

# COUNCIL

Monday, 20 October 2008

Present:

Mayor                      Councillor Adrian Jones  
Deputy                      Councillor Andrew Hodson  
Mayor

Councillors      RL Abbey                      C Meaden  
                         T Anderson                      D Mitchell  
                         C Blakeley                      R Moon  
                         S Clarke                      S Moseley  
                         IO Coates                      S Mountney  
                         J Crabtree                      S Niblock  
                         G Davies                      C Povall  
                         P Davies                      A Pritchard  
                         F Doyle                      J Quinn  
                         W Duffey                      S Quinn  
                         D Elderton                      M Redfern  
                         S Foulkes                      P Reisdorf  
                         L Fraser                      L Rennie  
                         G Gardiner                      D Roberts  
                         P Gilchrist                      L Rowlands  
                         JE Green                      J Salter  
                         K Hayes                      H Smith  
                         P Hayes                      T Smith  
                         A Hodson                      W Smith  
                         S Holbrook                      J Stapleton  
                         P Johnson                      S Taylor  
                         AER Jones                      C Tegg  
                         J Keeley                      G Watt  
                         B Kenny                      R Wilkins  
                         D Knowles                      J Williams  
                         I Lewis                      P Williams  
                         AR McLachlan                      K Wood  
                         M McLaughlin  
                         C Meaden

Apologies:

Councillors      A Bridson                      A Jennings □ S Kelly □  
                         WJ Davies                      D Kirwan □ P Southwo  
                         G Ellis                      od □ A Taylor  
                         J George  
                         J Hale  
                         T Harney

## 45      MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Before the commencement of the Youth Parliament in the Council Chamber, the Mayor formally opened the proceedings in the Civic Hall at 6.00pm; Peter

Edmondson, on behalf of the Director of Children’s Services, explained the purpose of the discussion groups; and Laura Walsh, Radio Merseyside’s Poet in Residence, delivered her poem “No respect”, which was warmly received.

The young people and Council members then dispersed to the discussion groups, each of which considered one of the five aims within the Every Child Matters agenda:

- Be Healthy
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic Well-Being
- Enjoy & Achieve
- Stay Safe

The young people and councillors assembled in the Council Chamber at 7.15pm, and the Mayor briefly explained the rules of debate.

## 46 YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The following **motion** for debate had been suggested by the Executive Youth Board:

“This Youth Parliament is extremely concerned that young people today are at greater risk than ever of obesity, drug and alcohol misuse, depression and suicide, sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies.

This Youth Parliament believes that the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE Education) curriculum:

- should be a statutory requirement in all schools for all pupils, without exception;
- should cover all the above issues, and
- should include inputs into lessons from the Local Authority, Health Authority and other appropriately trained professionals who work with young people facing these issues.

This Youth Parliament calls upon the Government, and urges Wirral’s Members of Parliament to support this request, to create a GCSE in PSHE Education which has equal status to that of Maths and English.”

Jan Greenshaw opened the debate, speaking for the motion, followed by Stephen Pollard opposing it. Several young people then spoke for or against the motion, together with a number of Council members.

During the course of the debate, an **amendment** was proposed:

“That, in order to make the motion more acceptable, the words ‘without exception’ be removed from the first bullet-pointed sentence, together with the words ‘which has equal status to that of Maths and English’ from the final sentence.”

The amendment was **lost** (17:26).

A subsequent **amendment**, that PSHE Education be a compulsory subject without its being a required GCSE subject, was also **lost**, with 15 votes in favour and a clear majority against.

The debate concluded with statements from the three party leaders (Councillors Foulkes, Green and Holbrook), who complimented the young people on their enthusiastic approach and the quality of their contributions to the debate; seconders' arguments from Tara Staunton (for) and Tom Hall (against); and speeches in reply from Stephen Pollard and Jan Greenshaw.

The Youth Parliament voted on the motion, with 10 votes in favour and a clear majority against, and the motion was therefore **lost**.

The Mayor closed the meeting by thanking all present for their participation and for a well researched, informed and good humoured debate. He thanked the Director of Children's Services and Maureen McDaid, Head of the Youth and Play Service, and the staff of the Youth Service for facilitating the event.