



Photo: Creative Photography

● From left: Cllr Ralph Davies, Daniel Cossy, aged two, Cllr Chris Meaden and Mandy Call, nine, who are protesting against the proposed closure of Mersey Park Primary School's creche which has played a vital role in the Tranmere area.

# 'Community pulse victim of cuts

AN AWARD-winning school described as "the pulse of a local community" is the latest victim of Wirral Council's cash crisis.

Lack of funding is forcing Tranmere's Mersey Park Primary School to close its creche and slash its community programme.

The decision was taken by school governors in response to the council's £3.5m education cuts aimed at avoiding rate-capping.

During the past ten years Mersey Park has played a central role in uniting the Tranmere community — a feat which earned a national schools award in 1990.

The creche, a nursery for under fours which was opened only 16 months ago at a cost of £60,000, will be axed along with a coffee bar. Adult education courses may also be forced to close.

## Creche faces axe

Parents have expressed anger and concern over the reductions — both for their children and for the future of a community increasingly reliant on the school.

But according to head-teacher Mr Ken Tasker there was no other option.

He said: "Reducing facilities is the last thing anyone wants. We've spent ten years building our community role up and in ten minutes the council pull the carpet from under our feet."

Tranmere councillor Chris Meaden blames government underfunding for the cuts at Mersey Park: "Tranmere is

an area of high unemployment with a lot of single mums who use the creche. The government always seems to hit the worst off.

"Mersey Park is the pulse of Tranmere. During the last ten years it has drawn the community together and is central to improving it."

Mrs Meaden will be presenting a 500 signature petition from parents against the cuts at next Monday's meeting of Wirral Council.

● Children from the creche are adding their support by staging a sponsored walk around Mersey Park cricket pitch this Thursday, at 2pm.

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## Latest plans

The following applications have been submitted for development within Merseyside Development Corporation area. Copies have been placed at the Planning and Economic Development Department, North Annex of the Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey,

and may be inspected between 9 am and 5 pm (Monday to Friday). "Del" indicates those applications for which the director of planning and economic development has delegated powers to offer observations to MDC. Decisions will be taken by the corporation and any comments should be made as soon as possible in writing to: The