

Smoke-Free Wirral is a partnership between the NHS, Local Authority, voluntary sector, local media and business representatives. If you would like to chat to them about how your business can go smoke-free, call: 0151 647 1702

Wirral public says it's time to protect all workers

All Wirral workers should be protected from secondhand smoke. That's one of the key findings of a public consultation carried out in Wirral in the wake of the government's proposal to limit smoking restrictions in public places. Over 800 residents and visitors were asked their views on the government's plans to partially restricted smoking in public places, which proposed exemptions for pubs that do not serve prepared food and private members clubs. The results of the survey were as follows:

- 70% said all pubs should be completely no-smoking
- 93% said all workers, including bar staff, are entitled to protection from secondhand tobacco smoke
- 80% said health inequalities will worsen if some pubs continue to allow smoking
- 58% said all enclosed residential workplaces should be smoke-free
- 51% said all private members clubs should be completely no-smoking



Wallasey Golf Club on course for a smoke-free future



Wallasey Golf Club became the first golf club in the country to receive the prestigious Roy Castle National Clean Air Award on September 1st when it formally declared the clubhouse to be a totally smoke-free zone. The club - 'Home of Stableford' - was established in 1891 and has 650 members.

Captain Alan Williams said: "A smoke-free environment will be beneficial for club members, visitors and staff."

Smoke-Free Wirral Officer Mike Donnelly Said: "We applaud Wallasey Golf Club for taking the health of all its staff seriously by providing a smoke-free environment. The Golf Club has certainly scored a hole in one with this initiative."

The Wirral's first smoke-free cafe bar

Letters at 29 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead has opened as a smoke-free venue. The bar is run by Gary, Rebecca and Keiran Hughes, the experienced former host of the Letter's Public House in Argyle Street.

They decided to open this new smoke-free venue because they wanted to offer a safe environment for families, were concerned about the health of their staff and had recognised that they had previously lost custom due to a smoky atmosphere.

And business is booming with non-smokers and smokers alike, said Gary. **"Our customers including many smokers now comment on how much they enjoy the smoke free atmosphere. Many local business people have been meeting at the venue and going on to their next meeting safe in the knowledge that their clothing still smells clean and fresh."**



Wirral backs the Merseyside Bill

Wirral councillors have overwhelmingly voted in favour of a motion to back a Smoke-Free Merseyside Parliamentary Bill. The Bill, which will secure smoke-free workplaces across Merseyside, offers a fall back should the national proposals not offer the same protection from secondhand smoke to all employees equally.

It continues, alongside Liverpool City Council's Bill, to be a tool for putting pressure on the Government to listen to the consultation and take appropriate steps, and as such is 'Local for National' action.



Speaking during the debate, Councillor Lesley Rennie reminded members of the very serious health risks associated with secondhand smoke and congratulated Wirral born Daniel Craig on becoming the the very first smoke-free James Bond!

Ultimately, national comprehensive legislation is the ideal solution, but if this were not proposed, then Merseyside's working population would be protected through this Private Bill.

What have the Leaders of the Councils in Merseyside agreed to?

At the joint leaders meeting of 29th April 2005, the following statement was agreed:

"This meeting supports the case for local and national legislation to seek to prohibit smoking in enclosed workplaces and therefore agrees to take action to work towards a Smoke Free Greater Merseyside and Smoke Free England."