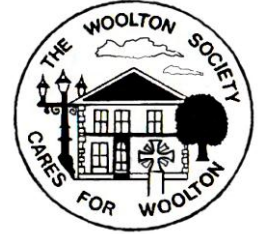


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

PO Box 127, Woolton, Liverpool, L25 8WY
wooltonsociety@hotmail.co.uk



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THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS

NEWSLETTER

Woolton Library to close on March 31st?

The council promises to listen to community groups willing to take over the running of the library. In the absence of money, time, premises, stock or access to library services, is this possible? See page 3 for a report from the Save the Library campaign.

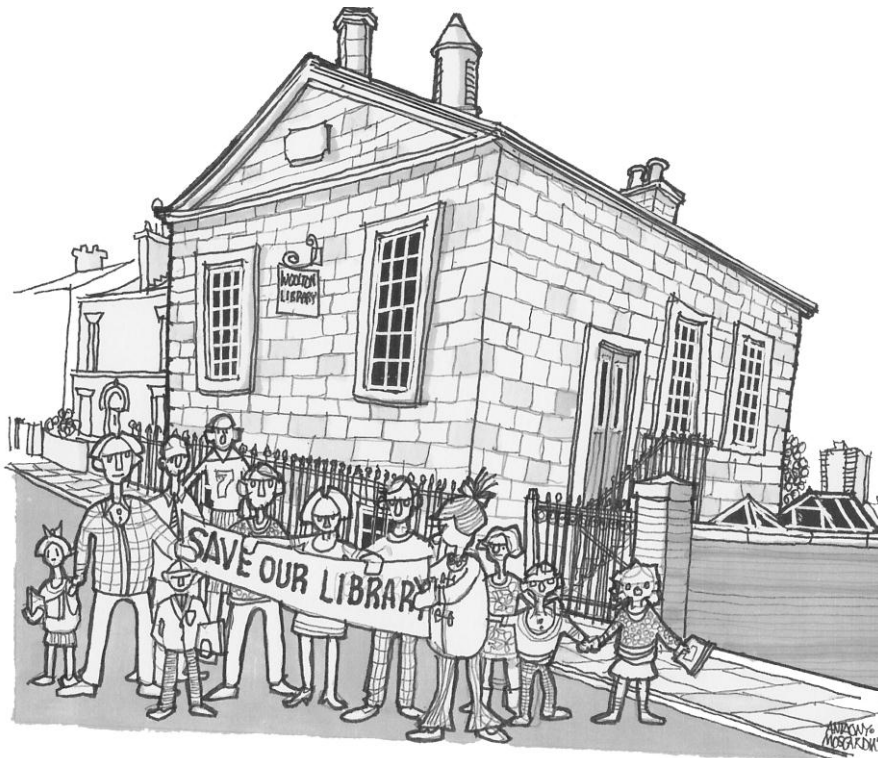


Illustration courtesy of Mr A Moscardini

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Society news

Adventures of a Victorian Millionaire: Wednesday 21st March at 7.30pm

Richard Baker, also known as Ritchie the Ranger, will be giving a presentation in full Victorian costume. He appears as Liverpool philanthropist Henry Yates Thompson: gentleman adventurer, explorer, local benefactor, & responsible for the Palm House in Sefton Park, in an evening which promises to be one of laughter & entertainment.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 16th May, Beryl Plent will be speaking on the people & grand houses of Woolton, in her talk *The Folks who Lived on the Hill*.

Wednesday 18th July, Claire Moorhead of The Friends of Williamson's Tunnels will be giving a presentation on the work of the Mole of Edge Hill, Joseph Williamson.

Fuller details of these talks will be in issue 323 of the newsletter, & on our notice board beside the HSBC bank.

All meetings are held in the Woolton Village Club, beginning at 7.30pm.

Sec's Appeal

Our long serving secretary has given notice that he will be standing down at the AGM in October. Finding a new secretary is vital to the smooth running of the society. Anyone wishing to take on this role should contact the committee as soon as possible for further information.

40th Anniversary

The Woolton Society will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in October, being established in 1972 to oppose the planned demolition of Woolton Hall. We shall be discussing in committee ways to mark the occasion, so please contact the Society with your views. All ideas, sensible & frivolous, considered.

Woolton Society grand raffle & fundraiser.

The draw for the raffle in aid of the Save Woolton Pool appeal was held at Cello's Wine Bar on December 15th, raising the sum of £1,560 for the fighting fund. Congratulations to Meryl Kelbrick for organising the raffle, & thanks to the local traders & restaurant owners who gave prizes so generously.

Christmas Quiz Answers

20 questions, but no correct answers received to the Christmas quiz.

Section 1: about Woolton & the Woolton Society

1. The Woolton Society was founded in 1972 to oppose the planned demolition of Woolton Hall.
2. The co-authors of A History of Much Woolton were Janet Gnosspelius & John Lally.
3. The Baby Elephant's secret was a marble slab found during the renovation of The Elephant hotel, & dedicated to the Rev Thomas Robinson who died in 1857.
4. Woolton was incorporated into the city of Liverpool in 1913. Cause for celebrations next year?
5. The boundary stones separating Much Woolton & Little Woolton are at the junction of Church Road with Reservoir Road.
6. It was at the Woolton Fete on July 6th 1957 that John Lennon first met Paul McCartney.
7. The Woolton Cinema was opened in December 1927.

Section 2: about the meetings

1. The League of Welldoers took their name from verses in the Epistle to the Galatians: *weary not in welldoing*.
2. The memorial to Captain Noel Chavasse, double VC, is on Abercromby Square. Appropriately, the figure faces his childhood home, the former Bishops' Palace at 19 Abercromby Square.
3. The Cunard Yanks were the young people who staffed the transatlantic liners, & who brought back American music & styles to Liverpool.
4. David Lewis is buried in the Jewish cemetery in Kensington's Deane Road. Childless, he ensured that his name was remembered in Liverpool by founding the DL Royal Northern

Hospital, the DL Theatre, the DL Nurses' Home, the DL Youth Club, the DL Hostel for the Homeless, & in Alderley Edge, the DL Colony.

5. Mr Meccano was Frank Hornby, founder of Hornby toys & train sets, & Meccano construction sets.
6. William Lassell, astronomer, discovered Triton, a moon of Neptune; Hyperion, the 8th moon of Saturn; Ariel & Umbriel, satellites of Uranus.
7. Reynolds Park was originally Dove Park. It was renamed when given to the people of Liverpool by the Reynolds family on their move to the Lake District.

Section 3: pictures.

1. The dolphin lamp post, Allerton Road
2. The Glass House, Menlove Avenue
3. Pitt Place (off Quarry St)
4. The Woolton Cross
5. Woolton Grange, doorway
6. Detail from the Mersey Docks & Harbour building at the Pier Head.

Woolton News

Save Woolton Library Campaign.

Despite all the efforts of the Save Woolton Library Campaign, it was decided at a Special meeting of the Culture & Tourism Select Committee on Monday 16th January that the assets of the library will be transferred to a local community group or third sector organisation to operate or, if this is not deliverable, Woolton Library will close on 31st March. Local Lib Dem councillors voted against the proposals set out in the Library Review, but were outvoted 5 - 2 by the Labour majority.

In a two hour debate about the cuts in the library service, the whole discussion focused on the closure of Woolton Library. Searching questions were asked by local councillors and strong arguments were put forward by members of the public for keeping the library open.

The main argument used by the council for the closure of the library is that it does not meet DDA legal requirements. Councillor Malcolm Kelly questioned this argument pointing out that a disabled access feasibility report for Woolton Library carried out in 2006/7 showed that reasonable steps had been taken to find a solution to the access problem, but that no technical solution could be found. This meant that the council had discharged its DDA responsibilities by acting reasonably and a notice had been displayed to refer people to alternative libraries with good disabled access. Councillor Simon agreed that there had been no accidents and no challenges to this situation but insisted that reasonable steps meant relocation to accessible premises. The councillor claimed that £1.2m was required to relocate Woolton from the current building to new premises in order to meet DDA standards but the council could not afford this. It is claimed that £86k staffing costs and £12k building costs (total £98k) would be saved by closing Woolton.

Several questioners disputed the argument that the library should close because it was not DDA compliant. Was the DDA argument a red herring that the Council had chosen to hide behind, & simply a ploy to shut down the library? How could the Council allow community organisations to run a library service from Woolton Library if it was true that it contravened the DDA Act? Surely it is unfair to close the library and force sick, elderly and disabled people to travel further to use other libraries. The council now expects Woolton residents to pay the additional tax of bus fares for the use of libraries in addition to their council taxes.

The Council claimed that Woolton is one of the least used libraries in the city. In reality it performs just below mid table and protesters questioned the performance figures used to decide the future of the library as crude, weak, unprofessional and totally inadequate. How can anyone compare the performance of a small library such as Woolton with a very small book stock and just 5 computers with Allerton that has much greater resources?

The Council has set up a Sustainable Cultural Delivery Task Group and has arranged two meetings to discuss the transfer of assets from the libraries facing closure to suitable community organisations. Several members of the Save Woolton Library Campaign and other community organisations attended the first of these meetings on Monday 13th February. The Chair, Councillor Rothery, made it clear that no financial support would be available from the City Council. The discussion covered models of community libraries run by community groups, the time line and the communications plan.

What became clear is that the time scale for making these arrangements is extremely short. The bottom line is that libraries will close on 31st March if transfers of assets cannot be arranged. This allows very little time for organisations to assemble acceptable plans to run a library. It is simply impracticable.

Little information or support was being offered by the Council and it seemed clear that closure was the only option being offered.

A petition of 5,355 signatures was handed in to Councillor Wendy Simon opposing the closure of Woolton Library in April 2011. There was then a long delay and nothing happened until January 2012 when the Library Review was made public. This means that the Council has deliberately restricted the time available to groups to fight the closure or to find a way of running the library using a community group. At the same time no help is being offered, whereas in Croxteth the library has been handed over to the Communiversity and it enjoys considerable Council support in terms of professional help, book stock provision and IT management systems. Another factor indicates that the Council is determined to close down the library service in Woolton. In March 2011 the Council approved a reduction in the Library Service revenue budget rising to £1,926,000 in 2012/13. The actual cut that was approved to the Library Service budget in February 2012 is £2,271,000. The additional £300,000 is made up of a saving of £322,000 from the closure of Edge Hill, Great Homer Street and Woolton Libraries! It appears that the library closure is not essential for financial reasons, the closure must be for political reasons.

Ron Travis Save Woolton Library Campaign

(See also the Woolton library blog, or Google *Save Woolton Library*).

Friends of Reynolds Park

The FORP group is currently campaigning on two fronts: the replacement gates at the Woolton Park entrance, & the Gardeners' Bothy.

The gates are replacements for ones stolen last year, & will probably be the only permanent memorial in Woolton to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The gates have been installed, but fundraising is ongoing, with a current shortfall of £100. Donations should be made to FORP via the treasurer at 44 Linkstor Road L25 6DH. An official opening ceremony is planned for the Summer, to coincide with Jubilee celebrations. Further details will be published in due course.

The Gardeners' Bothy (or Reynolds Park Depot in the less poetic words of the Council) is an early 19th century grade 2 listed building near the walled garden. It has been used for storage, but is now deemed to be dangerously unsafe, & demolition has been proposed. As ever, the Council finds this a more attractive option than preservation. The Woolton Society & FORP have been in talks with council officials, but as yet with no clear decisions made.

The next meeting of FORP will be on Wednesday 14th March at 7.00 in the coffee shop at Tesco.

Successful listing of Woolton Baths

We are pleased to be able to report that the application to English Heritage for listing the pool has been successful. The whole property, including outbuildings, is now confirmed as a Grade 2 listed building. Thanks must go to Woolton Society founding member & local architect Sue Carmichael, who has been instrumental in making this application. We hope to have fuller details of the planning application, & more news on the Save the Baths campaign in issue 323.

Planning News and Applications

Watergate School (The Sun Flower Centre) and Watergate Lane

We have been notified by a Watergate Lane resident that letters from the BSF (Building Schools for the Future) team have been received, asking for comments on the proposed disposal of the playing field & hard playground area of the former Watergate School. The revenue received from this disposal would be invested in the relocation of St Julies Catholic High School costs.

The site was visited and photographed, after which we advised the BSF team that there was a historic wall at the bottom of Watergate Lane which runs parallel with field. The only access from the road into the sports field is via a pair of small metal entrance gates. We have now had verbal confirmation that after site visits and meetings the BSF team have advised that the proposed disposal will not go ahead at present as the land is used regularly by adjacent schools. This usage will be formalised by Annual Leases in the very near future.

Planning Application 12F/0196 and 12L/0197.

To erect care village comprising of 60 bed care home incorporating 17 bed convent/staff accommodation. A free standing building of 44 care units with communal facilities class (Residential) Extension of convent building to create 38 care units, communal facilities and 7 units of accommodation.

The application is under the name of Woodview House, which some know by St Gabriels or Knolle Park. The Applicant is the Poor Servants of the Mother of God. The application address is Maryfield Convent, Angelus Rd, Roehampton, London SW15 4JA. The agents are the Andrew Wilson Partnership, 112 High St, Yatton, Bristol BS49 4DH.

An exhibition was held to view these proposals on site on the 1st December 2011. This had been advertised in the Merseymart. Both the Woolton Society and Woolton Residents were unaware of this as the Merseymart delivery can be somewhat erratic. However, we are ensuring that we are kept up to date with all details as far as possible. Feedback from the viewing has been favourable according to the agents.

Even though this is privately owned land bounded by a high sandstone wall, it is one of the gems of green space in the Woolton area. The main route to this site is Beaconsfield Rd running the full length of a side of the land. If this application were to be granted, coupled with the proposed merger of St Julies to the SFX site then there will be a considerable change to the Beaconsfield Rd area. Traffic and ensuing movement of this will undoubtedly be a concern for residents in this area who have hitherto enjoyed the tranquil setting of their homes.

When at the viewing and expressing concerns, the response from the applicant's agents was *'well what else can you do with the land!'* It is an ongoing trend seeing considerable areas of greenery disappearing under tarmac and in particular, areas such as Woolton being a target for developers. The response to the agents was *'Woolton has a dearth of sports facilities for both youth and people in general, how about doing something like that?'* The agents did declare that in their investigation they found that people in this area had to travel to neighbouring places to use recreational facilities.

It is understood that good facilities need to be available for the care of the elderly and in this area we have: Dolan Court - 66 units, Cobden Place - 60 units, Servite Court - 60 units, Meadow Court - 55 units, Links View - 40 units. Additionally we have Woolton Grange and Woolton Manor.

A proposal of this size is considerable and we would urge people to make their views known to City Planning.

Planning Application 11F/2751 – Salisbury Lodge. 22b Woolton St. - To continue to use premises as a laser skin clinic. This has had approval and we welcome a new commercial venture to the village.

It has come to the Society's attention that the shop refurbishment was carried out without planning approval. In fact, the only application was for the change of use but not for changes made to the shop frontage. We were also contacted by one of our members expressing concern in regard to these changes. We contacted the planning department initially on November 3rd 2011 and again in 2012 who in an email advised that they would be asking for reinstatement of the façade. After a number of exchanges, it transpired that the officer dealing with this case had left the employment of the City Council. A new officer was assigned to the case and emails have been exchanged. We were advised by planning that advertisement control would need a separate application. If drawings for this were issued by the applicant during the initial application this would save both time and money in these cash strapped times.

The enforcement officer has been out to the new occupants to advise on reinstatement. It is not the Society's wish to see enforcement being applied without giving the occupants the chance to make those amendments necessary and have expressed this to the Council in our pursuit of ensuring this special little shop is restored with amendments appropriate to its scale and inherent features and the City Council's own Conservation policies. We are concerned that planning issues such as the above do not get 'kicked into the long grass' and ignored. We will try to give a further update in our next newsletter.

Newcomers to the shopping area.

We are aware of an application and approval given some time ago for a take away in Allerton Rd. Work now seems afoot and this will we hope become an asset to the vitality of the Woolton shopping area. The former Landy's shop has been refurbished, but we are unaware what this is to become - does anyone know?

It was unfortunate to see the demise of Ethel Austin. The shop occupied a dark corner made worse by a solid roller shutter which when during closing hours looked oppressive. The Yorkshire Building Society has now moved into this site with a quality shop refurbishment, showing their faith in the Conservation area by installing expensive laminated glazing rather than shutter security. This ensures visibility during closing hours and helps to illuminate a darkened corner, preferable to pedestrians and their safety. We are reminded that it was the Yorkshire Building Society who were first to join the Society's scheme in conjunction with the Council in sponsoring black metal bins to replace the old green plastic ones. We would like to thank the YBS in having confidence in the Woolton shopping environment in occupying a far larger site than their previous premises.

One of our newcomers is the florist Ellie Benson in Allerton Road, with beautiful window displays especially those shown for St Valentine's Day. Ellie has shown already true commitment to the community by selling chocolates & cards made locally for February 14th. We applaud this attitude to being part of the Woolton Village Community and wish Ellie a successful and profitable future.

The following planning applications have been received by the City council for Woolton since our last newsletter. See <http://northgate.liverpool.gov.uk/PlanningExplorer17/GeneralSearch.aspx>

Contact the Society at wooltonsociety@hotmail.co.uk re. planning matters.

Applic'n Number	Site Address	Development Description	Status	Date Regist'd	Decision
12H/0494	18 Reynolds Way Liverpool L25 5HX	To erect first floor extension to the front	REGISTERED	23-02-2012	
12L/0479	Priory Court Oakfield Terrace Cuckoo Lane Liverpool L25 3PL	To partially remove and partially rebuild single storey outbuilding	REGISTERED	22-02-2012	
12T/0434	1 Mount Park Court Liverpool L25 6JP	To carry out tree works	REGISTERED	16-02-2012	
12H/0424	64 Hollytree Road Liverpool L25 5PD	To erect single storey extension to side/rear.	REGISTERED	16-02-2012	
12H/0414	100 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RQ	To replace windows to the front elevation	REGISTERED	14-02-2012	
12A/0412	2 Acrefield Road Liverpool L25 5JL	To display various signage.	REGISTERED	14-02-2012	
12H/0408	119 Church Road Liverpool L25 6HT	To erect single storey extension to side/rear	REGISTERED	14-02-2012	
12L/0197	Land and buildings at St. Gabriel's Convent Knolle Park Church Road Liverpool L25 6HT	To carry out various works in connection with development of site for care village, including: - various internal/external works to St. Gabriels Lodge; - demolition of extensions to St. Gabriels House; - various associated internal/external works to St. Gabriels House and works in connection with proposed extensions; - demolition of various buildings including Taylor House, Nugent House and The Hollies; - works to wall in connection with formation of access.	REGISTERED	14-02-2012	
12F/0196	Land and buildings at St. Gabriel's Convent Knolle Park Church Road Liverpool L25 6HT	To demolish various buildings and erect care village for the elderly comprising: - four storey block (E) (including lower ground), 60 no. bed care home with 17 no. suites for convent/staff accommodation; - four storey block (D) (including lower ground), 44 no. extra care apartments with associated facilities; - three storey block (C), 38 no. extra care apartments with associated facilities, linked to St. Gabriels House; - refurbishment and conversion of St. Gabriels House to form 7 no. extra care apartments with associated facilities and lift extension to rear; - refurbishment of St. Gabriels Lodge; together with associated car parking, landscaping, new access point and other ancillary works.	REGISTERED	13-02-2012	
12T/0345	Land at 21 Greendale Road Liverpool L25	To carry out tree works to 1 no. horse chestnut	REGISTERED	09-02-2012	
12H/0332	43 Woolton Hill Road Liverpool L25 6HU	To erect first floor extension to the side, single storey extension to the rear/front and erect dormer extension at rear.	REGISTERED	07-02-2012	
12H/0314	5 Reservoir Road Liverpool L25 6HR	To erect two storey extension to the rear incorporating juilette balcony.	REGISTERED	06-02-2012	

12L/0308	83 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6HA	To install 2 no. timber casement windows at rear.	REGISTERED	06-02-2012	
12H/0309	83 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6HA	To install 2 no. timber casement windows at rear.	REGISTERED	06-02-2012	
12H/0296	1 Vyner Road South Liverpool L25 3PU	To erect dormer extensions at front, side and rear, single storey extension at rear and detached garage at rear.	REGISTERED	03-02-2012	
12A/0109	1 Gateacre Brow Liverpool L25 3PA	To retain freestanding signage.	REGISTERED	01-02-2012	
12T/0247	Stoneleigh Beaconsfield Road Liverpool L25	To carry out tree works	REGISTERED	30-01-2012	
12T/0245	1 Church Road South Liverpool L25 7RJ	To carry out tree works	REGISTERED	30-01-2012	
12H/0239	Treeside Acrefield Road Liverpool L25 5JN	To erect two storey extension to the side and rear and single storey extension to the rear.	REGISTERED	27-01-2012	
12H/0237	2 Dunlin Court Gateacre Park Drive Liverpool L25 4UE	To install french doors and access ramp.	REGISTERED	26-01-2012	
12H/0236	2 Stockville Road Liverpool L18 3EJ	To erect conservatory to the rear.	REGISTERED	26-01-2012	
11F/2871	Land adjacent to "Halkyn", Mount Park Liverpool L25 5JF	To erect one dwellinghouse with associated works.	REGISTERED	26-01-2012	
12H/0217	54 Druidsville Road Liverpool L18 3EW	To erect single storey extension to the side, add bay windows to the front and side, and dormer windows to the front as part of a loft conversion.	REGISTERED	25-01-2012	
12H/0216	Blairlea Acrefield Road Liverpool L25 5JG	To erect 2 no. single storey extensions to sides, first floor extension to front, install additional windows to front and render house.	REGISTERED	25-01-2012	
12F/0007	The Dairy Berrington Avenue Liverpool L25 7RU	To use vacant building as a dental surgery (Use Class D1).	REGISTERED	23-01-2012	
12H/0192	8 Druids Cross Gardens Liverpool L18 3ED	To erect single storey extension to the rear	REGISTERED	20-01-2012	
12H/0140	22 Church Road Liverpool L25 5JF	To install replacement timber windows at rear	REGISTERED	12-01-2012	
12L/0139	22 Church Road Liverpool L25 5JF	To install replacement timber windows at rear	REGISTERED	12-01-2012	
12F/0104	Belle Vale Road Liverpool L25 3RN	To vary condition 2 (part i) attached to 11F/1454. (To carry out various hard and soft landscaping works including to pavements) so as to increase width of new access road and revised landscaping arrangement.	FINAL DECISION	10-01-2012	Approve with Condit'ns
12F/0074	1 - 5b, 2 - 20a, 7 -	To carry out soft and hard landscaping	FINAL DECISION	09-01-2012	Approve with

	9b, 11 - 11b, 22 - 34a & 36 - 52a Thornside Walk & 47 - 53a Halewood Road Liverpool	improvements including bin stores and new boundary treatments.			Condit'ns
12H/0033	16 The Hollies Liverpool L25 7AQ	To carry out alterations to garage in connection with its partial conversion into living accommodation.	FINAL DECISION	05-01-2012	Approve with Condit'ns
11H/2962	Campion 5A Heath Close Liverpool L25 4TB	To erect single storey extension to the side (eastern side of property), two extension at side (western side of property) dormer extensions to front and rear and dormer extensions at side (eastern facing roofplane).	FINAL DECISION	23-12-2011	Approve with Condit'ns
11F/2951	172 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6DZ	To erect 2 no: detached dwellinghouses following demolition of existing dwelling.	REGISTERED	21-12-2011	
11H/2948	18 Quickswood Close Liverpool L25 4TT	To erect single storey extension to the rear, two storey extension to the side/front and carry out external alterations to garage in connection with partial conversion to living accommodation.	FINAL DECISION	21-12-2011	Approve with Condit'ns
11H/2811	6 Hathaway Close Liverpool L25 4SN	To erect first floor extension at side and new pitched roof to front porch/garage	FINAL DECISION	21-12-2011	Approve with Condit'ns
11T/2928	St Marys R C Church Church Road Liverpool L25 6DA	To carry out tree works.	FINAL DECISION	19-12-2011	Approve with Condit'ns
11H/2922	18A Druids Cross Road Liverpool L18 3HW	To erect single storey extension to rear incorporating reconfigured roof over single storey outrigger.	FINAL DECISION	19-12-2011	Approve with Condit'ns
11H/2889	119 Church Road Liverpool L25 6HT	To erect single storey extension to the rear, new pitched roof to the front and 3 no. roof lanterns at side/rear.	FINAL DECISION	14-12-2011	Refuse
11H/2863	6 Cresttor Road Liverpool L25 6DW	To erect two storey extension to the side and single storey extension to the rear/side.	FINAL DECISION	12-12-2011	Approve with Condit'ns
11H/2859	57a Druidsville Road Liverpool L18 3EN	To erect first floor extension at side incorporating reconfigured roof, single storey extension at side and rear; dormer extension at rear and reconfigured porch to front.	FINAL DECISION	12-12-2011	Approve with Condit'ns
11F/2839	5B Woolton Street Liverpool L25 5NH	To erect conservatories to the side and rear of existing restaurant.	FINAL DECISION	07-12-2011	Approve with Condit'ns
11T/2795	3 Acrefield Park Liverpool L25 6JX	To carry out tree works	FINAL DECISION	28-11-2011	Approve with Condit'ns
11T/2793	19 Halewood Road Liverpool L25 3PH	To carry out tree works	APPEAL LODGED	28-11-2011	Split Decision
11PM/2776	Former Gateacre Comprehensive School Grange Lane Liverpool L25 4SD	To demolish vacant school buildings	FINAL DECISION	28-11-2011	Prior Approval Given