

Wirral Pedestrians Association Newsletter



Number 3 March 2013

Annual General Meeting 13 April 2013 10:30am West Kirby

Existing and new members are invited to the second Annual General Meeting of the Association which will be held on Saturday 13 April 2013, at the United Reformed Church Hall, Meols Drive, West Kirby CH48 5DA (just 200 metres from West Kirby Railway Station). West Kirby can be reached by train and by buses 22, 24, 38, 39, 77, 77A, 83, 83A, and 437. This is your chance to chat to like-minded people, suggest campaigns and give us your ideas.

Progress on 20 mph speed limits on residential roads

Through Area Forum funding, four small areas in the Wirral will soon have 20 mph speed limits (enforceable by the police). They are in Rock Ferry, Bromborough, Liscard and Moreton. Work has started on erecting the posts. We are hoping that more money will be available next financial year for more schemes.



Further (national) good news is that the Department for Transport issued new guidance to local authorities in January 2013, so that they can now implement 20 mph speed limits on a wider range of roads; and this month, the Association of Chief Police Officers issued a statement clarifying that the police *will* enforce 20 mph speed limits (there had previously been some confusion).

Merseyside is worst for reported pedestrian casualties

The Department for Transport publishes figures for road casualties each year. For the latest available year (2011), Merseyside was the worst of the 50 police areas of Great Britain for pedestrians reported as killed or seriously injured per 100,000 population. Given the standards of driving and the consideration for pedestrians in Merseyside, we are not surprised. Further details are at http://www.travelindependent.org.uk/police_area_maps.html.

Candidate for worst parking of 2013

This TNT delivery van was making a routine delivery in Hamilton Square, Birkenhead. We are asking the company to comment and will publish its response in the next newsletter. The slogan on the van is "sure we can". Perhaps they mean "sure we can park wherever we like". Well, we're sure they can't!

Do you have photos of major companies breaking the law by parking on a pavement? Please get in touch.



Guide Dogs survey on pavement parking attitudes

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is campaigning against pavement parking, and recently commissioned a survey of UK drivers to discover their attitudes to parking on pavements. The worst place for drivers admitting to parking on pavements was the north west of England. The survey found that a lot of drivers do not understand the law. See <http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/supportus/campaigns/streets-ahead/information-for-local-campaigners/parking-attitudes-survey-2013/>

Wirral Pedestrian Association proposals to tackle pavement parking

We have received many responses to our proposed 10-point strategy which we described in our previous newsletter and which is on our website. We have had positive responses from Frank Field MP, Alison McGovern MP and Esther McVey MP, and from several Wirral councillors. We have also had positive responses from the local branch of Guide Dogs and from WIRED, and we are looking forward to collaborating with these organisations on the problem.

All the responses we have received are published on our website. We are now in the process of deciding on our recommendations.

Wirral Council pavement parking windscreen flyer

Wirral Council has continued work on its information / warning leaflet that will be placed on windscreens of offending vehicles. We are pleased to see that Merseyside Police are supporting the initiative by the addition of their logo.

Twitter

Wirral Pedestrians Association is now on Twitter (@WirPedestrians), and we have started to Tweet. We became interested in Twitter when we heard of a campaign in London organised to save a pedestrian crossing which was due to be removed "because it was slowing the traffic". Within a week a concerned resident used Twitter to organise a protest of 30 people and a donkey(!), and got the decision reversed. It looks to be very useful for passing on information to like-minded people.

Wirral Walking Festival

There is a walking festival for the month of May in Wirral. There is something to suit all, from health walks and guided walks to evening rambles and food and drink walks. There is a full colour brochure and a black and white summary document available to download from <http://www.visitwirral.com/whats-on/festivals/wirral-walking-festival> or contact Wirral Council.

Join us

Membership costs £2 per year (or £10 for 5 years to save administration), but larger donations are welcome. You can download a form from the website, ask a member of the Committee for a paper form, or come along to the AGM and join there.

Contacts

Chair: Geoff Dormand 07903442632 geoffreydormand@yahoo.com
Secretary: Ian Campbell 0151 625 1449 Treasurer: Victoria Doran
Email: wirralpedestrians@gmail.com
Website: www.wirralpedestrians.org.uk Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WirPedestrians>

Living Streets (national organisation): 0207 737 4900 and www.livingstreets.org.uk

Wirral Council Streetscene: Tel: 606 2004, email: streetscene@wirral.gov.uk
Merseyside Police: 0151 709 6010 or 101, or PO Box 59, Liverpool L69 1JD