseyside down by 36%. Managed to identify youths involved in fires and we are now working with them. Road traffic collisions are down. Accidental dwelling fires are down.

**Public Member** – we have been granted traffic calmers in King Street. Seen people measuring; when will this been done?

**Chris Jones** – I have meeting with Colas and we try to manage work on highway as best as possible. There is a meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February to go through the job and give us a programme date. I will push tomorrow for a start date and get back to you.

**Public member** – could you explain why you have gone ahead with a zebra crossing outside the Boot Inn when there was no need to replace it?

**Chris Jones** – I will take your details and get back to you.

**Cllr John Salter** – it is on the left hand side as you go around by the Boot Inn. It will be put back in when work has finished.

**Cllr Bernie Mooney** – mentioned in last forum re: Windhey and you came along and put black stuff in but its back again and holes appearing all up the road.

**Chris Jones** – under section 58 of the Highways act we have a duty of care. We are constantly monitoring this notice so we have put united utilities on notice to say we feel they have a problem with their sewer.

**The Chair Cllr Darren Dodd thanked all who attended and closed the meeting.**

## 5 NEXT AREA FORUM MEETING

Future Meetings will be advertised on the internet [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) or alternatively contact Michelle Gray [michellegray@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:michellegray@wirral.gov.uk) (0151 691 8213) for further information about future meetings.

### Additional Information:

Organisation	Project Details	Awarded a contribution of:
The Open Door	To deliver Beating the Blues to 200 young people. Beating the Blues is	

Centre	<p>the most results driven CCBT available and the recommended treatment for mild / moderate depression and anxiety in recent National Institute for Clinical Excellence guidelines. Young people who complete the course show distinct improvement in quality of life and prospects, The link between depression, alienation and drug use is well documented. Whilst we help young people to cope in the immediacy, the course also works in a preventative capacity to prevent the young person's condition deteriorating further. Depression and anxiety are very common but there is a reluctance to access support, due to stigma. This reluctance is a key contributor to suicide being the biggest killer of men under 35 in the UK, our centre strives to directly address. Of our 54 service users who have completed or currently undertaking the program since opening 8 months ago over 40% have accessed no previous support, despite displaying long term symptoms. Young people see us as a more approachable, friendly and accessible avenue of support. There will be many thousands of secondary beneficiaries such as the friends, family and loved ones of a young person currently experiencing these issues.</p>	<b>£2,000.00</b>
Liscard & Egremont Partnership	<p>The funding is for the printing of a newsletter. The newsletter provides information to the local community about events, issues in the area. The funding will provide for 5/6 editions of the news letter.</p>	<b>£747</b>
The Lesbian & Gay Foundation (The LGF)	<p>Funding would enable us to run an awareness raising campaign targeting LGB people in the Wirral in order to raise awareness of: Legal rights, What hate crimes and incidents there are and how to report it, Where victims of hate can access relevant services to support their wellbeing. Following engagement with groups and organisations in the Wirral, we are aware that LGB communities within the area suffer from limited visibility, and our project would work to combat this. We would distribute a number of support and information resources throughout each Wirral neighbourhood area, aiming to increase LGB people's community safety through, Distribution of 'Schools Packs' providing tools for schools to tackle homophobic bullying, Distribution of a hate crime awareness raising poster campaign and information resource, Distribution of our 'I Exist' guide which contains information about legal rights and ways in which discrimination can be challenged. Development of a Neighbourhood level leaflet and poster containing information about local provision, ensuring that LGB people have access to relevant and LGB-affirmative support services. Outreach activity at relevant events (one in each area) to further raise awareness amongst mainstream service providers and the wider community.</p>	<b>£750</b>
Wirral Intensive Family Support Group	<p>We are currently expanding our service user participation group and developing a volunteer service to assist families support. We are finding this difficult due to the complex and difficult needs of the families and would use funding to provide a mixture of fun events providing a chance for parents and children to support each other working with volunteers. Great facilities within the children's centres will be utilised and the goal will be for our staff to train volunteers who in turn will train parents as "Mentors". This will give a sense of worth, achievement and learning.</p> <p>Within the programme we would like to invite specialist speakers as many of the families we would with have difficulty in accessing services or have a negative view of agencies, we would be working with the ASB team, area team leaders, schools, Parenting and Wirral Autistic Society, Police and other key agencies. We have a group of parents who are keen and willing and we are in the process of recruiting suitable volunteers. This is not a time limited event but funding will enable us to get it up and running and then volunteers and parents will look at further sustainable funding streams.</p>	<b>£500</b>
Wirral Joint Community Safety Team	<p>To address anti-social behaviour, fly tipping and burglary etc in residential areas with the installation of alleygates, areas have been highlighted by local residents and elected members. Funding will cover the installation of alleygates including consultation, installation and key distribution, all residents with an interest in the alleyway to be gated will</p>	<b>£3,500</b>

	directly benefit. In addition there is a diffusion of benefit to the immediate area which was demonstrated by research conducted by Liverpool University. So adjacent areas will also benefit from the installations of the gates.	
New Brighton Junior Rugby	The funding is for the continued running of the junior rugby section at New Brighton. We require replacement balls and other protective equipment, on an annual basis we also have a training commitment for basic life support techniques and also to up skills for current coaches and ensure new coaches are at the required level demanded by the Rugby Football Union. There is also a requirement for further appropriate training for coaches dependent on the age of the junior players, and an expectation that they take part in continued professional development this is to ensure that the young people are taught /coached the correct techniques so as to reduce injuries to themselves and others the courses are purchased through the governing body the RFU.	<b>£380</b>
Memories Singing Group	Our volunteer musicians and singers come from across Wirral to perform for vulnerable and disabled people. Some do not have their own transport so rely on other volunteers for lifts. The volunteers help each other wherever possible. We give the car drivers a small amount of 'petrol money' every couple of months which, although not covering their costs, at least shows them that they are appreciated. I (Angela Fidgeon) set the group up and do all the organising. I also use my car to carry song books for singers and audiences and I collect between one and four other members however due to medical reasons I will have to give up driving. I have spoken to HelpLink in Irby who provide volunteer drivers and who are willing to provide one or two dedicated drivers at a reasonable cost to collect me, the books and other members who need lifts. Both of the above are requested for funding for volunteer drivers in order to keep the group going.	<b>£1,200</b>
The Friends of Wallasey Central Library	To continue the installation of C.C.T.V on the outside of the Library with forum funding we have already installed the first part of a C.C.T.V system to the Library. This system only covers a small part of the building. Due to the Libraries location half in the park, most of it is, out of general public view especially at night and the whole outer part of it needs to be secured. The Library has sustained a disturbing amount of vandalism, crime and drug and alcohol abuse related incidents in recent years the C.C.T.V would massively reduce this if completed. The first part of the system has proved this already. Local residents have already been surprised by the lack of activity in the area covered and Wirral Patrol echo this.	<b>£897</b>
Stick 'n' Step	Stick 'n' Step is a local charity working exclusively with children with cerebral palsy and their families. Cerebral palsy is a life limiting disability affecting 1 in every 400 children. It makes it difficult to walk, move and talk and many people need a carer to help them through life. But with the right help, life can be made much easier for both the disabled person and the carer. We want to take a small amount of money from each area forum and deliver a Wirral-wide project – the first of its kind in the UK. We want to support all 75 under 18 year olds on the Wirral with cerebral palsy. Specialist experts will visit 30 children in their homes and look at how they complete everyday tasks, such as eating breakfast, taking a shower and dressing themselves. They will then give them insight into new ways of doing things - working around the limits of their disability. We will give them a list of support agencies, suggest cheap equipment to make life easier for them, such as long handled hairbrushes. The overall aim is to make that person more independent and give precious time back to the carer.	<b>£2,790</b>
Multiple Sclerosis Society	This funding will allow us to maintain the "Wirral Wellbeing for MS" initiatives started in 2010 with the aid of grants (now expired) via Community Foundation for Merseyside. In 2011 we won their prestigious "Health and Wellbeing" award for "having created an MS community in Wirral". Currently our Core Exercise and Tai Chi classes (each with sessions dedicated to the seated and to the standing) are	<b>£300</b>



	held at the Hope Centre in Pensby. They are currently attended by over 50 people each week and by about 120 different individuals since start-up almost 2yrs ago. Our surveys show how valuable these therapy sessions are in terms of fostering a MS community spirit and maintenance of base fitness levels. We now draw people from all post codes in Wirral, where we have 235 members in total. We see these therapy sessions as key to maintaining the Health and Wellbeing of the MS community in Wirral and giving back a sense of purpose to so many frustrated and constrained by their disability. These activities are also open to family, carers and friends of those affected by MS, non-members and those with closely related rare neurological conditions for which there is no local support.	
The Royal Army Service Corps & Royal Corps of Transport, Birkenhead and Wirral Branch	The funding will be used to purchase four new 6x3m pop-up gazebo's to replace two of the larger tents that we have, unfortunately they were damaged at our Garden Party that we held in July of this year, there are no spare parts available from any suppliers and we can not repair the damaged parts of the tents. What we hope to achieve, is to replace the tents so we can continue to hold our annual Garden Party next year and for many years to come, the new Gazebo's are easier and less time consuming to erect, so we can erect them on the day of the event instead of the day before avoiding the possibility of them being damaged over night by winds when none of our members are there to tend to them. Lots of people benefit, when we hold our Garden Party, we entertain most of our members and their families and friends from the local community with live music and BBQ food prepared by the Chefs at Chetwynd TA Centre this year we had as our special guest the Lord Mayor of Wirral, John Ellis and his Lady and their drivers, we also receive help from the Army and Air Training Corps cadets, they help the elderly in any way they can and also collect dish's glasses and litter to keep the place tidy, we pay them a nominal fee and feed them for their help on the day.	<b>£50</b>
Rampworx Youth Village 2000	To convert an empty warehouse in Seacombe into a 15,000 square foot indoor skatepark with office space and workshop rooms for development. Funding will pay to build the skatepark and we will pay to renovate the rest of the facility. The funding raised will come from each of the area forums. Each area will fund an amount based upon its proximity to the facility. Each area will be allocated a 'matched' amount of credit to use the skatepark through sessional passes, or coaching. The facility will cater for: scooter, BMX, inline skating, skateboard. In addition, there will be facilities for workshops around sexual health, drug and alcohol awareness, teenage pregnancy and healthy eating in partnership with agencies; including Wirral PCT, Police, Fire and Youth Service. The facility will also allow people to participate in accredited photography, video arts, fashion and multimedia courses. Achieve: offer a facility that is currently not provided for on the Wirral. Work with a range of local partners who provide expertise in their areas, such as Wirral CVS, police, fire, NHS, Youth Service and local schools. Transform and improve confidence, skills, health and education of 1500 people per year.	<b>£8,000</b>
Wirral Festival of Music, Speech & Drama	Continuation to our festival first formed in 1946 to allow, both children and adults to perform in front of an audience, displaying their talents in music, play & acting etc. All judged by our own adjudicators in a constructive manners and thereby increasing the enthusiasm of the competitor.	<b>£150</b>
Falkland Road Organic Growers	To enable us to encourage others in the local community to join our gardening group, as some of our existing members have successfully gained employment. Also, to extend a welcome to those in the community who are disabled and/or senior members. We found there is a need for a seating area around the raised beds as some of our members have additional needs, some of our tools are not suitable for this group. We would also aim to further enhance the aspect from the road by building a vertical structure to increase the visual appeal & planting area.	<b>£950</b>

Wirral Safer Schools	We encourage pupils to give back to the community through projects like Duke of Edinburgh and Civic award. We have participated in the Tall Ships supporting young people to take part in life changing experiences. We target young people and monitor them during busy holiday periods which are a period of increased anti-social behaviour. We link in with other agencies and local neighbourhood policing teams. Our main aim is to help reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and fear of crime. We do group work which has seen positive outcomes looking at the dangers of alcohol and young people. The group completed a DVD which has been placed on social media sites and used as a tool to discourage young people from drinking. The diversionary activities are seen as hugely popular with the young people we work with and have often been seen to change and improve behaviour. We aim to provide a safe outlet for young people to learn about life and their community.	<b>£1,500</b>
Friends of the Freedom Project	We provide training and support to women across Wirral who have or are suffering with the consequences of domestic violence. This is a free service and is offered 3 times a year as a rolling 12 week programme. The evening group is unique being the only one of its kind in Wirral. Our reputation, dedication and passion demonstrates the success within our group, and the fact that we continue to receive referrals from many agencies including police, courts, social services and cross referrals from schools etc. Our programme is the longest running Freedom Programme in the Country: We always have good attendance and are well known within Borough of Wirral as a reliable resource. The reliability is important to what are often very vulnerable women with low self esteem and confidence, with the majority already experiencing their children being involved in Team Around the Child meetings because of Child Protection issues.	<b>£1,291</b>
Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS)	IYSS Youth & Community Engagement Week: Is a package of intensive activity within an area/s directed by the Forum. This will take place over five days (including a Saturday) providing an enhanced service that would otherwise not be available and introduce some of the referral based Target Youth Support Services and their programmes to your communities/areas: Activity: An Environmental audit, Distribution of planters, bird boxes and mosaic art pieces, Workshops, advice and brief interventions on alcohol misuse, Gardening Sessions, Accredited training, High visibility patrols, Repairs to community furniture, A range of youth activities; art, crafts and sports, Advice for residents suffering from anti-social behaviour, Information drops, Resources, Reassurance Vehicle equipped with CCTV, Respcct/Konntactbus, Resource packs for young people, Information and literature for communities, Accreditations for young people, Aims, Increase engagement of young people, Divert young people from crime and antisocial behaviour, Increase positive contribution of young people, Increase training and development opportunities for young people, Increase sign-posting into local services, Increase awareness of reporting mechanisms to communities in relation to antisocial behaviour, Increase community engagement/cohesion	<b>£4,995</b>