

# We will protect and enhance the quality of the environment, including infrastructure, and promote good design, particularly within Hamilton Square Conservation Area

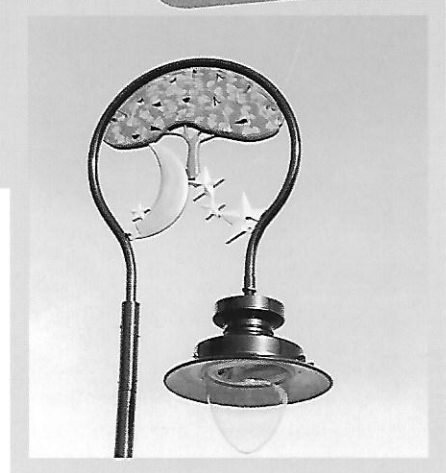
**Buildings** have been restored and refurbished to their former stature in keeping with the unique architectural character of the area.

**With assistance from the former Merseyside Development Corporation and English Heritage, all the buildings in the Square have been restored, and have since attracted significant levels of new private investment.**

A concerted effort to improve the surroundings has complemented the refurbishment of the buildings. Vacant sites have been tidied up, and most of the through traffic has been removed from Hamilton Square. Failure to attract National Lottery funding prevented the comprehensive treatment of the gardens and footways that was originally envisaged. Nevertheless, it

has been possible to pave the pedestrianised area in front of Wirral Museum with natural stone and to include new tree planting and enhanced lighting, funded by the Single Regeneration Budget and the Council's Transport Policy and Programme.

Reduced traffic in and around the Square, together with the pedestrianised areas, have improved accessibility for buses, cyclists and people on foot. A significant number of additional parking spaces have been provided and, to encourage people to leave their cars at home, a highly accessible, ecologically sound E1 electric bus runs frequently on



a circular route between Birkenhead shopping centre and Woodside Ferry, via the Hamilton Quarter. Funding for the bus came from the Single Regeneration Budget, Merseytravel and the European Union's Jupiter 2 Programme.

## **Public art has been introduced in the Quarter.**

- In the early days of the initiative, the main gateways to the Quarter were marked by "obelisks". These were designed by Wallasey company Camm Design, who were awarded the commission following stiff competition from many other local artists.
- Between April 1998 and July 1999, a "Space Garden" was commissioned, designed and developed for the Castle Street playground. The work resulted from a unique collaboration between residents, artist Paul Wigley, Liverpool Design Initiative, the Hamilton Quarter and Littlewoods. The community was given complete

