




Wirral's Children
Phase 3
Consultation in Leasowe
Spring 2007

 **WIRRAL**

The meeting

- Short presentation about:
 - The Review process
 - The Options which affect this school
- Your comments


 **WIRRAL**

The Primary Places Review:

September 2004
Audit Commission report on Surplus Places

October 2004
Council begins reviewing North, South, Central Birkenhead and Beechwood

October 2005
Proposals published for North Birkenhead, Beechwood and South Birkenhead

 **WIRRAL**


The Primary Places Review:

October 2005
Council begins reviewing Bebington, Spital, Thornton Hough, Bromborough and Eastham

December 2005
Children's Services inspection says

- there are too many surplus places in the primary sector
- progress in reducing surplus places has been slow, but a clear strategy is now being implemented which is likely to involve some school closures


April 2006
Proposals published for Bromborough Pool Primary
Proposal for St Mary's CE (Eastham) published January 2007

 **WIRRAL**

The Primary Places Review


October 2006
Council begins reviewing Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall, Leasowe, South Wallasey, North Wallasey, Greasby and Upton

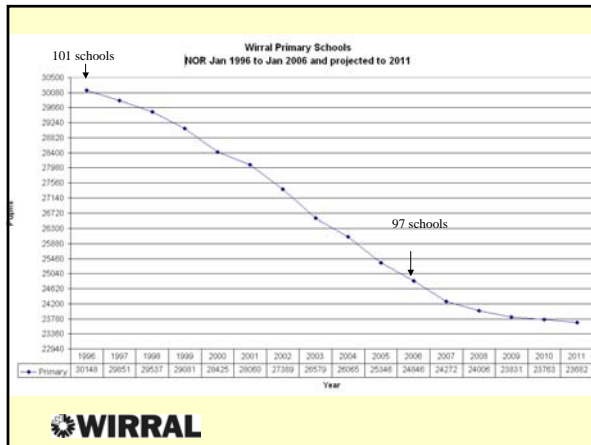
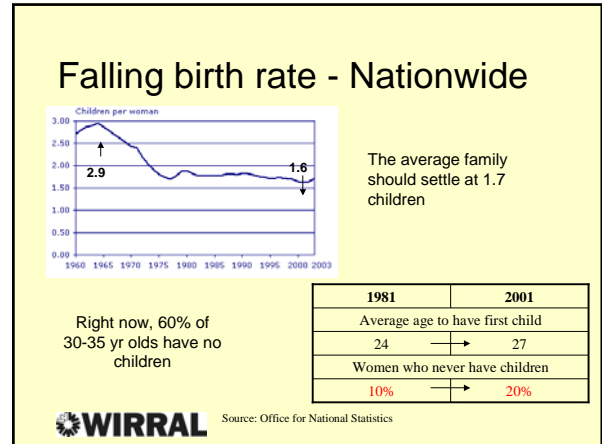
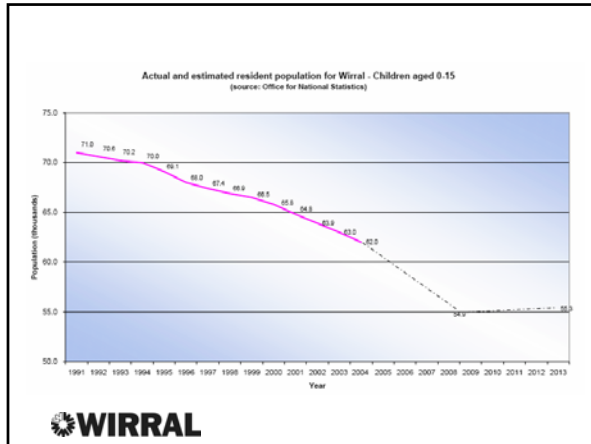
January 2007
Consultation begins on options for Pensby and Thingwall, Leasowe and South Wallasey

 **WIRRAL**

Important to:

- Focus on the needs of children not schools
- Think about the next generation
- Share information
- Trust one another
- What will work, and what will not work?

 **WIRRAL**



Surplus places in Wirral

In 2006
12% empty places

Spending £4.2 million pounds or £165 per primary pupil on empty spaces

By 2011
16% surplus places

1 in 4 schools will have more than 25% surplus places

WIRRAL

Surplus places – why do we need to act?

- Audit Commission says **surplus space** in schools should be **between 5% and 10%**
- Above 10%, wasting money supporting empty classrooms
- 4%-5% allows degree of parental choice
- No school should have more than 25% surplus – annual return to Government

WIRRAL

Creative removal of surplus

LA and Schools have created:

- ICT suites
- Libraries
- Parents rooms
- Pre-school playgroups
- Afterschool/Breakfast clubs
- Adult Learning facilities
- Bases for other services

And removed:

- Temporary mobiles

WIRRAL

Many complicated factors

- Surplus places
- Small schools
- Standards
- Location
- Where parents choose to send their children
- Value for money
- Catchment zones
- Housing changes
- Traffic and transport
- Denominational issues



How small is small?

- School Organisation Plan (2003) says under 210
- Wirral Policy (2005) says under 180
- DfES (2005) says under 150



Small Schools

- Financial – maintaining small school is at the expense of all children
- Organisational issues – mixed age classes
- Additional burden on staff
- Curriculum issues



What has happened so far

120 classroom equivalents removed without closing any schools

Phase 1 - Birkenhead and Beechwood

- Amalgamation of Prenton Infant and Junior
- Amalgamation of St Oswald's CE and Vyner Primary
- Closure of The Dell Primary

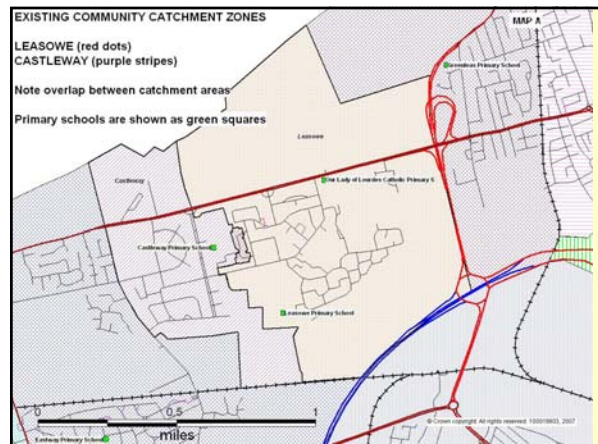
Phase 2 - Bromborough, Eastham, Bebington, Spital and Thornton Hough

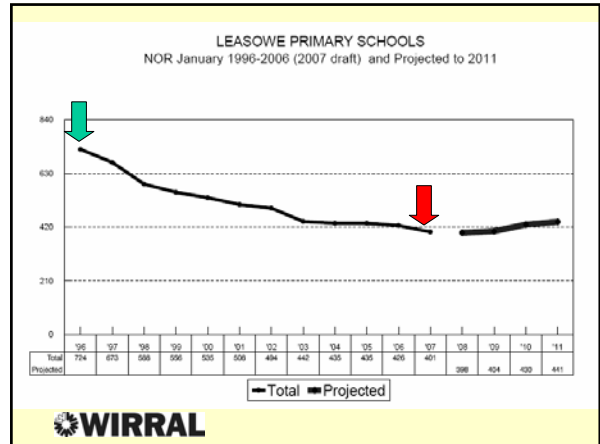
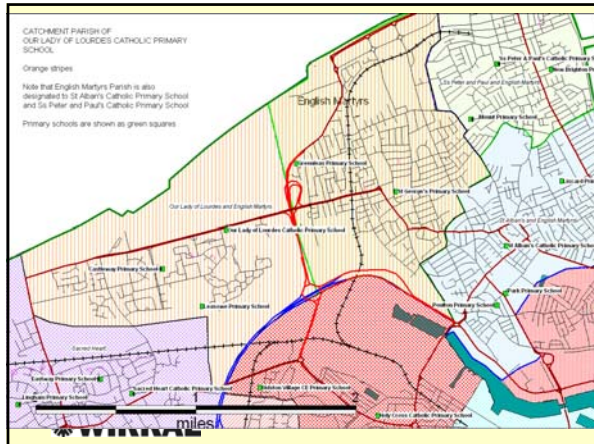
- Closure of Bromborough Pool Primary (Summer 2007)
- Also, mobile removal, pre-school re-location
- Proposed closure of St Mary's CE (Eastham)



Leasowe

- Castleway
- Leasowe
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic
- Leasowe Early Years and Adult Learning Centre



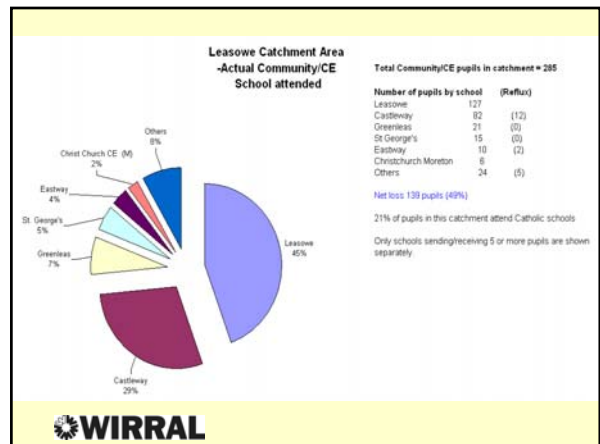
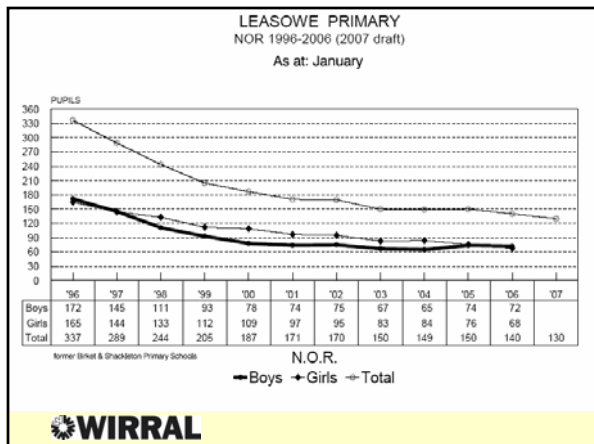
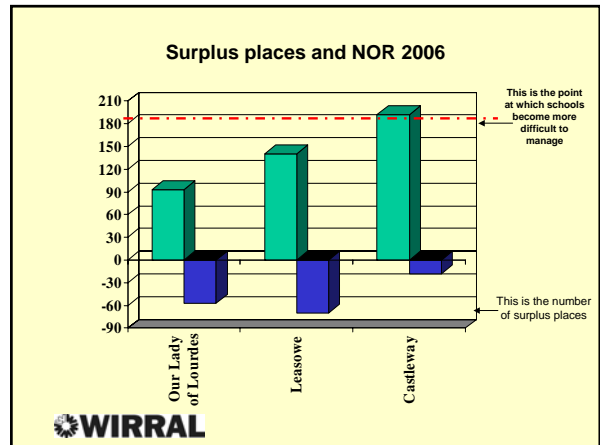


Surplus places in Leasowe area

In 2006
25% surplus places

By 2011
23% surplus places

We must act to reduce surplus places



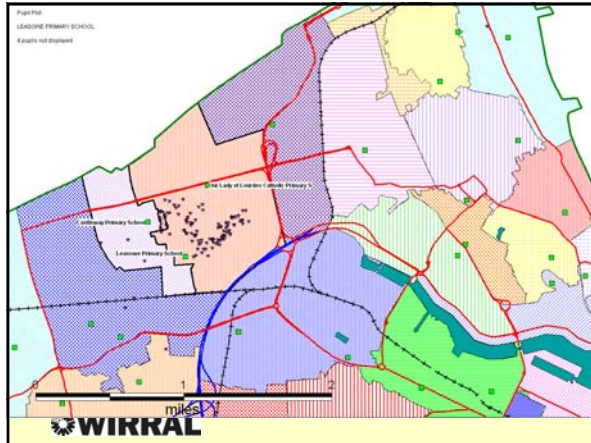
What Ofsted said (2005)

- This is an effective school. The pupils achieve well because of the very good attention to their personal skills and the good teaching which challenges them academically.
- The attainment of the current Y2 and Y6 pupils is generally well below average. However, the school adds a great deal to pupils' personal development. This is particularly well developed, especially in Foundation and in the Y1 discovery class.
- Leadership and management are good overall. The school provides good value for money.
- Pupils with special educational needs are supported very well and make very good progress.
- The pupils in the Y1 discovery class also make very good progress.
- The provision for children in Foundation is good and they achieve well.
- Pupils generally have positive attitudes and put a great deal of effort into their work; however, a small, but significant, number have difficult behaviour which is managed very well.
- Pupils achieve soundly in English, well in maths, science and ICT and very well in PSHE.
- Marking and target setting are not used well enough to help pupils know how to improve.
- Attendance is poor and punctuality unsatisfactory, despite the considerable efforts of the school.
- The role of subject leaders in checking on aspects of work in their subjects is under-developed.
- The day-to-day work of the headteacher and deputy headteacher, in supporting pupils when they have difficulties, reduces the time they have for some aspects of management.
- The school's improvement since its last inspection has been satisfactory. There has been a marked improvement in pupils' handwriting and presentation. Pupils' achievements in ICT are satisfactory and standards near the expected level. Staff skills and confidence have improved.



What Ofsted said (continued)

- Systems to check teachers' effectiveness are sound and staff training is effectively linked to school priorities. Health and safety issues have been addressed, although some issues were noted on the inspection.
- Marking of pupils' work is still inconsistent, but pupils' listening skills have improved.
- There are plenty of opportunities for pupils to develop their speaking skills, but these could be more structured, and writing opportunities could be wider.
- The school should continue to raise academic standards by providing a wider range of speaking and writing opportunities in English, improving attendance and punctuality and reducing exclusions.
- The school should improve individual target setting and marking to help pupils know how to improve.
- The school should increase co-ordinators' opportunities for monitoring of teaching and learning.
- The school should improve strategic planning, especially the detail in the school's development plan and governors' involvement.



Options for Leasowe

Option A: Closure of Castleway Primary School

Option B: Amalgamate Castleway and Leasowe into a single primary school on either site

The following options all involve faith school provision in the Leasowe area

Option C: Closure of Our Lady of Lourdes

Option D1: A joint denominational (church) school

Option D2: Expand Our Lady of Lourdes to 210 places

Option D3: Maintain Our Lady of Lourdes at current size – no change

Option D1 is suggested jointly by the Anglican and Catholic Dioceses

Options D2 and D3 are suggestions from the Catholic Diocese



A – Close Castleway Primary School

- Castleway in Special Measures
- Places at local schools
- Catchment rezoned to Leasowe Primary School
- 4 to 5 new classrooms built at Leasowe Primary



B – Amalgamation of Castleway and Leasowe

- Castleway and Leasowe close
- New primary school opens on single site
 - 4 to 5 classrooms at Leasowe OR
 - 2 or more classrooms at Castleway
- Both catchments zoned to new school



C – Closure of Our Lady of Lourdes

- Small school
- 34% attend Our Lady's from both catchment parishes
- 1 in 5 from Our Lady's parish attend Sacred Heart – change in admission number could accommodate all
- No longer a faith school in Leasowe area



D1 – Joint denominational school

- No Church of England schools in Wallasey or Leasowe at present
- 210 place primary school
- Admissions criteria and catchment parishes set by governing body
- 2 new classrooms at Our Lady's site – likely to increase surplus places
- OR if combined with option A or B, open at either Castleway or Leasowe site – no building work required



D2 – Expand Our Lady of Lourdes

- Two new classrooms – expand to 210 places
- School is undersubscribed
- Increases surplus places
- Could only operate with either Option A or Option B
- How many parents would choose to transfer to Our Lady of Lourdes?



D3 – Maintain Our Lady of Lourdes at current size

- No change to Our Lady of Lourdes



What happens next?

March 2007

Consultation ends

April/May 2007

Recommended options report goes to Cabinet

June/July 2007

Statutory notices published, representation period begins

August/September 2007

Proposals to SOC (current regs) and/or to Adjudicator



What will happen after the review

- Places for all the children in local schools
- Parents say which school they would prefer their child to attend
- Admissions criteria place the children
- Children move together so will have friends in their new school
- Enhancements to receiving schools
- Catchment areas revised
- Staff redeployed
- Council decide future of any closed community site

Earliest date for any option is September 2008



Remember:

- The Council must address these issues
- A decision has not yet been made
- This is not about saving money for taxpayers
- It is about spending money more wisely
- We must find sensible and effective solutions based on all the factors involved.

