



**Wirral's Children
Phase 3**

Consultation in Pensby and
Thingwall
January-March 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

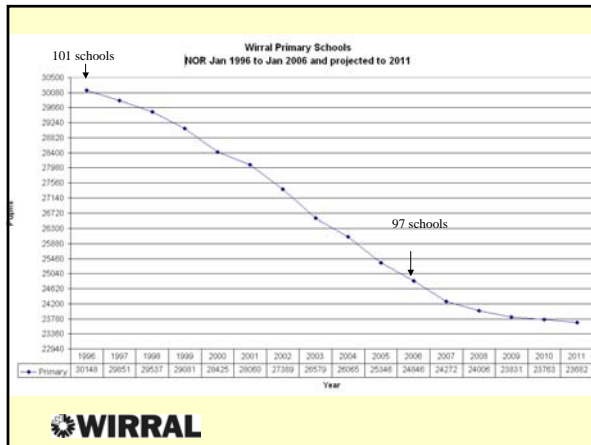
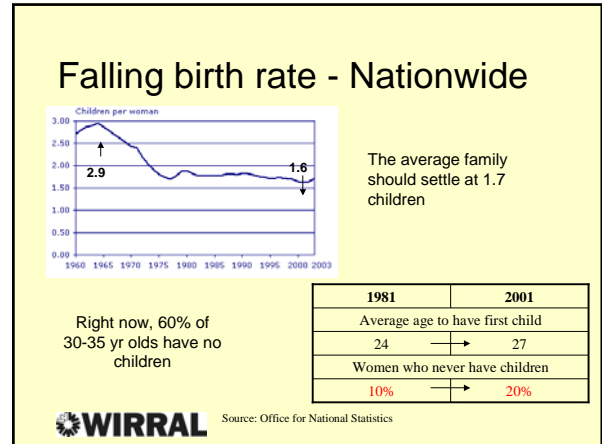
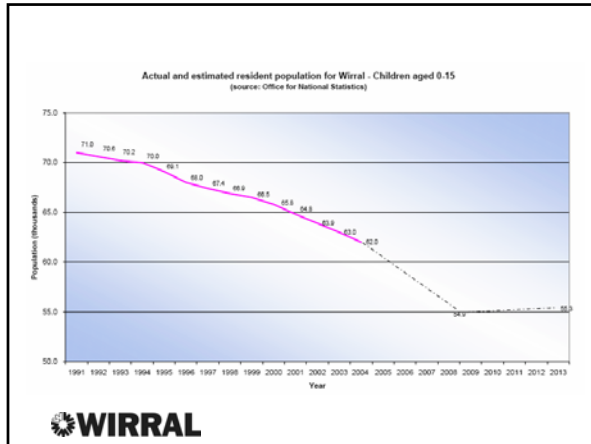
January 2007
Consultation begins on options for Pensby and Thingwall, Leasowe and South Wallasey

 **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



Infant and Junior schools

Benefits to all-through primary schools include:

- Parents go through admissions process just once in primary phase
- Fewer journeys for parents with younger and older children
- Children do not change schools at age 7, avoiding transitional dip in progress
- Staff get to know children from start of education
- Assessment of children's attainment and tracking of individual progress from age 4 to 11 is uniform and consistent



Infant and Junior schools

- Schools can design and plan a whole school curriculum covering the full primary age range
- KS1 and KS2 staff can pool skills and knowledge
- Younger and older children can act as mentors and buddies, supporting personal/social development
- Maintaining one institution rather than two saves money for the overall schools budget – one lump sum, single headteacher etc.
- Should look at possibility of amalgamation as opportunities arise



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


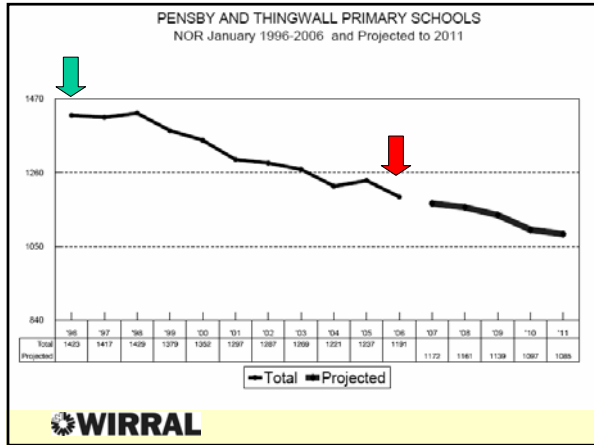
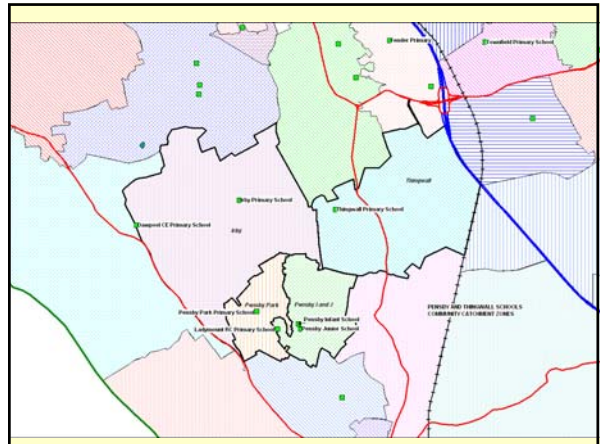
Proposed closure of St Mary's CE (Eastham)



Pensby and Thingwall

Irby
Pensby Park
Pensby Infant
Pensby Junior
Thingwall

Dawpool CE
Ladymount Catholic


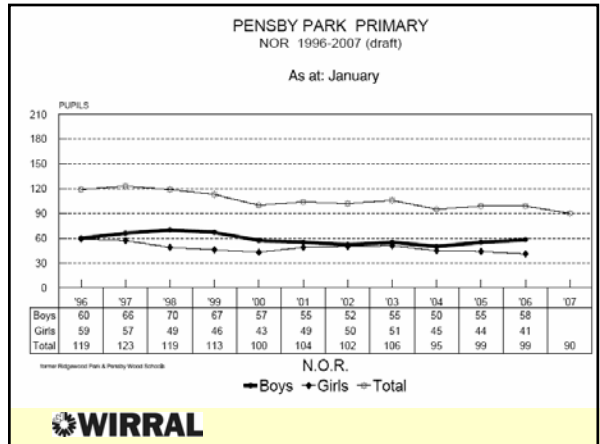
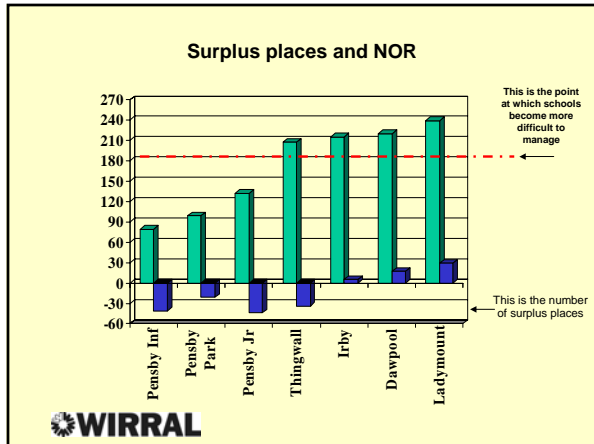



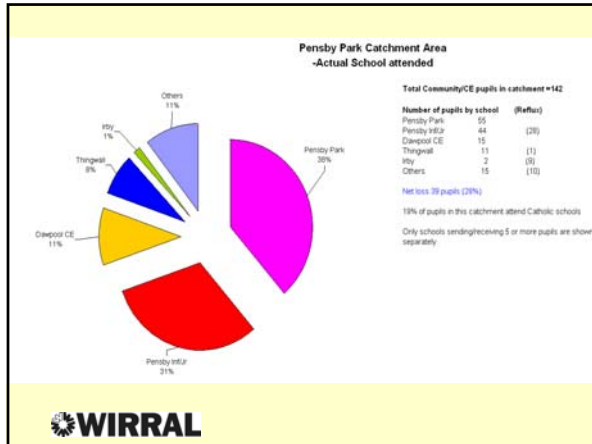
Surplus places in Pensby and Thingwall Area

In 2006
7% surplus places

By 2011
15% surplus places

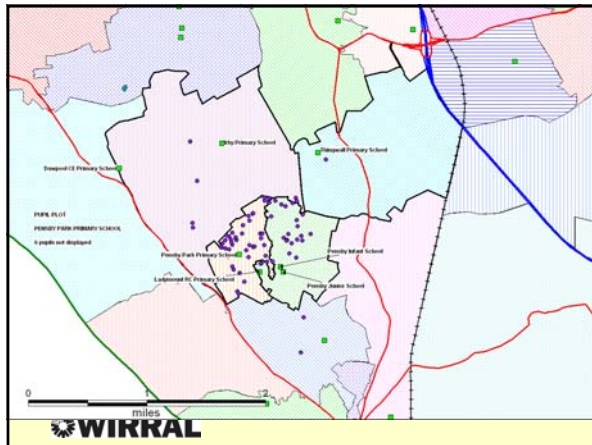
We must act to reduce surplus places



What Ofsted said (2004)

- This is a good school, which is getting better under the very good leadership of the new headteacher.
- The progress of pupils in the reception and infant classes is improving under the current staff, though their achievement at the moment is lower than it should be. Pupils' achievement grows and becomes good higher up the school. The teaching for junior pupils, especially, is often lively and challenging, so this key stage buzzes with interested learners.
- The standards pupils reach by the time they leave (Key Stage 2) are above average and the school provides good value for money.
- Some pupils, especially in Key Stage 1, could achieve more
- The school's strong commitment to pupils' personal development is reflected in the very good behaviour, hard work and maturity of older pupils
- The school cares for its pupils and provides especially well for those with physical and medical needs
- The reception children's achievement in physical development is constrained by the lack of a well equipped outdoor play area
- The headteacher, through her very good leadership, has established a staff team committed to raising standards
- The school should take further steps to raise achievement for pupils in Key Stage 1, particularly for the more able pupils and for all pupils in writing
- The school should make better outdoor provision for Foundation children
- The school should strengthen support for pupils with EAL, and for gifted and talented pupils throughout the school.



Options for Pensby and Thingwall

Option A: Closure of Pensby Park Primary School

Option B: Amalgamate Pensby Infant and Pensby Junior to form an all-through Primary School

Option C: Closure of Pensby Park Primary School AND amalgamate Pensby Infant and Junior to form an all-through Primary School

Option D: Amalgamate Pensby Park Primary School, Pensby Infant and Pensby Junior to form an all-through Primary school on one site

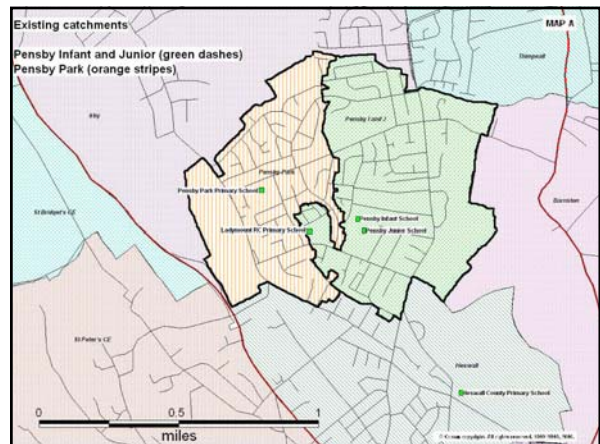
D1: the current Infant/Junior site

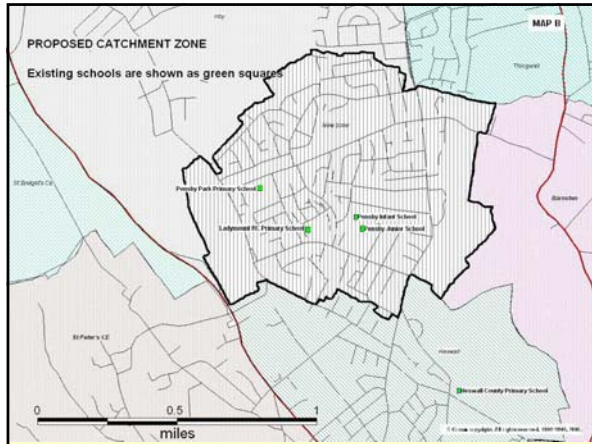
D2: the current Pensby Park site

Option E: To include in any of the above options the establishment of a Church of England Primary School in Pensby

A – Closure of Pensby Park

- Small school
- 62% of children in the catchment already attend other schools, mainly Pensby Infant, Pensby Junior and Dawpool CE
- Places at other primary schools
- Building improvements would be made to receiving schools
- Catchment rezoned to Pensby Infant/Junior





B – Amalgamation of Pensby Infant and Junior

- All-through primary school at Inf/Jr site – 210 places
- On average 88% of Infant pupils transfer to Junior
- Schools adjacent
- Existing buildings or new building?
- Remove or replace mobiles/HORSA
- Pensby Park remains open
- No change to catchment zones



C – Close Pensby Park AND amalgamate Pensby Infant and Junior

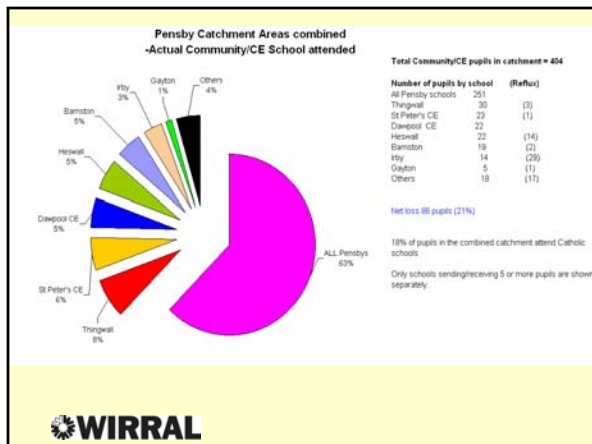
- All-through primary at Inf/Jr site – 240/270 places
- Pensby Park closes
- Remove/replace mobiles/HORSA
- Catchments rezoned to new primary school



D – Amalgamate all three schools

D1 – at Infant/Junior site, D2 at Pensby Park site

- 63% in combined catchment attend Pensby schools
- Pupil populations overlap
- ~7 new classrooms at Infant or Park, 4 at Junior, or new building?
- 270/300 places
- Remove/replace mobiles/HORSA
- Catchments rezoned to new primary school



E – Establish a CE school in Pensby

- Existing links between schools and church
- 11% currently attend CE schools “out of zone”
- Existing catchments or use Parish?
- May mean no community school in Pensby (A, C and D)



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
- Community 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.

