

Wirral Pedestrians Association Newsletter



Number 8 Summer 2016

Campaigning priorities

At our AGM in April, it was agreed that our campaigning priorities for the year will remain as

- unauthorised parking on pavements
- other pavement obstructions
- 20mph speed limits

Pavement parking flyer

We are pleased to report this joint initiative with Merseyside Police and Liverpool Pedestrians - and now also with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.



Parking on pavements

It is an offence to drive on to a pavement and an offence to cause obstruction to other road users, including pedestrians. Vehicles causing obstruction may be issued with a fixed penalty notice and in some cases removed at the owner's expense.

Drivers are asked to have regard to pedestrians, particularly pram and wheelchair users and those who are disabled and partially sighted when parking their vehicles.



Most of the first printing of 5000 flyers has now been distributed via councillors, WPA members and libraries with many reports that they are effective - many drivers have been parking on pavements without realising that it is illegal and causes problems for many people especially those with disabilities. A second printing of 10,000 flyers is now being distributed across Merseyside.

Advertising boards and other pavement obstructions

Our blind and partially sighted members have been finding considerable difficulties from 'A' boards positioned in the middle of footways. We will continue to press Wirral Council to enforce its policy that 'A' boards (where allowed) must be positioned next to the business premises.

20mph speed limits

Wirral Council continues with its policy of limited small area 20mph speed limits. National experience indicates that this has little effect on vehicle speeds or road casualties. We will continue to press for 20mph limits on all residential streets together with streets around schools and shops - this is the policy that many councils (for example Cheshire West and Chester Council) are now adopting as best practice.

Road safety

Jane Kennedy has been re-elected as Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner. In response to our questions to all candidates, she replied "I do agree that Merseyside's performance in terms of the official measure of KSIs (numbers killed or seriously injured) needs to improve and I will work to achieve that improvement". The full text is on our website.

We are looking forward to working with her and with Merseyside Cycling Campaign and other

groups to make roads safer for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users.

We feel that the priorities for pedestrians are

- slower vehicle speeds
- better junctions where pedestrian and vehicle routes cross
- unobstructed footways and new footways where none currently exist.

Vision Zero UK

At a conference in London in February this year the Vision Zero UK campaign was launched. The vision is that nobody should be killed or seriously injured on the roads - a vision that has underpinned Sweden's road safety programme for decades and which has led to its having the best road casualty figures in the world. The Vision is linked with a Safe System approach to road design which stipulates that nobody should be killed or seriously injured due to momentary inattention or misjudgement by either pedestrian or vehicle driver - these are, after all, normal human behaviour. So when a collision has resulted in a road casualty, we look at what changes are needed to stop a similar road casualty happening again, rather than deciding whether to blame the vehicle driver, or the pedestrian or other road user. You can read more about the nationwide campaign at <http://www.visionzerouk.moonfruit.com/> and about the Merseyside campaign at <http://www.vzm.org.uk>.

Problems around the Wirral

We have heard of many problems around the Wirral.

1. **Downham Road North, Heswall:** Residents are pleased that they now have a 20mph speed limit, but dismayed that 99% of the vehicle drivers travelling along this road are choosing to ignore it. It is not clear why some police forces are enforcing 20mph speed limits, while others such as Merseyside Police are carrying out very little or no enforcement, claiming lack of resources.
2. **The Mount, Heswall:** Vehicles are frequently being driven along the footway in the narrow section of the road rather than waiting for a gap in the oncoming vehicles.
3. **Joan Avenue, Moreton:** Drivers have been parking on pavements, on the corners at junctions, and across driveways.
4. **Marlowe Estate, Wallasey:** The 20mph limit is being disregarded, with vehicle speeds estimated at up to 50mph.

5. **Prenton Dell Road, Garrick Road and Boswell road, Prenton:** The Prenton Tenants and Residents Association is concerned about the numbers of vehicles parked on pavements with 22 vehicles found completely parked on pavements in a recent survey carried out by their members.

In each of these cases, complaints to Wirral Council and/or Merseyside Police have resulted in no effective action.

Roadpeace Remembrance: Anglican Cathedral, Wednesday 31st August

Princess Diana was killed in 1997, on 31 August, the same day as the world's first motor vehicle victim, Mary Ward, was killed in Ireland in 1869.

There will be a remembrance of Princess Diana and All Road Crash Victims at the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool on 31st August 2016 at 2pm. There will be a minute's silence during the ceremony, after which five doves will be released in memory of loved ones, as each day, on average, five people are killed on Britain's roads. This Ceremony of Remembrance is organised by the RoadPeace NorthWest local group - more at <http://www.roadpeace.org/> .

Coming Association meetings

Our regular meetings are held in West Kirby at Wetherspoons (the Dee Hotel on Grange Road, CH48 4EF). Future meetings will be on 22 August 2016, and also (provisionally) on 24 October, and 19 December. All welcome.

Write a contribution

Have you seen something in your local area that we should know about? Or are you encountering problems getting around on foot in your area? Let us know and we can publish your story in our next newsletter.

Free email newsletter list

If you have received this newsletter indirectly, you can, in future, have it sent free by email - just let us know via the website or via email.

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