



Area Forum (New Brighton and Wallasey)

Date:	Tuesday, 23 June 2009
Time:	7.00 pm
Venue:	New Brighton Primary School, Vaughan Road, Wallasey CH45 1LH

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AGENDA

1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**
2. **AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT (Pages 1 - 38)**
 - Including: Matters Arising from February 09
3. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
4. **AREA FORUM PARTNER UPDATES**
5. **FUTURE MEETINGS / PRESENTATIONS**
 - 21st October 2009 (Venue to be confirmed)
6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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Wirral's Area Forums



New Brighton & Wallasey Area Forum

Papers for the forum meeting

Tuesday 23rd June 2009

**New Brighton Primary School
Vaughan Road, Wallasey
Wirral, CH45 1LH**

7.00pm

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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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New Brighton & Wallasey

Area Forum

Tuesday 23rd June 2009

New Brighton Primary School

Vaughan Road, Wallasey

Wirral, CH45 1LH

7.00pm

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome / Introductions / Apologies
- 2 Area Co-ordinators Report
Including: Matters Arising from February 09
- 3 Public Question Time.
- 4 Area Forum Partner updates
- 5 Future meetings/presentations
21st October 2009 (Venue to be confirmed)
- 6 Any Other Business

Section One

Minutes

Minutes from last meeting February 2009

AREA FORUM (NEW BRIGHTON AND WALLASEY)

Monday, 16 February 2009

Present:

Councillor	P Hayes (Chair)
Councillors	A Pritchard, L Rennie, S Taylor, K Wood
<u>Lead Officer</u>	David Green (Director of Technical Services)
<u>Area Service Co-ordinator</u>	Andy Brannan
<u>Merseyside Police</u>	Sergeant Justin Diggins, Sergeant Mark Smith
<u>Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service</u>	Tony Mooney
<u>Primary Care Trust</u>	Shymal Mukherjee
<u>Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust</u>	Rod Jones
<u>Council Officers</u>	Hazel Edwards (Corporate Services), John Entwistle (Corporate Services), Bob Little (Community Safety Team), Carol Sharratt (Minute Taker)
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillor W Duffey, Inspector Julie Fletcher, Barry Humphreys (New Brighton Community Partnership), Inspector Peter Kolokotroni, Martin Revans

The Chair, Councillor Paul Hayes, welcomed the forum members and 16 members of the public to the meeting of the Area Forum at Greenleas Primary School.

Apologies were received from Barry Humphries, Inspector Julie Fletcher, Inspector Peter Kolokotroni, Councillor W Duffey and Martin Revans.

2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS FORUM

The Area Co-ordinator, Andy Brannan, gave an overview of his report, copies of which were available for members of the public at the meeting. The minutes of the meeting of the Area Forum on 22 October 2008 were included on pages 3-12 and a written update on all issues raised on pages 13-15 of the report, and asked if anyone wished to raise any issues on these:

The chair raised the following issues:

You Decide – an update on this would be reported at the next meeting, as there had been a delay in receiving information from officers on this.

Strategic Asset Review (SAR) – the review and the closure of Wallasey Village Library and Guinea Gap Baths were strongly opposed. Councillor Bob Moon was asked to attend the meeting to answer questions on the review, but sent his apologies. The chair agreed to pass on any questions relating to the review on to the SAR representatives, and the following were raised:

1. Anne McArdle - what does the local community want to put into Wallasey Village Library and has any consultation been done on what the building could be used for (it would be good to see some community facilities in the area)?

Chair – a meeting was held with the Director of Regeneration on possible uses for the building / community transfer, and are still in contact over the future of the building. Officers are not keen to put in a library service.

Councillor Wood – there has been one bid, from St Georges Primary School for a classroom and local community facility, but this is still open for discussion as it couldn't take place until after Council on 11th February.

Councillor Rennie – informed the forum that she had requested a copy of the policy on this at a meeting with the Director of Regeneration and was informed that it had not been written when the review went out to public consultation. Once the details of what the policy means are received we will be working to get a permanent solution for the future of the building, as don't want this to be mothballed. She had been advised by the Director to talk to the community and try and get people from the business community / solicitors / accountants to see if they will help / get involved in this, and we will be actively seeking those people. There will be a small dowry to help community groups to set up the initiative, but not to continue to run it. We would like to see some sort of library facility in the area as consider Wallasey Village Library to be strategically placed, and feel that the Liscard area is not practical. We will hold public meetings and request that ideas on the use of the building be passed to the forum.

Anne McArdle welcomed the comments as it is important that the community is involved in the future use of the building.

2. Geoff Gorman – has an impact assessment report been done on the outcomes if community facilities are closed?

Chair – confirmed that, to his knowledge a report had not been done, but that he had raised this issue, and not many of the user groups had been consulted with on this.

3. Dave Hanlon – felt that there was limited public consultation on this, that user groups were not consulted, and that a lot of people did not get the chance to have their say at the special area forum meetings. He raised concern over the future of Guinea Gap Baths, a facility that is used by lots of people, and hoped that it would stay open for many years to come and not just the two year stay of execution. He added that the decisions were made in a year when there will be no local elections.

Chair – expressed sympathy for the staff at the baths and the possible loss of the facility that has had much investment put into it (sauna / bikes) over the last two years. Councillor Steve Foulkes arranged the special area forum meetings in the constituent areas and this decision could not be overturned.

4. Member of the public – was the SAR a central government requirement?

Chair – it was not a statutory requirement, but was part of a comment by the Audit Commission.

5. Joan Roberts – the Pacific Road Theatre is a busy venue, and many groups make use it as a base. It hosts many different shows, concerts are usually sold out and a lot of people from the Wallasey area visit it. The decision to close this would be understandable if it was empty / under used. The only other theatre is the Gladstone, but this is not local.

Chair – confirmed that he had corresponded with Joan on this matter and added that the Floral Pavilion was a good asset, but that were given something in one hand only to have it taken away with another.

6. John Timms – lost of money has been spent on Wallasey Village library / Guinea Gap Baths / Pacific Road Theatre, and felt that the decision to close them should be audited.

Chair – there is no one available at the meeting to answer this.

Resolved that:

- (i) **the minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd October 2008 be approved**
- (ii) **the chair to forward questions / issues raised re: the SAR to the SAR representatives**

3 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

John Entwistle (Corporate Services) gave a presentation on the Local Development Framework (LDF).

The LDF is a new style development plan that will replace Wirral's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and be used alongside the Regional Spatial Strategy, covering the North West of England, issued by the Secretary of State. The LDF will be a key legal document covering 15-20 years and will consist of a Core Strategy and a spatial plan, and there are opportunities to consult on this at each stage of a long process until its submission to the Secretary of State. The proposed adoption date for the LDF is 2011.

Forum members had already received a copy of the Issues, Vision and Objectives consultation document, covering issues, vision (to 2025 with 15 main elements linked to the Sustainable Community Strategy) and 29 objectives. Anyone wishing to get

involved can request a copy of the consultation document by adding their details to the list available at the meeting or by contacting Hazel Edwards (0151 691 8225 / hazeledwards@wirral.gov.uk). The deadline for comments is **5pm on 27 March 2009**. Anyone wishing to be kept involved in the LDF process can request to be added to our contact database again by contacting Hazel Edwards.

The Chair thanked John Entwistle for his presentation and the following questions / issues were raised:

1. Geoff Gorman - is this new planning system/strategy capable of changing planning decisions that have already been made?
 - A. - The new Development Plan has no weight as yet and the Unitary Development Plan will continue to be the plan that all planning applications are determined against, until such time as the Core Strategy for the Borough is adopted, which is anticipated to be in 2011.
2. Geoff Gorman - how have the issues of the flood land at New Brighton been taken into account with regard to the new Morrisons supermarket?
 - A. - The planning application for the Neptune development was subject to a Flood Risk Assessment. Wirral Council has also commissioned a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, which will consider and assess all aspects of flood risk around the coastal areas of the borough and in respect of Climate Change.
3. Geoff Gorman - new statistics on Climate Change have been released and in particular about the risk from flooding – will this be taken into account at New Brighton? Why is Neptune building another ‘sea defence’ wall in front of their development if the coastal defences are adequate? There is evidence that there is erosion of land in the area around the application site. What will be done about this?
 - A. - The planning application for the Neptune development has already been determined and was subject to a flood risk assessment, which formed part of the application, that included looking at the existing sea defences and coastal protection and will have taken issues on Climate Change into account. There are some reserved matters still to be implemented as part of that application; however there will not be any fundamental change to the original application or plan.
4. Mrs Hall – what exactly is being monitored and by whom and can anyone access this information?
 - A. - The monitoring of the Core Strategy is required by Government Office for the North West. The Council produces an Annual monitoring Report, which contains all the National Indicators that the Council is being measured against, the targets and how well the Council is doing in respect of those targets. This report is publicly available and a copy of this will be sent to Mrs Hall, as requested.
5. Member of the public - what is the advantage of the new planning system over the UDP?
 - A. - The new system is a series or portfolio of documents that are able to be changed individually and this should mean that the new system is more flexible. The criticism of the old style plan is that it is inflexible, as once it has been produced there is no way to make changes without reviewing the whole document, which is costly and time consuming.

6. Member of the public - does the new system have any 'teeth'? (Concerns were raised that planning applications across the borough were being determined to the detriment of the area).

A. - The timescale for anticipated adoption of the new plan is some time away, in the meantime it is important that people make these representations to the Council and tell us what they think of the new system, its advantages and disadvantages. Anyone wishing to be included in the consultation can leave their details and we will contact them.

7. Member of the public – the Core Strategy should include community assets.

A. – recommendations, such as this, can be made on the strategy and considered as part of the consultation.

Resolved that:

- (i) John Entwistle be thanked for his presentation**
- (ii) the forward planning team send a copy of the annual monitoring report to Mrs Hall**

4 INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK

Dave Green gave an update on the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) Funding (detailed on page 23 of the Area Co-ordinators report).

In Autumn 2006 the forums were consulted on how this funding would be allocated. Nine of the forums requested that the funding remain in a central pot for funding larger schemes. Two of the forums (Heswall/Pensby/Thingwall and Bromborough/Eastham) requested that the funding be allocated by the forums. The success of this initiative piloted in 2007/08 in these two Area Forums, has led to continued de-centralisation of funds for 2008/09 for the two forums and officers being requested to consult with the remaining nine Forums to determine if they wish to receive de-centralised funding (this will be approximately £18,000 per area forum) for allocation on traffic schemes. If the forums decide to opt for this the funding they will be supported by an officer from Technical Services, who will offer guidance, advice, ideas and information on costs, risks, pitfalls etc. The funding would have to be spent within the financial year it is allocated. A report on the forums' recommendations will be taken to Cabinet on 19th March 2009, so the decision needs to be made by 20th February 2009.

Community Speed Watch Areas – there are seven pilot areas currently in place and these are successful. Members of the forum are being requested to put forward suggestions for additional community speed watch areas for consideration as the scheme is being expanded. Suggestions are required by 20th February 2009.

The Chair thanked Dave Green for his update, the Forum debated this proposal and the following questions / issues were raised:

- 1. Member of the public - what is the 20 is plenty scheme?
- A. Seven areas were identified to take part in a pilot voluntary speed reduction scheme aiming to bring accidents down to zero by reducing the speed of traffic in the area using signage rather than traffic calming measures, such as speed humps, by engaging with the areas and carrying out consultation to get motorists to reduce their speed.

The following suggestions were put forward:

- Rowson Street (by Stoneacres)
- Grove Road, Wallasey Village
- Mount Pleasant Road
- St Georges primary school area
- Greenleas primary school area
- Mount primary school area
- Mariners Park / Seabank Road / Manor Road (it is dangerous crossing the road to get to the bus stops)

Councillor Wood added that the primary school areas are to be targeted by the Police from 23rd February, but could be considered for this scheme.

The Chair mentioned that there had been an accident at Seabank Road / Manor Road recently.

2. Councillor Pritchard asked if the scheme was aimed at side roads rather than main roads.
 - A. All suggestions should be put through, as this is only one aspect of what we can do. The Local Transport Plan (LTP) could be used for putting in a pedestrian refuge or extra lineage. The two schemes are complementary to each other. The 20 is plenty scheme has been successful in changing the behaviour of drivers.
3. Geoff Gorman – how much do the Police make from motorists?
 - A. The Police do not get paid from the revenue raised from tickets.
4. Dave Hanlon – the problems at Mariners Park were raised at the Liscard and Seacombe area forum, would it be possible to have a zebra crossing there and would the cost of this be covered if this forum linked with that forum?
 - A. The cost for a zebra crossing is about £50,000, but officers would advise on this and there may be scope to be creative and link into other funding, such as the central pot.

Members of the public

5. How much could be achieved with £18,000?
 - A. A pedestrian refuge or road signage cost around £4,000. The £18,000 is provided on a recurring basis and is an opportunity for local people to take responsibility on what happens in their local area.

The Chair added that only small schemes could be carried out with this amount of funding and would not be of much benefit for the area, particularly if further issues came up.

6. What would happen to the funding if the forum decides that it does not wish to allocate this?
 - A. It will remain in the central pot.
7. Are the public being given a choice on how this is allocated?
 - A. It is for the area forum to make the ultimate decision, but your input is wanted. Once the decision has been delegated it will be up to the forum to decide how it is spent.
8. The exact cost of schemes would be needed before a decision could be made on this. Councillor Taylor added that more information on the cost of items would be needed to enable the value to the forum area to be determined.

- A. The forum are being asked to decide how to allocate the £18,000 which the Cabinet has decided to split equally between the forums. The mechanics of how to spend the funding and detailed costs of schemes can be provided over the 14 months during which the funding will need to be spent.

Councillor Wood clarified that the £18,000 was separate to the funding for the 20 is plenty scheme.

9. Are details of how the £6.5m is allocated available, and does the £18,000 come from this pot?
- A. The LTP has a budget of £6.5m a year and a large proportion of this is spent on formal traffic calming measures (such as road humps). The areas are chosen by looking at set criteria, including the areas with the highest accident rates, and are allocated on a borough wide needs basis. The information is a matter of public record. All accidents resulting in people being killed or seriously injured (KSI) are recorded by the police. A prioritised list (showing areas with 4+ KSI over the last four years where engineering measures can improve this) is worked through. The £18,000 comes from this pot and there is discretion on how it can be allocated, as no criteria has to be applied or satisfied, enabling the option of decisions being determined locally.

Councillor Rennie recommended that the allocation should be taken, on the understanding that the forum area won't be penalised on other schemes we may put forward for allocation from the larger pot. The Chair agreed with this recommendation, he felt that £18,000 was not enough, but that it should be taken and allocated locally.

Councillor Wood added that traffic officers visited a site at Wallasey Village that was subject to a planning application and reported that there were no traffic problems relating to the proposal and it was recommended for approval.

A member of the public added that another application for Harrison Park Nursery to increase its numbers, and bring even more cars into the area, was also approved despite the difficulties of getting into Grove Road at most times of the day.

Dave Green agreed to consider all of the suggestions / points raised.

Resolved that:

- (i) Dave Green be thanked for his update**
- (ii) Dave Green to report the forum recommendation to receive the de-centralised funding to Cabinet and to consider all of the suggestions / points raised re: traffic schemes**

5 PARTNER ORGANISATION UPDATES / PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Police

Sergeant Mark Smith informed the forum that he was based at Moreton Police Station and provided the following information:

- Crime figures had been reduced by 13% in the past 12 months (compared to the same period in the previous year) with 250 less crimes in the Wallasey area.
- There will be an open day at Moreton Police Station on the 7th March 2009, anyone wishing to attend should contact the station.

- Monthly newsletters are now being produced by each neighbourhood inspector, anyone wishing to receive regular updates can receive this via e-mail or post if they let us have their details.
- All police officers have been issued with a blackberry to enable them to get information and carry out spot checks without having to go back to the station, allowing them to spend more time on the beat.

Sergeant Justin Higgins informed the forum that he was based at Manor Road Police Station and provided the following information:

- There was an open day at Manor Road Police Station yesterday, which was very successful with nearly 100 visitors. The tours last around two hours and includes looking at fingerprinting facilities and work with police dogs. A further open weekend has been arranged for 9th -10th May 2009; anyone wishing to attend should contact me as the tours are very popular and get booked up quickly.
- Seabank Road – we are familiar with the problems in this area and conduct regular enforcement campaigns. Rowson Street and Grove Road are also monitored.
- An initiative targeting diversionary activity, for young people responsible for anti-social behaviour (ASB), in an appropriate way is being piloted in this area. It involves sending the young people on training courses with the Army, and linking in with vocational colleges at the end of the course to ensure it is an evolving process. The project is to be rolled out to the Merseyside area.
- An initiative targeting drug dealers / unlawful activities, to try and recover unlawful drugs / stolen property has resulted in 23 search warrants and 24 arrests.
- A five year anti-social behaviour order (most are normally only issued for two years) was secured for 19 year old Daniel Berry, following a long history of anti-social and criminal behaviour, he was banned from entering the Sherlock Lane area of Poulton. This is a useful tool to correct behaviour.
- Hamilton Road / Mount Road area – youths causing disturbance, please let me know of any incidents in the area as will look into this, but it takes time to put corrective actions into place.

The chair thanked Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Higgins and the following questions / issues were raised:

1. Barbara Hardcastle – there was a meeting at the Town Hall re: the sale of drugs paraphernalia, do you know anything about this and does it stop the sale of goods (such as seeds being sold as souvenirs)?
- A. Sergeant Smith – this would depend on the bye-law in place.
Sergeant Higgins – it is what is done with the seeds rather than the sale of these.

The Chair confirmed that the meeting took place on 15th December 2008 and requested that more information to be provided on the particular issue raised at the end of the meeting, and agreed to arrange for an update to be provided at the next meeting.

2. Dave Hanlon – who was responsible for the police surgery at Asda and has there been any feedback from this?
 - A. Sergeant Smith – details of the police surgeries are included in our newsletters. We try to hold as many surgeries as possible, subject to staffing availability.

3. Member of the public – the community patrol vans have not been seen in the Wallasey Village area recently.
 - A. Chair – confirmed that the Council were responsible for this and agreed to ask why the area was not being patrolled.

4. Councillor Taylor – could the sportsmobile be brought to the Wallasey area?
 - A. Chair – requested that the area co-ordinator look into this.
Dave Hanlon added that the Community Safety Team provided information on the community patrol at the Liscard and Seacombe area forum.

Fire Service

Tony Mooney informed the forum that there was a detailed update on pages 16-18 of the Community Engagement Report, and highlighted the following:

Integrated Risk Management Plan, he thanked everyone who had an input into the service's draft plan, which will be considered before the final draft is published.

The service has managed to continue to exceed its challenging performance targets.

The service is trying to visit all schools within the borough, making young people aware of the impact of ASB on communities and what can happen if things are taken too far.

The Asda police surgeries are useful, there was a meeting held at Manor Road police station to look at holding an integrated day to maximise input. He agreed to provide further details on this once a date has been set.

The Chair thanked Tony Mooney for his update, no questions / issues were raised:

NHS Wirral (formerly PCT)

Dr Shyamal Mukherjee informed the forum that the Victoria Central Hospital (VCH) walk in centre at Wallasey is now open from 8am – 9pm Monday to Fridays and 8am – 7pm at weekends and Bank Holidays. There is a doctor on site, and the centre and deal with minor injuries and has x-ray facilities. The new build at the VCH site houses NHS Wirral activities. The centre can now deliver more services in the area and will take the pressure from Arrowe Park. Other centres will be introduced around Wallasey to get services in the community.

A patients group has been set up across Wallasey, called the Voice of Wallasey, which has had an input on service development and commissioning.

Access – the waiting time for hip and knee appointments is now 2-3 weeks.

The PCT has changed its name to NHS Wirral to assist in the promotion of working relationships.

NHS Wirral was assessed and received the highest score in three areas:

- Strategic planning
- Financial planning
- Governance

The Chair thanked Dr Shyamal Mukherjee for his update and the following questions / issues were raised:

5. Member of the public – is oncology moving from Clatterbridge to the Royal? Councillor Wood added that this had been in the Globe and requested a full report for the next forum.
 - A. I am not aware of this, but will report back at the next meeting.
6. Member of the public – has a restriction been placed on the number of scans carried out, as my appointment for an MRI scan has been put back 12 months.
 - A. There is no waiting list, so may be for a medical reason. He agreed to take further details and report back personally.

NHS University Teaching hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Rod Jones informed the forum that there was a detailed update on pages 27-28 of the Community Engagement Report, and highlighted the following:

We are working together with our partners to control infections and improve standards. The Trust was awarded best district hospital in England in the Dr Foster Good Hospital Guide last year, which compares services and treatment outcomes at all hospitals across the country.

The chair thanked Rod Jones for his update and the following questions / issues were raised:

7. Councillor Wood – do you have any information on the move of oncology from Clatterbridge?
 - A. No, as this is part of a separate trust, but I am not aware of any radical changes proposed.

Older People's Parliament

Stan Thompson informed the forum that a newsletter was available at the meeting. An annual report to the Parliament gave details of the achievements and activities over the last 12 months, including the following:

- An increased local input and credibility linked to an increased membership.
- Running three themed day-conferences, which were successful with very positive feedback:
 - Crime and Respect, this was successful and was attended by a Judge, a Police Inspector and representatives from various local agencies, covering what is being done to help keep us safe and listening to our concerns
 - Housing, covering an overview on retirement villages, sustainable housing and a discussion with local planners on what older residents want in Wirral
 - Waste Collection, covering what is involved in waste collection services, how it is dealt with and how we can assist the local authority in recycling / disposing of the waste

- Monthly Active Health and Social Care Group meetings, resulting in a big survey of peoples' experiences about going home from hospital. We are pleased that that our findings are being taken very seriously and changes being made, the hospital has already taken steps to have a short stay area at the side of the hospital, near the discharge lounge, for patients to be collected.
- Having Parliament representatives on many policy forming boards.
- Lifelong Learning; crime and Respect; Housing and Supporting Grandparents groups that all meet regularly.
- Appointment of a member to lead our input on national issues, we are affiliated to the National Pensioners Convention and Better Government for Older People.
- The work carried out by Brian Christian, based at Age Concern, who has produced two excellent newsletters and tries to keep us in some sort of order!

As our second year comes to an end we must thank Wirral Borough Council (in particular Steve Maddox, Tracey Smith and John Webb); NHS Wirral (in particular Kathy Doran and Tina Long); The Hospital Trust; Riverside Housing (in particular Jayne Branch Murray) and Age Concern (in particular Jamie Anderson).

If anyone is interested in joining the Parliament please complete application form (copies available at the meeting) and help us to ensure our third year is even more successful.

The chair congratulated the Parliament on its success and thanked Stan Thompson for his update and he received a round of applause from the forum.

The following questions / issues were raised:

Dave Hanlon

8. What was happening re: hole in the road by the bus stop in New Brighton, previously reported to Chris Jones?
 - A. Councillor Taylor confirmed that photographs of this had been sent in to Streetscene.
9. Issues around the problems with the buses service to / from Wallasey were raised with Simon Finnie from Arriva, at the Liscard and Seacombe area forum. Stan Thompson added that the problem re: signage on the buses was also raised. Simon's response was as follows:
 - Since Liverpool One opened the bus stop has become more congested as the buses to Bootle also go from here. When Liverpool City Council deal with the issues in the City Centre there will be a stop just for Wirral services that will be nearer to Liverpool One, but this will not be in place until towards the end of the year.
 - The competition from the introduction of the 32/33 service generated extra passengers. Now that First Bus has withdrawn the service we have been left with more passengers. We recognise that something needs to be done and the new vehicles are being introduced to generate more passengers and from the end of May 2009 we will be sending three buses back out during the evening peak from 3.30 – 6.30pm. It is not in our interest not to stop and collect passengers.
 - All new buses have the number on the back, side and front and it is automatically updated. The older buses have had so many destinations added that it can be difficult to find the correct destination. This is much

easier on the new buses, and 15 new single decker buses are due to be introduced in March 2009. The capital expenditure being allocated will result in 60% of buses at Laird Street having the number on the back, side and front.

10. Geoff Gorman – what has happened re: issue of transporters parking on the hill at Stoneacres?
- A. Chair – the answer to this was included on page 13 of the area co-ordinators report. Dave Green agreed to discuss this in more detail at the end of the meeting.

Resolved that:

- (i) **the partners be thanked for their updates**
- (ii) **the chair to look into issue re: sale of paraphernalia and arrange for an update on this for the next meeting**
- (iii) **the chair to contact community patrol re: lack of patrols in Wallasey Village**
- (iv) **the area co-ordinator to look into the possibility of arranging for the sportsmobile to be brought to Wallasey**
- (v) **Tony Mooney to provide further information on an integrated surgery at Asda once a date has been set**
- (vi) **Dr Mukherjee to report back on situation re: oncology moving to the Royal**
- (vii) **Dr Mukherjee to take details re: scan and report back directly to the individual concerned**

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd June 2009, at a venue to be confirmed.

A member of the public asked if the next meeting could be held at the Floral Pavilion and the chair requested that the area co-ordinator check its availability.

Resolved that: The area co-ordinator to look into the availability of the Floral Pavilion for the next forum meeting

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Matters arising

1. The forward planning team send a copy of the annual monitoring report to Mrs Hall

A report was sent to Mrs Hall the day after the forum

2. The chair to look into issue re: sale of paraphernalia and arrange for an update on this for the next meeting

Councillor Hayes raised this issue with the council. The officer who has been assigned to look into the issue has written to the resident concerned to confirm they will be dealing with the issue.

3. The chair to contact community patrol re: lack of patrols in Wallasey Village

The Summer before last, (2007), Councillor Wood informed Community Patrol that she had received continued reports of youths causing annoyance around some pensioners' bungalows in the area. Community Patrol therefore put this within their patrol duties. These patrols continued until Community Patrol Officers attending felt the youths had been sufficiently deterred.

The Community Safety Team put a dot on the map for every incident of anti social behaviour whether reported to the Police, Fire Service or Community Patrol as well as criminal damage crimes (closely related to anti social behaviour). Compared to other parts of Wirral our weekly and monthly analysis do not flag this area as a hotspot.

However, if problems persist in this or any area the numbers to ring are:

Community Patrol: 666 5265
Council Emergencies 647 7810
StreetScene 606 2004
Dog Warden Service 647 8799
Environmental Health 691 8318

Further advice is available on the Website www.wirral.gov.uk

4. The area co-ordinator to look into the possibility of arranging for the sportsmobile to be brought to Wallasey

The Sportsmobile is a facility to provide mobile diversionary sports activity for young people to tackle anti-social behaviour. In the new round of 'You Decide' we have submitted, (jointly with the Council's Community Sports Development Unit), there is the option for all Area Forums to bid for deployment of the Sportsmobile.

Earlier in the year it was out of service for repairs and the opportunity was taken to make additional improvements to the telescopic lighting rig (on the roof) which involved increasing the intensity and reach of the lighting, to enable greater areas to be lit. Because of the level of information obtained on the current hotspot areas, the Sportsmobile is now in operation on Friday and Saturday nights; Fridays - Tranmere/Rock Ferry and Saturdays - North Birkenhead.

As and when any of the activity in these areas is ceased, new hotspots where deployment is likely to be effective will be considered

5. Tony Mooney to provide further information on an integrated surgery at Asda once a date has been set

A verbal update will be given on the evening of the forum

6. Dr Mukherjee to report back on situation re: oncology moving to the Royal

A verbal update will be given on the evening of the forum

7. Dr Mukherjee to take details re: scan and report back directly to the individual concerned

A verbal update will be given on the evening of the forum

Section Two

Local Updates

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.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service



The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at Birkenhead, Bromborough, Heswall, Upton, West Kirby and Wallasey.

We are committed to innovative and imaginative change in order to help make our communities safer and stronger. We are also 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. Past and current I.R.M.P can be viewed online at www.merseyfire.gov.uk or copies of the latest plan are available at local community fire stations across the district, public libraries and One-Stop shops.

Community engagement remains the cornerstone of our proactive activities, in particular the delivery of the **Home Fire Safety Checks** and the provision of free smoke detectors where necessary. Our HFSC campaign has been in existence for over ten years and despite all our efforts and undertaking nearly 6000 Home Fire Safety checks since the last area forums, there still remain areas within the borough which have proven difficult to access and have never received a HFSC.

We have made a commitment to risk assess every home in Merseyside and now are proactively targeting those homes that are still outstanding an initial assessment. We are utilising a variety of intelligence methods to identify these homes. It is the intention of the Authority to ensure that every home on Merseyside has had a Home Fire Risk Assessment/ Vulnerable Property Assessment by the end of the current fiscal year.

In addition we are running a series of specific targeted campaigns in our highest risk areas, in order to make our community safer.

The Service has set challenging performance targets and we are pleased to report that Wirral stations regularly achieve and exceed these targets.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service has set a goal to become an environmentally regenerative service. We will carry out investigations to reduce our carbon footprint with the ultimate aim of becoming carbon positive. The aim of which is to leave the climate in better shape at the end of each year. This goal will take a sustained effort over a number of years and will require radical change in how we operate as a business, whilst we maintain our high levels of service, intervention and response to the people of Merseyside.

The Fire Service are committed to working in partnership to achieve strategic objectives within the Local Area Agreement, examples of this are

The Fire Service have been working with partners to develop facilities at Wallasey Fire station as part of an integrated healthier lifestyle project. Work has now been completed on a new **Lifestyle Centre** which incorporates a Wirral HeartBeat gym and new community meeting and welfare facilities. The gym facilities are now being

used by the Wirral Heartbeat members and the community meeting facilities are now available.

A number of forums recently funded a **Beacon Programme** which was run out of Birkenhead Fire Station. This was run 1 day a week for 12 weeks and was designed for children aged 11-16yrs, although there were younger children who attended. The course participants were given a learning experience outside the school environment to build their confidence and self-esteem.

The course combines practical drill ground and scenario based training with classroom centred activities and workshops-including community fire safety. The group of youngsters successfully passed out from the course in July at the Fire Service Training & Development Academy and were presented with their certificates by the Mayor of Wirral in front of family, friends and representatives from the Local Area Forums.

In conjunction with **Wirral Road Safety Partnership** we are continuing to work towards reducing road traffic accidents across the district through the development of an educational training package, which is to be delivered to students by FS personnel.

Fire Support Network volunteers will also be utilised in the overall strategy to assist in reducing speeding and other contributory factors of road traffic collisions.

The Service continues to maintain a high level of operational preparedness and has carried out an number of realistic training exercises with some of our major industry partners on the Wirral.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service will soon be hosting thirteen Fire Officers from the Kuwait. These delegates will be undertaking a 2 year course through the National Fire Service College following which they will return to Kuwait to take on the role of managers. During their 4 weeks in Merseyside they will be spending time on Wirral stations to enhance their knowledge in terms of practical fire-fighting

With summer approaching fast, and hopefully the nice weather with it, there is an increased risk of grass fires. In order to tackle this MFRS have organised a number of campaigns which include -

SPARC campaign – this is aimed at parks and recreational spaces and will be run in conjunction with the Fire Support Network, directly engaging with park users to highlight the risks associated with dry weather conditions within these areas. Further details of these campaigns will be published in the local press nearer to the time.

Wirral has a number of areas of natural heath land which are recognised to be Sites of Special Scientific interest. These areas attract large numbers of visitors and this increases the risk from accidental fires which can severely affect the flora and fauna. MFRS are working in partnership with Wirral Ranger Service, Natural England, local Police and other interested groups to proactively engage and educate the public in the risks that exist. We would ask all members of the community to be vigilant during the season and to report any suspicious activities.

Fire Support Network is a non-profitable registered charity which works in partnership with the Fire Service on Merseyside to promote fire safety to the local communities through volunteers and partner organisations. Volunteer roles vary from working directly with the fire-fighters, leafleting and replacing batteries in smoke detectors to providing an after fire care service and fund raising.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can register online at www.firesupportnet.org.uk or contact via telephone on 0151 296 4600.

We are currently working closely with Wirral PCT on the **Smoke Free Homes Campaign**, the aim of which is to encourage smokers to make a pledge not to expose their family and friends to second hand smoke in their homes and cars, this will also assist in the reduction of accidental fires in properties and vehicles due to smoking related material. This scheme is currently being rolled out across the district, half of which is now included with the other station areas to follow shortly.

Community Fire Stations

- **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

FREEphone 0800 731 5958

Community Safety Team

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

Reported January 2009:

- 34-year old male from Fairbrook Drive, Birkenhead, issued with an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction following alleged verbal abuse and threatening behaviour to refuse collectors employed by Biffa;
- 28-year old male of no fixed abode was issued with a 2-year Anti-Social Behaviour Order after allegedly holding a knife against the throat of a member of the public attending Rock Ferry One Stop Shop;
- 48-year old female from Rundle Street, Birkenhead, issued with an eviction order due to criminal behaviour by her children, postponed on condition that she complies with the terms of her tenancy agreement;
- 38-year old female from Price Street, Birkenhead, gave a 12-month legal Undertaking following alleged threatening behaviour. The female was also served with two months' notice to leave her tenancy with Wirral Partnership Homes;
- 35-year old male from Neston Gardens, Birkenhead, issued with a 12-month Anti-Social Behaviour Order following threats of violence to his ex-partner.
- 19-year old female of Royden Road, Overchurch, issued with an eviction order to leave her home within 14 days due to anti-social behaviour;
- 42-year old female of Inman Road, Overchurch, gave a legal Undertaking following complaints of anti-social behaviour. She was also ordered to leave her tenancy with Wirral Partnership Homes;
- 42-year old female from Rosalind Avenue, Bebington, gave a legal Undertaking following criminal offences committed by her sons;

- 21-year old male from Thorsway, Rock Ferry, issued with an eviction order due to anti-social behaviour and a criminal conviction for possession of an offensive weapon;
- 79-year old female from Home Farm Close, Woodchurch, issued with a further eviction order following a long history of anti-social behaviour involving her adult son.

Reported February 2009:

- 31-year old female from Laird Street, Birkenhead, issued with a further 2-year Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction due to abusive and threatening behaviour. She was subsequently sentenced to 28 days' imprisonment, suspended until January 29th, 2010, for breach of an earlier Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction;
- 40-year old female from Devon Gardens, Rock Ferry, gave a 12-month legal Undertaking due to alleged threatening behaviour;
- 15-year old male from Stanley Road, Birkenhead, issued with an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Order due to alleged repeated incidents of anti-social behaviour, primarily in the Beechwood area;
- 19-year old Wallasey man of no fixed abode was issued with a 5-year Anti-Social Behaviour Order following a long history of anti-social and criminal behaviour;
- 21-year old female from Hillburn Drive, Birkenhead, was issued with a stern warning by the courts that she faced a prison sentence if she committed a further breach of a legal Undertaking;
- 39-year old female from Avon Street, Birkenhead, was issued with an immediate eviction order due to repeated anti-social and criminal behaviour at her home;

Reported March 2009:

- 34-year old male from Fairbrook Drive, Birkenhead, issued with a 12-month Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction following verbal abuse and threatening behaviour to refuse collectors employed by Biffa (see January 2009);
- 17-year old male from Millersdale Close, Eastham, issued with a 4-year Anti-Social Behaviour Order;

Reported April 2009:

- 35-year old female from Needham Crescent, Noctorum, ordered to leave her home due to anti-social behaviour by her and her 18-year old son;
- Joint operation between the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Merseyside Police saw the man responsible for thousands of pounds worth of criminal damage to alleygates identified and successfully prosecuted. The 46-year old from Palmwood Close, Prenton, conditionally discharged for two years and ordered to pay compensation to Wirral Council;
- 32-year old male from Neston Gardens, Birkenhead, issued with an eviction order to leave his home and pay costs, following complaints of anti-social behaviour including loud music;
- 40-year old female from Devon Gardens, Rock Ferry, issued with a 12-month Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction due to alleged threatening behaviour and verbal abuse (see February 2009). The female was also served two months' notice to leave her property;
- 35-year old male from Neston Gardens, Birkenhead, sentenced to three months' imprisonment suspended until December 2009 for repeatedly breaching an Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction (see January 2009);

Reported May 2009:

□ 43-year old female from Walby Close, Woodchurch, and 24-year old male from Houghton Road, Woodchurch (mother and son), issued with interim Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions following alleged threatening behaviour.

Additional activity has included:

□ Youth Respect Team

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team's youth outreach team has operated in Seacombe, Poulton, Liscard, Bromborough, Beechwood, North Birkenhead, Central Birkenhead, Rock Ferry and Tranmere.

□ Respect Watch Scheme implemented in Bidston Rise, Birkenhead (January 2009)

Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, in partnership with Merseyside Police and landlord Wirral Partnership Homes, designated the Bidston Rise area as a Respect Watch Scheme Area. The Scheme is designed to provide further protection to residents who have suffered anti-social behaviour so serious that it has warranted legal action by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

The Scheme includes a local lettings agreement with residents and a commitment from Wirral Partnership Homes that steps will be taken to ensure that applicants for housing within that area or members of their household, guilty of previous unacceptable behaviour, will not be re-housed within the area. The Scheme has supplemented activity around the deployment of the Community Mobile Police Station in the north Birkenhead area.

□ Mobile CCTV camera relocated (February 2009)

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team's mobile 3G CCTV camera was relocated to Sherlock Lane, Poulton.

□ Team raises £700 for Comic Relief (March 2009)

Officers from Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team were out in force in Liscard Town Centre with its Respect Bus raising awareness about anti-social behaviour whilst supporting a good cause. The activity saw the Team's Senior Youth Worker, Alf Mullin, and Enforcement Officer, Andy O'Rourke, sat in a bath of red custard. A colleague and analyst from the Joint Community Safety Team, Sai Maing, joined in the activity having been sponsored to work all day in his pyjamas. In total the activity raised £718.25 for Comic Relief.

□ Opportunities knock for Wallasey teenagers (May 2009)

A group of young people came together to celebrate a successful application to the Youth Opportunities Fund that saw them pay a visit to the country's seat of power. The group of ten young people, aged between thirteen and eighteen, from the Seacombe and Liscard areas gave a presentation to their local ward councillors about their trip to the Houses of Parliament and the Home Office, which was funded by the Youth Opportunities Fund.

The young people were brought together by the Youth Respect Team which was working in the area to address complaints of anti-social behaviour. At the celebration at Wallasey Town Hall, the young people outlined the positives they had got out of the trip; this included increased confidence, experience of teamworking and many new skills, including leadership.

During the event the (annual) Sheila Jordan Respect Champion Trophies were presented (Sheila was a local resident who was instrumental in developing activities

for local young people and who died at Christmas 2007). The Junior Shield was presented to one of the young people (15 years old) from the trip as he had been the driving force behind the trip, taking a strong leadership role and now wishes to volunteer with the Youth Respect Team.

The Senior Shield was presented to an 18-year old who had originally participated in football sessions in the area organised by the Youth Respect Team and progressed to volunteering with Wirral's Positive Futures led programme on Friday and Saturday evenings in Seacombe, co-ordinated by Wirral's Community Sports Development Unit.

□ Pupils earn respect from range of agencies (May 2009)

Representatives from a range of local organisations joined together with primary school pupils to celebrate the completion of another year of Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's awareness programme designed to steer youngsters away from anti-social behaviour. The Respect Programme for Primary Schools is a seven-week modular interactive programme which makes pupils aware of what anti-social behaviour is and the possible consequences if they were to get involved in it.

The programme includes a number of classroom sessions and two location-based activities, including a trip to the Old Courthouse in Wallasey – a decommissioned courtroom - where the pupils take part in a mock courtroom session.

During this academic year the Anti-Social Behaviour Team worked with more than 500 pupils from Year 5 or Year 6 from primary schools including Liscard, Our Lady of Lourdes, Egremont, Woodchurch Road, Black Horse Hill Juniors, Holy Cross, Woodslee, Woodlands, Bidston Village, Raeburn and Bidston Avenue. The programme is lead by an Education Social Worker and Police Officer seconded to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and key elements are delivered by other agencies and Council departments, including Arriva, Merseyrail, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, HM Courts Service, Tranmere Rovers FC and the Dog Wardens;

Wirral stands as the second best achieving Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in Community Safety out of the 36 Metropolitan Districts, showing significant reductions in crime as a result of effective working with partners to achieve such results. We want to maintain and even improve upon such good results. Here are some of the initiatives in which we as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) are doing -

Burglaries - There have been an ongoing number of Roadshows from Merseyside Police raising the profile of burglary and consequent reduction, highlighting the need for people to be aware such as ensuring windows are not left open when out of the house. In conjunction with the police initiatives, we have supplied SmartWater property marking kits to properties in what are 'hot-spot' areas to reduce the opportunities for burglars.

Community Safety have linked in with RSL's such as the Roadshow put on by Wirral Partnership Homes to allocate SmartWater in their properties, again in the most needy areas. Similarly Regenda / Maritime and Riverside have similar projects ongoing with Community Safety to raise public and housing warden awareness.

Actions on the Burglary Day of Action 7 April -

Pier Project - Persistent Priority Offenders (PPO's) Team

- Ensure 'premium service' for all PPO's arrested for Burglary

- Proactive targetting of those PPO's in the community
- Monitor engagement and compliance with partner agencies

CID

- 'Arrest Day' targeting named offenders
- Burglary cars actively targeting offences
- Prison visits
- Executing Warrants

Neighbourhood Policing Teams

- Marketing in 'Hot Spot' locations in Hi-Viz
- Police Customer Focus - contacting victims of burglary and provided with updates / feedback

CDRP- other partner updates

- Neighbourhood Watch leaders updated through the 'Ringmaster' system (automated email / telephone)
- Community Patrol involved with N'hood Policing Teams
- Trading Standards linking in with CDRP partners to target second-hand dealers / car bootsales / 'No Cold Calling Zones' awareness

Operation 'ROGUE TRADER' on 20 May is a partnership with Trading Standards and is aimed at tackling doorstep crime. Rogue Trading, concerns incidents where consumers have been 'cold called'. It refers to the practice of deliberately overcharging for unsatisfactory services and/or goods. This includes charging for unnecessary work, damaging property deliberately in order to obtain money, leaving work unfinished and intimidating behaviour in order to extort money.

It is known that the offenders travel large distances to commit crime, and some of the teams exchange information with distraction burglars. It is well evidenced that there are considerable links between certain rogue traders (who look for business on the doorstep) and distraction burglars.

Although the above were particular 'Days of Action', yet the actions are ongoing but was more concentrated on those days

Car Crime

Continuing with working with the NCP Parking Wardens to identify vehicles where property has been left on display. The last registered keeper of the vehicle is sent a letter which states that their vehicle was seen recently with items on display (but not when or where) enclosing a crime reduction booklet in the hope that they will be more careful next time to avoid being a victim of crime.

Operation Pantha where covert police vehicles are left unattended in car crime areas. The vehicles are equipped with CCTV and Smartwater spray in order to identify the offenders.

3G CCTV - working in conjunction with Neighbourhood Management areas, there has been a roll-out of cameras in certain hot spot locations. They are allocated through the Neighbourhood Action Groups and consultation with community groups.

Hate Crime MARAC

Following on from three consultations with agencies and members of the community, the process gave consent to create a Hate Crime MARAC which includes all six

strands of diversity i.e., Age, Disability, Gender, Race, Faith / Religion and Sexuality. The process is ongoing as Community Safety, working in partnership with many agencies and community representatives, develop that important aspect of community cohesion.

Marketing - the Police Volunteers who work within the Community Safety Team and manage Neighbourhood Watch regularly attend roadshows and distribute crime reduction literature and crime reduction products. We work with the Council and Police Press / PR teams to produce items which raise the profile of Community Safety and crime reduction messages.

Wirral University Hospital Trust

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 will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the elected Public Governor for the host constituency.

- **Controlling Infection.....**

- Our Elective Surgical Unit at Clatterbridge remains MRSA bloodstream infection free – this Unit can undertake most planned surgical procedures including joint replacements.
- Our Women's Services Unit at Arrowe Park is also MRSA bloodstream infection free
- Reducing the incidence of MRSA and Clostridium difficile is a very high priority for the Trust and figures released by the Health Protection Agency in April show that between October and December 2008 there was a significant decrease – 60% - in cases of C.diff. compared to the same period in 2007.
- 'Working Together to Keep It Clean' – an on-going campaign that aims to raise the Infection Control profile even higher at the Trust and to increase awareness amongst staff, patients and visitors of how important it is to 'Keep it Clean'

- **Improving Our Standards.....**

- The Trust has been awarded the title of 'Best Large Hospital*' in the Dr Foster Good Hospital Guide 2008 which compares services and treatment outcomes at all hospitals across the country.
- We are proud to have been named, for the third year running, as one of the country's Top 40 performing hospitals by an independent benchmarking company that compares our performance in 20 key areas – including infection rates, mortality rates and waiting times – against other, similar hospitals.
- Our Stroke Services have been rated as among the best in the country by the Royal College of Physicians following a recent audit and we will be improving services even further when we become a hyper-acute stroke centre thanks to an investment of £1.6million from NHS Wirral
- In the most recent (2007/08) Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check we scored 'excellent' for our use of resources and 'good' for the quality of our services

- Our Maternity Unit was judged to be one of the **'best performing'** in the country according to the 2008 Healthcare Commission's Maternity Services Review and was named **'best in the region'** in a national survey of new mothers and mothers-to-be.
- **An external assessment of our standards by the Patient Environment Action Team resulted in the following scores being awarded to the Trust for 2008 -**

	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Privacy & Dignity</i>
<i>Arrowe Park</i>	Excellent	Good	Good
<i>Clatterbridge</i>	Excellent	Good	Excellent

- **Providing New Services.....**

- The Trust has announced a major capital investment in services for **Women and Children** at Arrowe Park Hospital. The £11million scheme, due for completion in spring 2011, will radically change the face of the current Maternity services building and will create a 'centre of excellence' by bringing together under one roof, all acute hospital services for women and children. The development will include:
 - A major refurbishment of the **maternity wards**, providing all patients with single rooms and en-suite facilities
 - A brand new **maternity delivery suite** featuring five new delivery rooms, including two with birth pools and additional facilities to allow partners to stay overnight
 - Creation of an attractive single **front entrance and reception area** to welcome patients and visitors.
- On 1st June our brand new **Children's Outpatients Department** will open at Arrowe Park Hospital. Re-located from the main hospital building, this is the first phase in our plan to bring all children's services together.
- Work has just started on building a new **accommodation facility for parents** of children being treated at Arrowe Park Hospital. Funded by Ronald McDonald House Charity, this is the granting of the Jellybean Kid's Appeal third wish and is due to open in the autumn.
- Over the course of the next two years we will be **upgrading wards** in the main hospital block at Arrowe Park on a rolling programme to provide more single rooms and better sanitary facilities.
- A second **MRI scanner** is currently being installed at Arrowe Park.
- We are investing nearly £1million in adapting our wards to comply with Department of Health guidance on **eliminating mixed sex accommodation** for patients.
- **The Trust is a designated Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery**
- **We were the first NHS organisation in Merseyside and Cheshire to offer a new laser technique – the *greenlight laser* – that is transforming the treatment of prostate conditions for men**
- **A brand new, multi-million £ Dialysis Unit has opened at Clatterbridge Hospital to treat patients with renal (kidney) conditions.**

- **Easy to Use Website.....**

- Our new-look, 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
- The website is speech enabled for browsers with sight related problems
- The new, 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 8,000 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

Equality and Diversity

Equality Standard for Local Government

Wirral Council was assessed for level 3 of the Equality Standard on the 20 and 21 May but unfortunately did not meet the full criteria. However, the Council was commended for the progress it has made regarding equality and diversity over the last 12-18 months, and has been given until September 2009 to submit further evidence in order to be awarded level 3.

A peer challenge team from the Improvement and Development Agency were on site for 2 days at Wallasey Town Hall.

Over the 2 day period Councillors, Chief Officers, staff, representatives from partner organisations, members of the equality watch scheme, local strategic partnership members and community representatives took part in focus groups and interviews.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank EVERYONE who has played a major part in the whole process both behind the scenes, leading up to the assessment and over the 2 day challenge itself.

Diversity Day to be held at Wallasey Town Hall!

Diversity Day – Wednesday 4 November 2009, 2pm – 9pm, more details will be made available in the next area forum report.

We are delighted to announce that our second diversity day will take place on Wednesday 4th November at Wallasey Town Hall.

This year the event will run from 2pm – 9pm and will be open to members of the public. We want to see you there!

There will be lots of activities taking place and a few surprises along the way.

If you would like to get involved with the event or offer support to help on the day, please contact Maxine Joynson on 691 8266 or email maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk

Look out for more details in the next report!

Equality Watch Scheme

The Equality Watch Scheme is the Council’s equality and diversity action plan for the period April 2009 to March 2012, covering all six equality strands, also taking into consideration multi-forms of discrimination

- Gender (including transgender)
- Disability
- Race
- Sexual Orientation
- Age
- Religion or Belief

The Equality Watch Scheme details the actions that will be taken across the whole Council to eliminate any discriminatory practices and to promote equality and recognise diversity within employment and service delivery. The scheme will also provide the framework for the Council achieving the different levels of the Equality Standard for Local Government.

The three year action plan is split into four sections and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Equality Watch Scheme replaces the Council's Race, Disability and Gender Equality Schemes. However, this proposed scheme does take into account the Council's statutory equality duties under the Race Relations Act 1976, the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, and the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. The Equality Watch Scheme also gives appropriate regard to the forthcoming Single Equality Act relating to sexual orientation, age, religion or belief.

Most comments received from the two consultation events held in January along with comments received via email and telephone, have been incorporated into the final draft.

The updated document will be presented to Cabinet on 28th May 2009 for final endorsement, following this it will be published on the Local Strategic Partnership and Council's websites.

All Together Now distribution bin

The Council have distributed this free magazine through our one stop shops and libraries since it was launched several years ago. They have now presented a distribution box, which is located in the Wallasey Town Hall foyer and branded with our Equality Watch logo.

The award-winning All Together Now! magazine is aimed at EVERYONE — but especially anyone whose lives are affected by disability, long-term health conditions, or, age - plus health professionals.

With the help of NHS Trusts, local authorities and community groups, 73,000 FREE copies are distributed across Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales. The full colour tabloid magazine promotes full social inclusion in all aspects of life.

There are strong regional/national news sections, plus sections on employment, education and training, housing, welfare benefits, holidays, transport, motoring, aids and equipment, the arts, leisure and recreation, gardening, and sport.

The All Together NOW! charity plan to publish the magazine every two months. So get your free copy of All Together Now! when you next visit the Town Hall.

Do you want to become a member of Equality Watch?

This will entitle you to receive copies of equality watch newsletters, regular updates on national and local equality and diversity headlines and the opportunity to be involved in the council's equality watch initiatives.

If you are interested in becoming a member of equality watch and would like to register please email: equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk

We are waiting to hear from you!

Wirral Youth Service

General Wirral Overview

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 25th 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
- International exchanges
- 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

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.
International Work

Each year the Youth Service runs a comprehensive programme of International Youth Exchanges. Young people from Wirral take part in a number of international opportunities including, Hong Kong and the Azores. They have recently hosted a group from Germany; this is done in partnership with Upton Hall School

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 450 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

The DofE is available to all young people aged between 14 and 25 with the emphasis being the development of young people's leisure time. By taking part in the DofE, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children who after successfully achieving their Bronze Award are now working towards their Gold. This group recently successfully bid for Youth Opportunity Funding to enable them to visit the Czech Republic. This visit, which involved studying social and foster care in a former communist state, satisfied the requirements of their DofE Gold Residential

A newly formed Bronze group is hoping to complete their expedition at the Oaklands centre in the forthcoming expedition season.

In our drive to make the DofE available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units to run the Award. This includes Meadowside Special School and the Observatory School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with learning difficulties.

Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts

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. A peer education company within the Wirral Youth Theatre have performed in parks and youth clubs a play about risk taking behaviour this is now going into schools

New Brighton and Wallasey.

St Mary's School Youth Club are running the D of E, they run Bronze Silver and Gold courses, young people learn and develop skills around navigation, first aid and physical fitness. Around ninety five young people from the unit are currently volunteering in the community. In March sixty five young people took part in orienteering events on the Wirral over two Saturdays.

The Belvidere Centre based in Wallasey and open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The club caters for disabled young people, together with their non disabled peers, and has a very successful Wednesday session for young people with Aspergers.

The members are currently working towards the Health Promoting Youth Clubs award and other projects include workshops on a variety of current issues. There is an active Members Committee who have all successfully completed the Youth service senior members course. They are currently running workshops on Sexual health and relationships

Wallasey Young People's Project has continued to work with young people in Wallasey, Seacombe, Liscard, Poulton and New Brighton. The youth workers deliver a programme that addresses the needs of the young people both in terms of life skills and physical activity, including a climbing course at Awesome Walls. The young people have been involved in My Place consultations concerning the development of Wallasey Fire Station as a resource for young people.

Travel

Personal Travel Planning Report – Heswall – Pensby - Irby

Aim of Project

A Personal Travel Planning project is proposed for Wirral in 2009 which will contact 10,000 households in order to reduce car use.

Background

In 2008 the Merseyside Transport Partnership (MTP) commenced a three year Personal Travel Planning (PTP) project as part of the partnership's TravelWise programme to help people make smarter travel choices. JMP Consultants were contracted to support management and delivery of the project. Transport and Travel Research (TTR) provide research and evaluation services in support of the TravelWise Merseyside programme and were contracted to provide independent evaluation of the PTP project.

The PTP project has the following aims:-

- a) Reduce private motor vehicle kms among participants particularly for morning peak trips into Liverpool city centre and Birkenhead town centre;
- b) Reduce travel and establish sustainable travel patterns among participants;
and
- c) Reduce carbon emissions from travel.

An area encompassing 3500 households in Childwall, Liverpool was selected for a pilot programme for delivery in summer 2008. Evaluation of the Merseyside pilot revealed similar levels of behaviour change to those seen in comparable projects elsewhere.

Comparing the interviewer led travel diary data of all those who participated in the project with those who did not recall being asked to participate, reveals a 9.9% increase in trips made by sustainable modes and a 10.2% reduction in car use.

Wirral Project

Area Selection

In preparing for the 2009/10 project it was recognised that a larger scale residential programme should be conducted and that this be designed in such a way as to contribute to the congestion corridor management programme. Heswall, Irby and Pensby were selected as providing the most potential for reducing car use and meeting the programme aims.

The following characteristics contribute to the potential of the area to meet the programme aims.

- a) Heswall has high level of car ownership (83%) and very high car usage for local work trips providing an opportunity to address local travel as well as travel to the city centre.
- b) High potential for people to use public transport as bus services originate in Heswall. Comparable car and bus journey times – bus quicker along corridor during 8am-9am peak.
- c) Suitable catchment area with larger numbers of people travelling to work by car along congestion corridor.
- d) Distinct local community.
- e) Capacity on 472 / 71 / 72 services (in project area).
- f) Potential to also impact other local trips (e.g. shopping, leisure, health and education).
- g) 10 primary schools and 2 high schools in area all working with TravelWise on travel plans.
- h) Amalgamation and relocation of GP surgeries in project area.

Wirral Objectives

These specific objectives have been set for the Wirral programme

- a) Reduce car use from the project area for peak hour trips to Birkenhead / Liverpool in order to contribute to reduced car trips on the designated congestion corridor.
- b) Reduce car use between the project area and Arrowe Park hospital in order to reduce traffic / parking problems at the hospital.
- c) Reduce car use for other trips to and from the project area in order to reduce traffic growth and encourage sustainable travel behaviour.
- d) Improve efficiency of trips made by car in order to reduce CO₂.
- e) Improve perception of sustainable modes of travel
- f) Improve awareness of information sources for sustainable modes of travel
- g) Increase understanding and awareness of TravelWise

Planned Activity – the project

A team of advisors will be recruited and trained via JMP. A project office above Heswall post office, has been identified from which the programme will run. The project will be delivered in waves moving across the area – a sequence can be provided for this nearer the time. Initial contact leaflets, bearing the Wirral logo will be delivered to the first wave area mid May. Following training, residents will begin to be contacted in person from May 20th. All advisors will carry id and will wear red TravelWise t-shirts. It is proposed that media are informed about the project prior to the first information reaching households and that a launch event be held in the project office during w/c May 25th.

Throughout the project opportunities for media coverage will be sought, utilising project participants etc and elected member participation will be sought for all such opportunities. Similarly the www.LetsTravelWise.org website will be utilised to encourage communication of participants' achievements and project progress.

Engagement Outline

- a) A before survey will be conducted end of April to set a baseline
- b) A leaflet will be sent to homes in the project area outlining the project and inviting participation from mid May (not more than 2 weeks before doorstep contact attempted).
- c) Three attempts to contact people at home will be made (i.e. weekday, weekday evening, Saturday) and if willing to participate a 10-15 minute conversation will be held to identify information and incentives that would help meet an individual's travel needs and encourage sustainable travel behaviour.
- d) An information pack will be delivered containing the incentives and information relevant to their needs within 5 days – eg cycle maps, discount bus tickets etc.
- e) JMP will make use of existing Merseytravel / Wirral / Merseyside resources and any relevant national campaigns (e.g. Change4Life, etc.)
- f) Additional resources and incentives will be developed for the project, including an Area Guide, Buses from Your Stop, Personal Journey Plans and a TravelWise Challenge.
- g) Challenge participants will be emailed and/or texted to encourage greater participation and to present further offers
- h) A Customer Aftercare service will be carried out by the Travel Advisors. This will be done using telephone and email follow-ups.
- i) An independent evaluation of the project will be conducted by TTR using a telephone after survey in October
- j) The target for Year Two is 5000 participants.

National Carers Week



This year CARERS WEEK is 8th-14th June '09 The theme this year is

Carers... the UK's secret service

Six million people provide unpaid care to someone they know.

The UK's carers are, quite literally, indispensable. By providing unpaid care for

someone they know who is ill, frail or disabled, they save the economy an incredible £87 billion.

3 in 5 people will be carers at some point in their lives - carers often face a lack of recognition in all areas of their lives.

This year to identify 'hidden' carers on the Wirral and sign post them to help and support that they maybe entitled to we are having a competition which will also be promoted in the Wirral Globe. To win a Health Farm Day donated by Roz Tranfield - Beauty Centre for Women and Men in Wallasey with a days paid care donated by Crossroads Caring for Carers, all you have to do is send to us in no more than 10 words what 'looking after someone means to you'.

Send your entry to WIRED Carers Team, Cavendish Enterprise Centre, Brassey Street, Birkenhead, CH41 8BY or email carers.support@wired.me.uk along with your contact details. Closing date for entries by 4pm Friday 12th June. All entries will be judged by carers. The lucky winner along with the winning entry will be announced during Carers Week. Good Luck!!!!

Carers Helpline 0151 670 0777

NHS Wirral

- **Launch of What? alcohol misuse campaign**

NHS Wirral has invested heavily in alcohol misuse treatment, prevention and care with spending rising from 845K to 2.2M by the end of 09/10. Part of this investment includes the development of the What? campaign aimed at providing information about sensible drinking and signposting to services. Look out for the campaign logo over the next few weeks. Try the website for more information.
<http://www.wirralalcohol.co.uk>

- **All Day Health Centre**

In March 2009 a new facility opened on the Arrowe Park site. The 'All Day Health Centre' includes services from GPs and nurses 8am – 10pm, 365 days of the year. This additional service is designed to complement and support existing GP services currently available across Wirral. Since March, people have been able to book an appointment to see a GP at the new centre, up to a fortnight in advance. Patients can call the booking phone number 0151 201 4188 or 'drop-in' and see a nurse at any time between 8am and 10pm. Patients are not required to register but are able to do so if they wish.

- **Carers week 8th-14th June '09**

Six million people provide unpaid care to someone they know. 3 in 5 people will be carers at some point in their lives. Carers Week will highlight and celebrate the incredible contribution that carers make, sharing the positive experiences as well as the more difficult. For more information about the national campaign go to:
<http://www.carersweek.org>

Locally NHS Wirral is working closely with Adult Social Services and Wired who are a local organisation involved in supporting the needs of unpaid carers. If you are caring

for someone, your GP would like to know so they can ensure that you are provided with the support you need in this role.

A full programme of events are planned including information and displays in all Wirral Libraries. For more information call the helpline below.

If you wish to receive further information and support for you in your caring role then please contact the following helpline number:

Wired on 0151 670 0777 or go online <http://www.wirralcarers.com>

- **Swine Flu update**

Work is well underway across Wirral to ensure that our pandemic flu plans are in place. NHS Wirral receives up to date information on a daily basis from our Wirral partners, and works with colleagues across Merseyside and the North West to co-ordinate intelligence and activity. There has only been one confirmed case of swine flu in Wirral to date. The patient who had returned from Mexico has fully recovered. It is important that the public pay particular attention to hygiene messages:

1. Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible.
2. Disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully.
3. Maintaining good basic hygiene, for example washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus.
4. Cleaning hard surfaces (e.g. door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product.
5. Making sure children follow this advice.

Most importantly, advice to the public remains that anyone returning from Mexico or one of the affected countries who develops flu-like symptoms within a week or so of their return should stay at home and call their GP or NHS Direct on 0845 4647.

There is also a health information line which is updated regularly: Tel: 0800 1 513 513 or visit www.nhs.uk.

Is the NHS prepared for a possible pandemic?

The UK has been preparing for a flu pandemic for the last five years. We have established a stockpile of enough antivirals to treat more than 33 million people,. All NHS organisations have pandemic flu plans in place and the Department of Health is now working closely with the NHS to ensure that these plans can be put into action so that antivirals can be made available to the public very rapidly should we reach that stage.

How will we keep the public up-to-date

We already have well advanced plans for providing information to the public in the event of a pandemic, in particular about what people can do to help themselves in the event of swine influenza being confirmed in the UK.

How are we making sure that GPs and other staff are up-to-date?

We keep our plans under regular review. The Department of Health has published a range of guides that support health and social care services to develop pandemic action plans including acute trusts, (secondary or hospital care trusts) primary care trusts, ambulance trusts and social care trusts. They offer practical advice and suggestions for actions needed by GP practices now and in the event of a pandemic

We recommend that you check the relevant web sites for the most recent information:

Latest health advice from the Health Protection Agency:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1240732817824?p=1240732817665

Patient advice from NHS Direct:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Pandemic-flu/Pages/QA.aspx>

Latest information from the Department of Health:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm>

Wirral's Older Peoples Parliament

We have continued to work towards improving the environment and services for the older population of Wirral. Our full parliamentary meetings, on the first Friday morning of March, June, September and December are held in the Town Hall, and provide a summary of our work, most of which takes place through monthly executive meetings and a great number of smaller groups.

Our membership currently consists of 44 volunteers, 4 from each of the 11 Area Forums of the Wirral, plus several hundred associate members. We are preparing for formal elections in the year 2010. We are asking who is interested in becoming one of the 4 elected members from each Area Forum patch, and elections will be conducted by post amongst the associates from each area.

Hopefully, by that time, we will have many more associates. It costs nothing to become part of this powerful voice for the over 50s.

Please join if you are old enough. The bigger our electorate, the more influence we will have.

Our activities include:-

Regular liaison with police and magistrates. There will be a full day of presentations and discussion with a panel of experts on August 14th on aspects of safety for the older person.

Liaison with Adult Social Services. We want the best possible domiciliary and residential care for those of us who need it. We support the moves to personalise this, and are watching developments closely. We have members sitting on many policy and development groups in this area of the Council.

Liaison with NHS Wirral (our PCT) where again we are invited onto many committees and interview panels for senior posts which will be crucial in delivery of health care to the elderly. We are constantly supportive of moves for health and social care to work in tandem, and we also remind them all the time of the valuable role which voluntary bodies play in this area. More and more public funding is now going to voluntary groups to provide quality and flexible services.

Our Hospital Discharge survey has started a huge movement to improve and streamline discharge. We are keeping a close watch on this, and would welcome any reports, good or bad, from those who leave hospital.

We organised a very successful day conference entitled "Keeping warm next winter" The presentations focussed on home improvements, fuel costs, healthy eating, grants available and generally keeping fit when it is cold. We are very grateful for generous financial support from NHS Wirral, Riverside Housing, Oakhouse Foods and others.

We are in regular contact with providers of life long learning opportunities. We are also trying to encourage older people to get involved in local schools. This is very rewarding for both the volunteer and the children. We can arrange the necessary police check.

A very active subgroup is that of grandparents who have the permanent care of grandchildren, for whatever reason. They are working, both locally and nationally to highlight the huge gaps in provision and information.

We have members working at a national level with a variety of organisations which are trying to improve the financial and human rights status of older people. We have a member working hard on aspects of public transport, and he needs more support with this.

Housing developments for older people (extra care housing, a possible retirement village, and mapping the existing provision) are high on our agenda. Whatever your interest, please contact us with ideas, problems enquiries and requests to join as an associate or stand for election.

Dates of Interest for your Diary

Parliament Meeting held at Wallasey Town Hall

Friday 4th September 2009 11am

Friday 4th December 2009 11am

Special Events

Crime & Respect (Information and Advice) for the over 50's
St Werburghs Parish Centre, Birkenhead.

Friday 14th August 2009

10am to 3pm Refreshments and lunch provided.

Committee Meetings please phone for Venue's and dates.

Phone Brian Christian on 666 2220 or email parliament@ageconcernwirral.org

Section Three

You Decide

New Brighton and Wallasey Proposals for You Decide 2008/09

The following locations have been chosen with information obtained from the You Decide questionnaires filled in last year for this forum area.

Addition litter bins, litter pick ups and activities for younger people were the main concerns residents had.

Proposed sites for additional litter bins:

Wallasey

- Outside 24 Warren Drive /
- Outside 23/25 Warren Drive at start of alleyway that leads towards Links View.
- The junction of Warren Drive and Grove Road
- Junction of School Lane and Folley Lane.
- Junction of Cross Lane and Leasowe Road

New Brighton

- Rake Lane Cemetery
- Egerton Street (Top end)
- Egerton Street (Bottom end)
- Mount Pleasant Road outside the shops between Kirkway and Sandrock Road's
- Shops via New Brighton train station

As well as these the New Brighton and Wallasey forum will receive additional use of the Respect Bus run by the Community Safety Team and more youth sports nights put on for the younger people in the area.

The forum also purchased household security packages for vulnerable residents in the community which includes extra locks, bolts and security lights. An advert has been placed into the Globe to invite people to apply for these additional packages. Following this, the locks, bolts and lights will be installed.

