

Wirral Viking past brought to present

By Craig Manning

WIRRAL motorists queuing for the roundabout at Arrowe Park will soon be able to catch a reminder of the borough's Viking past.

The missing signpost on Arrowe Park Road indicating the arrival into Thingwall is soon to be replaced with a new one which will also include the Norse origin of the name and its meaning as the field of the 'assembly' or 'parliament'.

Wirral is only one of two areas in England with definite Thingwall place names. The other is near Knotty Ash in Liverpool.

The Vikings would meet once or twice a year at their 'Thing' to discuss matters of policy and law and it would also be a great time of meeting old friends and festivity.

The missing sign at the bottom of Cross Hill – believed to be the actual Thing site – will also be replaced along with the existing two on Irby Road and Pensby Road, and will be paid for by generous sponsorship from United Utilities.

The original idea was that of Wirral Viking expert Steve



Councillor Don McCubbin at the site in Thngwall where a new Viking sign is to be installed

Harding who noticed a similar signpost in the Shetlands.

Prof Harding contacted Pensby and Irby Conservative Councillor Don McCubbin and local community representative Roy Fisher to design and produce the sign.

Cllr McCubbin said: "Wirral is a unique peninsular with many undervalued historical features.

"I am pleased to be able to secure external funding from United Utilities for this project.

Prof Steve Harding added: "I would like to express my thanks to Cllr Don McCubbin and United Utilities for enabling the road signs to happen.

"Wirral has great historical landmarks and it is important that these are honoured."