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## **BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE**

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### **Birkenhead Constituency Team Neighbourhood Engagement Update**

A number of community projects are being developed through the Birkenhead Constituency Team. Here are a number of the schemes and how they will benefit the area.

<h3><b>Safe in Town Card</b></h3>
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The Safe In Town Card aims to make Birkenhead a safer place.

The purpose of the scheme is to give vulnerable people the peace of mind and confidence to enter Birkenhead Town Centre and receive help and assistance if they need it.

The scheme consists of two main elements. Firstly any vulnerable person can carry a card with their details and the details of a person to contact if they need assistance. Secondly businesses and organisations within Birkenhead Town Centre will be encouraged to sign up and become 'safe places'. In doing so they agree to display a sign in their window to show they are a 'safe place' and assist any vulnerable person who comes in for help.

#### **The benefits of the Safe In Town card:**

Based on evidence where these schemes are already operating there are a number of benefits of the project:

- It gives vulnerable people the confidence and peace of mind that they can visit the town centre and have a safe place to go if assistance is needed.
- Parents of vulnerable people know they or a nominated person will be contacted if their child(ren) are in need of assistance.
- Potentially bring more people and business into the town centre.
- Brings the Police, local businesses/organisations and social sector groups together to make the town centre a safer place for vulnerable people to visit and interact.

#### **How the project would work?:**

It is important to note that the Safe In Town Card is not designed to protect people related to issues where the police should be involved and should not be

used as a replacement for calling 999. The purpose of the card is to give people the peace of mind to go into the town centre and receive assistance if they feel vulnerable.

## **Rock Ferry Community Garden**

Rock Ferry One Stop Shop and Library will be expanding to offer services to the green fingered.

Working in partnership with Lairdside Communities Together, the Birkenhead Constituency Team has been developing an exciting project to install a community garden behind Rock Ferry One Stop and Library.

Building of the garden is due to commence towards the end of July and once built, the garden will be a community resource to be used by local residents, schools, community and voluntary groups and anyone who wants to volunteer on the project.

The garden will be able to cater for any resident or community group who wants to learn how to grow fresh produce, have cooking lessons on how to prepare a healthy meal or just spend a few hours volunteering to maintain the garden, everyone is welcome to get involved.

## **Consultation around Walker Park**

The Birkenhead Constituency Team has supported residents in Prenton to start the process to carry out a consultation around Walker Park.

Walker Park is a fantastic asset for Prenton and the consultation will ask residents and groups in the area how they use the park, how often do they visit it and any suggestions for how the park could be improved.

Over the summer months a more in depth engagement will take place in the area to help provide a picture of the park and the resident's use of it.

## **Promotion of the Wirral Well website**

Helping to inform residents about the benefits of the Wirral Well website.

Wirral Well is an online one stop shop information hub for wellbeing, health and social care services where people can find anything from getting outdoors and active, art classes, growing your own food, complimentary therapies to statutory health and social care services such as information on care homes, assistive technology and managing long term health conditions.

Developed by Community Action Wirral the site aims to provide a resource for Wirral residents to help them access services in their area, a particular interest they may have and also allow Social Sector organisations a platform for promoting the services they provide.

To help promote the website the Birkenhead and Wallasey Constituency Teams have been designing an engagement strategy to identify various organisations, residents and statutory colleagues the information could be shared with.

## **Digital Inclusion Mapping**

As part of the Wirral Well website, Community Action Wirral are carrying out a mapping exercise of what services have ICT facilities are available in Birkenhead.

So far 29 facilities in Birkenhead have been identified as having ICT facilities available to residents with 17 on them registered on the Wirral Well website. The aim of the mapping exercise is to obtain a greater understanding of what facilities are available and also inform residents of where they can go to access these services.

Work is ongoing by Community Action Wirral to ensure that all the facilities that offer ICT services are fully publicised on the Wirral Well website.

## **Electoral Registration**

The Birkenhead and Wallasey Constituency Teams are working on an engagement strategy to increase the number of residents registered on the Electoral Register.

The way people register to vote is changing. Under the current system one person can register all occupants in the same household. Under the new system, called Individual Electoral Register, everyone will be individually responsible for their own register.

Analysis of the Wirral population shows that three groups may be under represented. Home movers, young people and private and social housing tenants and those living in multiple occupancy homes are the three groups identified.

To try and increase the number of people registered within these groups strategy will include activities designed to engage with residents in a number of ways.