

AREA FORUM (GREASBY/FRANKBY/IRBY, UPTON, WOODCHURCH)

Monday, 13 October 2008

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	T Smith (Chair)	
	Councillors	T Anderson G Gardiner	J Quinn P Reisdorf
	Community Representatives	Tony Anderson Ron Green (GOAL)	Jean Robinson (Overchurch Residents Association) John Smith (Greasby Community Association)
	Lead Officer	David Smith (Deputy Director of Finance)	
	Area Service Co-ordinator	Andy Brannan	
	Street Scene Manager	Mark Traynor	
	Wirral University Teaching Hospital Trust	Pat Higgins	
	Wirral Primary Care Trust	John South	
	Merseyside Police	Inspector Brian Griffiths	
	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service	Sarah Patterson	
	Council Officers	Jo Burrell (Woodchurch Neighbourhood Management Board Co-ordinator)	Maureen Cain (Woodchurch Neighbourhood Management Board)
	Observer	Daryl Parker, on behalf of young people	
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	J George Inspector Kate Cunningham	

1 **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair, Councillor Tony Smith, opened the meeting and welcomed forum members and 40 members of the public to the Area Forum meeting in Overchurch. He welcomed Daryl Parker, who was observing the meeting on behalf of young people, and Andy Brannan new Area Service Co-ordinator. He thanked Jean Robinson and the Overchurch Residents' Association for the use of the venue and was pleased to see an excellent turnout with representation from all forum areas.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John George and Inspector Kate Cunningham. The Chair invited Forum members to introduce themselves.

2 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 11 June 2008 were incorporated into the Area Forum Co-ordinator's report.

Matters arising.

The Area Forum Co-ordinator's report included updates on matters arising from the previous meeting - Taxis using shops at Greasby Road; improvements to the car park entrance to Arrowe Park Hospital, road safety issues on Hillbark Road, the introduction of a local safety scheme on Thingwall Road, Irby; bin collections in Orrets Meadow Road and Caldwell Drive, Woodchurch, and boy racers and other vehicles parking by the school.

In response to a question on Recycling, Councillor Gardiner reported that a new, all plastic disposal plant is being built on Deeside. There have been talks about the possibility of taking all waste to this new facility, but it is still early days and it has not been built yet.

Jo Burrell referred to a statement in the minutes that Woodchurch has not got a community centre. She wished to clarify that Woodchurch has a Community Centre and a Leisure Centre.

Minute decision: Resolved: That the minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 11 June 2008 be received.

3 **AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S UPDATE**

Andy Brannan, Area Forum Co-ordinator, presented his report. Section One contained the minutes from the last meeting, Section Two included Local Updates, and Section Three gave information on funding.

Wirral has been named as a pilot area for Participatory Budgeting [PB]. The pilot provides a new and innovative way of allocating community initiatives funding. So far, three area forums have been involved in the new initiative

and, depending on the success of the pilot, it is likely that the initiative will be extended to this and to other areas.

The Area Forum Co-ordinator drew attention to the Highway Structural Maintenance Programme 2009/2010. Limited resources are available for footway reconstruction and carriageway resurfacing schemes. The Area Forum is invited to identify roads and pavements in Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton and Woodchurch that are in need of repair or reconstruction. Projects submitted will be prioritised depending on need and budget availability.

Minute decision: Resolved: To thank the Area Forum Co-ordinator for his report.

4 **YOU DECIDE RESULTS**

Wirral Council has allocated £250,000 new money to be spent on extra council services in Wirral's eleven area forums through a new project called 'You Decide'. To give everyone a chance to take part, a Borough-wide survey was conducted in September asking residents about the additional Council services they would most like to spend the money on. The survey identified four key areas --

- New trees or street lighting
- Additional litter bins or graffiti removal
- Alley gates or home security features
- Activities for young people e.g. sports or training schemes

Each area forum has been given an allocation £20,000 of new money to spend on extra council services. The priorities identified for this Area Forum are -

- 1) Additional litter bins,
- 2) More activities for young people, particularly around Sports
- 3) Community safety.

People have asked for the Respect bus to visit this more frequently. Suggestions from members of the public on the 'hot spots' they would like the Respect bus to visit, and on the siting of additional litter bins, and should be passed on to the Area Forum Co-ordinator.

5 **PARTNER UPDATES**

Merseyside Police: A written report on Upton and Prenton had been incorporated into the Area Co-ordinator's report. Inspector Brian Griffiths reported that since the report had been written, the Police boundaries across Merseyside have been changed. Upton Police Station is now responsible for policing the geographical areas of Greasby and Frankby.

A substantial amount of work has been carried out on young people and alcohol. Unfortunately a small minority of young people can give the majority of young people

a bad name with alcohol and with anti social behaviour. In this area forum, twelve young people are currently subject to Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and six young people are subject to ASBOs. Police Officers and PCSO staff have been actively involved in creating diversionary activities for young people to divert them away from anti social activities. One young person has been given a Volunteer of the Year award.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service. Copies of a written report were circulated at the meeting. Sarah Patterson commented on aspects of the report under the headings –

Smoke detectors. Fire Officers had visited almost 6,000 homes in Wirral in the last quarter to complete Home Fire Safety checks and provide free smoke detectors where necessary. .

A successful campaign in schools in early summer and close links during the holiday period had seen a 65% decrease in reported anti-social behaviour.

The successful Bonfire Strategy introduced in 2007 will be repeated this year. Presentations on bonfire safety have been given at a number of secondary schools. A Bonfire Poster Campaign is being organised in schools with the aim of educating and informing the children of the dangers of fireworks. The children involved will have an opportunity to win an iPod.

Sarah Patterson thanked the Area Forum for the funding the Fire Service has received from the CIF initiative.

Wirral PCT: An update on Wirral Primary Care Trust had been included in the Area Forum Coordinator's report [pages 26/27].

Wirral University Teaching Hospital. The Area Co-ordinator's report contained an update on Wirral University Teaching Hospital [pages 27/29].

Pat Higginson reported that the Trust is consulting local people on its Draft Public Health Strategy. Although the main focus is on hospital care, the Trust is committed to doing all it can to promote good health, for the staff, as well as the patients in hospital and their carers. The Trust has introduced many measures to encourage people not to smoke on hospital sites.

The number of Public Governors continues to grow, and it would be particularly useful for more young people to become Public Governors. Application forms were available at the meeting

Community News: John Smith drew attention to the report on page 33 of the Area Co-ordinator's report. He invited contributions to the next edition of Greasby Messenger by the closing date of 15 November. Bulb planning in the centre of Greasby will take place on Saturday, 18 October from 9.30 am. Offers of help would be welcome and donations of bulbs can be left at Greasby Library.

Coffee Morning in Greasby: Ron Green invited all residents of Greasby to attend a Coffee Morning in the Library between 10 and 12 am, on Saturday. 18 October. The objective is to give local residents the opportunity to state what they want to see in Greasby connected with the outdoors, eg. benches, notice board etc. Funding opportunities will be explored to provide what people want.

The **GOAL** group has just received a grant in excess of £32,000 for a games area, which will be sited alongside the pavilion in Coronation Park. The pavilion has been refurbished in the past two/three years and restoration work has been completed

following fire damage. A CIF grant has been used to upgrade the electrical heaters and sockets.

In conjunction with the CSO, and funded by GOAL, a group of young people have been taken on a trip to Alton Towers, as a diversionary activity. The reported incidents in and around Coronation Park have reduced. Outreach youth workers visit Greasby on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and invite young people to go into the pavilion. The Bonus Ball competition in Greasby Post Office continues to be successful, and raises a small amount of funding to support local activities.

Overchurch Residents' Association. Jean Robinson reported on activities in the Community Shop. There will be a free event for children between the ages 7 to 13 on 1 November from 9.30 am. Daryl Parker is one of the young people who instigated the event and have made all the posters. Daryl and other young people have been asked to do a disco. An event for younger children will be organised in the next couple of months.

Jean Roberts thanked Daryl and the other young people for freely giving their time to support the project.

Minute decision: Resolved: To thank representatives for their reports and updates.

6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair reported that questions have been submitted in writing on the topics –

- Dog fouling along the shops on Ford road, Upton. Is there a chance of receiving additional dog fouling bins.
- There should be safety railings along the shops on Ford Road from Owens Health and Fitness Centre in Upton Village , and the need for people to walk on the road
- Dog fouling in Woodlands Park, off Warwick Road.
- Vehicles parking on the kerb in Warwick Road and causing problems for residents, particularly at times when children are being dropped off and collected from school

The Chair advised that the questions will be passed on to the relevant Council Officers and feedback will be given at the next Area Forum meeting.

Questions raised at the meeting –

Q The double yellow lines outside the school need to be repainted. Which school?

A Cllr Tom Anderson undertook to address the issue.

Q Parking on the corner and the need for speed cameras in the area. Is this the same school?

A [Inspector Griffiths]: Tickets are issued.

[Cllr Quinn] I would advise members of the public to request that an Enforcement Officer visits the area at school opening and closing times. Problems encountered at other times should be brought to the attention of

Streetscene. Someone can go and give fixed penalty notices to people that park there.

Q Are there anymore plans for erect more Dog fouling signs:

A (Cllr Gardner: Dog fouling signs are available to deter the problem, and if you phone Street Scene the dog wardens will go to the area and address the issue, and hopefully people will put the signs up.

We are getting some signs to put on the litter bins, so people are aware if you pick up you can put in any litter bin in Wirral. To raise awareness of that. A lot of new initiatives are going through and hopefully will be in place by the end of the month).

Q This building is appalling, acoustically. You [forum members] might be able to hear, but all of us [in the audience] are finding it very difficult to hear and understand what is being said.

Q How much information does the public have on the Health front? It is very rare we get mentioned in Irby. Other areas deserve a mention as well. Most of the Community Representatives on the forum talk about Greasby.

Q Roads, highways. The council are asking for people to tell us what roads should be repaired but isn't that the job of the council to find out themselves what roads they should fix. There are a large number of roads that need to be resurfaced and signs made clearer, and foliage cut back, so you can see where you are going,

A [Cllr Quinn] I agree we should not have to wait for you to tell us what to do about Streetscene. The 'You Decide' money is about you asking for extra things in Wards, it is not about routine work that should be done on a regular basis. Roads are inspected every year. It may be you have a local road that is not in as good condition as it might be, and if so, it will be in the programme. 'You Decide' is about additional things.

Q Carbon monoxide. Is it the Fire Service install the carbon monoxide detectors? I have been given one and don't know how to fix it, who would fix it and advise where to put it?

A (Jean Robinson: I have a Carbon Monoxide detector myself. They are usually placed by the fire, however there should be instructions included with it. If your detector doesn't come with instructions please contact the manufacturer who supplied it)

Q Between Thingwall and Upton, an elderly gentleman walks up and down daily in all sorts of weather. I am concerned. Someone needs to keep an eye on him.

[Maureen Cain stated that she knows the elderly gentleman. There is nothing to worry about. He lives in Thingwall and walks daily to the cemetery because his wife has recently passed away and he goes to visit the cemetery].

Q When will lights be put up in the MUGA in Woodchurch?

A [Chair] We will take your details and come back to you with an answer.

Q The four Adventure and Nature Play areas mentioned on page 15 of the report. Do you know where these will be located?

A The Area Co-ordinator will take details and come back with a response.

- Q Our property has been targeted by someone with a high powered air rifle which has caused damage and stress to my family. What is being done to address incidents in the past ten days on the Overchurch?
- A [Inspector Griffiths]. If the member of public can give me the details at the end of the forum I will take our name and follow up on the enquiry.
- Q In July I rang about the trees in Warwick Road. I have rung the council's Streetscene Department and spoke to Mr Alan Young five times since July. It's so dark I have to have the lights on all the time in the summer.
- A [Jean Robinson] The trees in Gainsborough Road are going to be cut back this year. Some trees belong to Wirral Partnership Homes and some to Wirral Council. WPH have been out to visit, but unless there is a danger to people or property, they will not do anything. It costs £8,000 a tree. They are cutting back trees along Gainsborough Road and Moreton Road, behind the sandstone wall. Brian Smith is the officer responsible.
- Q There is a general lack of response to queries when I ring the Streetscene Department.
- A [Cllr Quinn]. If you are contacting Streetscene you should at least get an acknowledgement. I agree that is not right, and I would like to see that happening. I don't know about any particular case but I will make enquiries if you give me the details at the end of the meeting and I will follow it up.
- Q What is being done about youths from surrounding areas who are causing chaos on the Woodchurch/Overchurch? Estate? They are not from this estate, it is the youths and girls from surrounding areas. People look down their noses at this estate. Some of their parents should come into my house on Saturday night and see what I have to put up with.
- A [Insp. Griffiths] There have been ongoing meetings regarding this area. Certainly last Friday and Saturday, I have got some officers down there and that will continue for as long as it can. What is being suggested is to get a clause in the ABC contract which says you are not to go in a particular area. I will say now, if I can get an ABC on someone and aim towards working with that young person, the majority of young people, if you get early intervention and get away from the drinking habits, they are great. Keep them away from the hard core. An ABC not to go into a particular geographic area or not to take drugs in particular places. It's a very small minority who spoil it for the majority.
- Q Can someone explain if there is a Community Centre in Woodchurch and whats the difference between the Community Centre and the Leisure Centre as it wasn't answered fully in the minutes of the last forum?
- A [member of the public] There is a Community Centre in Woodchurch, it is on the same site as the leisure centre. The community centre can hold private functions, however it does not have a Licence for drinking. The leisure centre does have a license for drinking which can be used for functions in the community centre. If you want to hire for a licensed function speak to the manager of the Leisure Centre.
- Q Can we have an update on the Pathways Programme. Overchurch was not included in the programme?

A [Chair] We will have to go back to the people who run the programme and ask why that was.

Q What was the outcome of the road improvement scheme on Thingwall Road?

A [Cllr Quinn] There was a public consultation and public opposition resulted in the original proposals being dropped. There were no objections to the revised plan, which will involve 30 mph flashing signs and enhanced markings on the road surfaces. There is a full update included in these minutes.

Q What is happening on St Benedict's site?

A [Chair] The site was bought by a private developer about 12 months ago with the intention of applying for planning consent to build housing. Due to the credit crunch, I understand the builder is not proceeding at the moment. The site was formerly owned by the Diocese of Shrewsbury, not Wirral Council. The building is an eyesore and we have suggested that it is knocked down and the cost of demolition is recharged to the developer. So far, nothing has happened. The Fire Service are raising awareness of the dangers and are advising young people not to go on to the site. There is security on site.

The Chair proposed that a progress report is given at the next meeting of the Area Forum.

Q You are supposed to have an item Any Other Business on the agenda. You mentioned the credit crunch. Has Wirral Council invested in the Icelandic banks?

A [David Smith} We do have some money that is invested, but not in one of the Icelandic banks. We are reasonably hopeful of getting the money back, but it is a small investment. The problem is the situation is changing on a daily basis so it is very difficult to see to what extent that money is at risk. We do not have shares in the Icelandic Bank. We get money in from Council Tax and pay money out and any balance in the current account is invested to earn interest. Wirral has been affected, as have most Local Authorities.

Q The You Decide funding. How was it publicised and who decided the priorities.

A To ensure everyone had the chance to take part and complete the survey there were a number of ways to fill in the survey. The questionnaires were conducted via an independent research company called Mott McDonald. They were used to ensure that the results remain independent. There were a number of ways to complete the questionnaire including an online paper based surveys and on street interviews conducted by Mott McDonald. With a deadline of September, the questionnaire asked residents about what additional council services they would most like to spend the money on.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Minute decision: Resolved: That the next meeting is held on 11 February 2009 at a venue to be confirmed.

The Chair apologised for the poor acoustics and gave an assurance that efforts would be made to improve the situation at future meetings.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.