

**Constituency Committee - Birkenhead**  
**Thursday, 30 March 2017**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Birkenhead Constituency Committee</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Managing Director for Delivery</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

Section 3 and 4 of this report provide an update on progress in relation to agreed schemes of work from the budget devolved to the Constituency Committee to date. It also details other Birkenhead Constituency Committee neighbourhood projects.

A finance summary sheet for the Constituency Committee budget and expenditure can be found in Appendix 1.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

**The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the 2017 Birkenhead in Bloom applications that have been submitted**
- **Note the partnership work undertaken and future clean-up days funded by the skip fund**
- **Note the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean-ups**
- **Note the updates from the food hubs and holiday food projects**
- **Note the updates regarding the Improving Life Chances community pilots**
- **Note the updates regarding tackling Anti-Social Behaviour**
- **Note the updates from the Hive, BID team, Connectors, Beautiful Ideas Birkenhead, Great Rock Ferry Door Knock and Assets update**

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

Please see section 3.0 background information for details

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Please see section 3.0 background information for details

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 Keeping Birkenhead Clean**

##### **Skip Fund, Community Partnership days and Clean-ups**

In total the Birkenhead Constituency Committee has provided and planned 79 skips for 2016/7 and given officer support for over 30 Community Clear Ups and Action Days at the cost of circa **£9200** from the skip fund budget. Please see Appendix 2 for details of all the clean-up days so far.

While it is difficult to calculate exactly how much waste the constituency team has removed, a rough estimate based on information from the skip hire company and Biffa, **is that it equates to at least 103 tonnes removed.**

The skip days bring local residents, Councillors and partner agencies like the police together. The action days improve the environment and provide a platform for closer working.

#### **Up and Coming Clean-up days 2017**

We have the following community partnership days planned in March/April 2017:

- **Rock Park clean - up** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- **St Anne's Street** - BID team, constituency team and Magenta on 15<sup>th</sup> March
- **Townsend Street** - Bidston and St James March/April 2017
- **YMCA, BID and McDonalds co-ordinate** - clean up 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- **Bentinck Street area** - will take place during the first week of April, as the Hive is set to open on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- **Marquis Street/Frodsham, Tranmere** - clean up by residents date TBC
- **Rodney Street Residents** - around Easter holidays, as they would like to include local children in an Easter Egg hunt, date to be confirmed
- **Clifton Park Residents** – date to be confirmed

## **The 'Community Pay Back' team**

The 'Community Pay Back' team have delivered a programme of alleyway weed clearing and cleansing for Birkenhead. They have supported 'In Bloom' projects by doing clean ups and a range of other cleansing in each area. They have completed over 40 jobs for the Birkenhead Constituency Committee.

We have requested that they complete the following jobs also for the next quarter:

- Birkenhead and Tranmere: 23, 25, 29, 79 Larch Road – restack bricks to reinstate access to the entry to enable bin collection (urgent priority) inspected by building control and all clear
- Birkenhead and Tranmere: rear of 28 Castle Street/Water Street restack bricks to reinstate access to the entry to enable bin collection (urgent priority) inspected by building control and all clear
- Rock Ferry: Wycliffe Rd and Clwyd Road alleyways
- Bidston and St James: Clearance of land off larch Grove and Oakwood Drove
- Oxtown: weed clearance Clive Road, entry clearance Arno Road
- Birkenhead and Tranmere: CRM1132357 - Marquis Street, Tranmere  
CRM1132952 - Hinderton Road, Tranmere – open land clearance
- Claughton, Noctorum estate: fly tipping clearance from alleyways and litter picking
- Oxtown: Heathfield Road – clearing vegetation
- Birkenhead and Tranmere: Patten Street fly tipping clearance
- Birkenhead and Tranmere: B&M strip by shopmobility clearance
- Birkenhead and Tranmere: Grange Road West entry clearance
- Birkenhead and Tranmere: pocket park Birkenhead library clear and spring clean, cut back vegetation,

Please see Appendix 2 for further details of the Birkenhead Constituency's environmental works to date.

## **Birkenhead In Bloom 2017**

Birkenhead in Bloom swept the board last year at the RHS North West in Bloom competition by winning 16 awards and Oxtown winning the overall cup.

In 2017, the Birkenhead in Bloom team is aiming to do better, by submitting more applications and building on current projects.

2017 'In Bloom' proposed projects include:

- All things Bright and Beautiful – planters and hanging baskets in Borough Road and YMCA garden
- Beechwood in Bloom – partnership work transform Beechwood
- Ballantyne in Bloom - hanging baskets improve Bidston Village
- Bidston Village in Bloom – hanging baskets improve Bidston Village
- Gautby in Bloom – youth club, play scheme and staff flower up Gautby Road

- Livingstone Street in Bloom – centre users grow vegetables and flowers
- Bidston Rise in Bloom – residents and Magenta work to have hanging baskets and planters
- Blue wood in Bloom – Magenta and residents planting up wild flower areas
- Jamesbrook Close in Bloom – residents and Magenta working to improve alleyways
- Oxton in Bloom – secret gardens and hanging baskets
- Williamson in Bloom - Courtyard garden will be completed for judging
- Rock Ferry in Bloom – Neo are working to improve one stop shop area
- Beaconsfield in Bloom – developing community garden
- Prenton in Bloom – continued improvements on Woodchurch Road
- Claughton in Bloom – working with retailers and the 6<sup>th</sup> Form College to have an Oxton style hanging baskets
- Epworth Grange in Bloom – residents develop their own tranquil garden
- The Lauries – tenants improve the town centre landscaping around the Lauries
- Alleyways behind Claughton Road – residents transform into an oasis of flowers
- Alleyways behind Water Street – residents and WMHA transform into an oasis of flowers
- Strip of land around B&M – partners are working together to improve this grotspot
- Flaybrick Close in Bloom
- The Hive, Fire Station and The Lauries in Bloom

The projects are a great example of agencies putting in time and funds, working with schools and residents to improve their areas. Big Local, Magenta and Tesco are making valuable contributions with time and funds. Schools, Environmental Team, Involve North West, probation and residents will also give time and resources to the project.

In Bloom projects have a number of positive outcomes:

- Makes retail areas more inviting so encourages local economic growth
- Provides volunteering opportunities
- Draws in external funds to Birkenhead and in kind contributions from other sectors
- Improves the environment through better landscaping
- Probation and Biffa cleanse, remove flytipping and paint areas
- Involves schools in teaching about recycling and growing
- Supports numerous Wirral pledges
- Provides an excellent platform for partnership working and a support network for volunteer groups in different areas to exchange ideas
- Provides a target to work towards – judging day - and an event to celebrate the good work done at the awards ceremony in Southport.

The North West In Bloom team are advising us on which categories we should enter our projects into this year. Judging will take place in July or August 2017.

## **Environmental Task Group**

In 2016-17 the constituency committee had £20,000 environmental funds which was devolved to the Environmental Task Group to allocate. The Environmental Task Group met on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and allocated the funds as follows:

- £5K allocated to skip funds
- £7K allocated to 'In Bloom' 2016-17
- £8K allocated to a grotspot improvement/fly tipping project has been reallocated to a residents parking scheme by the group in February 2017. The work on grotspots has been delivered by the community pay back team.

The Council's Waste & Environment Team has also awarded a graffiti and fly-posting removal contract to Continental Landscapes Ltd. The contract will also enable the Council to support the work of the Environmental Enforcement Team in managing and improving local grotspots and privately owned neglected land.

### **Recommendations:**

**The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the partnership work for clean-up days for the skip fund**
- **Note the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean ups**
- **Note the 2017 Birkenhead in Bloom projects which will be submitted**
- **Note the decisions of the Environmental task group**

## **3.2 Feeding Birkenhead**

The Food Task group met on 14<sup>th</sup> September and by email in January 2017 in order to allocate funds of £35K to food projects in the area.

The task group has allocated:

- £1K – Tranmere Community Project – holiday food provision
- £6K – allocated to four Birkenhead areas to deliver food hampers and promote services Beechwood, St James & Gautby, Rock Ferry and Birkenhead & Tranmere.
- £28K – Food holiday provision

The projects that have been funded have provided the update below.

### **Update from the Food Hubs**

#### **St James Centre – North Birkenhead Development Trust**

North Birkenhead Development Trust continues to offer the weekly community provision at the St James Centre on Laird Street. In addition, during February half term, a number of special events were delivered.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February: Monday Club half term special – lunch, painting & games  
 Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February: International Crafts in the Library for children with lunch  
 Autism Friendly Library – Biscuit decorating  
 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February: Community Recipe and Meal Share – Getting together  
 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February: Street Art (Youth Club)  
 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February: Homework Club Special – Cooking  
 Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February: Taste Through Time community meal & memories about  
 the good old days! And Councillor Surgeries

NBDT worked with 17 families over half term week through Taste Through Time, Autism Friendly Library and Family cooking to offer food provision through fun activities. The children's clubs, Monday Club, Youth Club and Homework club engaged 53 children and young people, through Street Art sessions, cooking sessions and a trip to Liverpool to go Geocaching.

The adult learning provision has offered Food Safety, Bake and Taste and Cook and Taste and worked with 20 individuals from church groups, community cafes and tenants and residents associations to deliver a Level 2 in Food Hygiene.

The next few months holds lots more exciting things coming up, including celebrating International Women's Day, a monthly Hot Food Hub to offer a sit down meal to homeless adults, weekly Holistic Therapies, and adult trips for £10, (Llandudno, Tatton Park, and a mystery heritage trip!). NBDT is also celebrating the Recipe Book project funded by Better Food Wirral. The project will see the completion of a Community Recipe book by summer, complete with stories and memories from local people around food.

NBDT Youth provision continues to grow and change. We provide two sessions per week (Monday and Friday evening), one of which is an activity based session, and one of which will be personal development. We are working with the Open Door Centre in Wallasey to offer mental health provision for young people, through creative therapies and personal development plans. We also hope to work with Kilgarth School and Gautby Road to reach young people who may be in need of this support.

The Eden Bus, part of St James Church youth outreach will be in the area every Wednesday from 7.30pm, from mid-March (date TBC) staffed by 8 youth workers, as another outreach to young people who may not be accessing existing provision. Open Door Centre will support this initiative too.

NBDT adult learning provision, Avenues, for adults with additional needs continues in March (beginning Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>), with two courses, Cook and Taste and IT with Photography. Alongside Avenues, we are currently facilitating the first cohort of 'Issue Based Training' for local residents and organisations. It is based around the Community Organising philosophy and engaging and encouraging residents to take action in their local community around issues that matter to them. We have 15 people signed up to this current program, being part of weekly training sessions, finishing with a week of action 20-25<sup>th</sup> March.

## **The Beechwood Centre**

After, four years of negotiations and meetings, on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2016, the Beechwood Play & Community Centre was asset transferred from Wirral Council to a newly formed community company called The Beechwood Centre. The Centre will be run by the Community for the benefit of the community. Building work has been ongoing over the Winter period and it is hoped that all will be completed by end of March 2017. A new café, community wellbeing area, soft play area, youth & dance hall and food hub shop, look set to dazzle residents. This will followed by the installation of a new children's play area at the rear of the building in 2017. The popular playscheme will continue and it hoped that the Beechwood Community will make full use of this brilliant new centre.

## **Beechwood Skate Park**

Cllr Brian Kenny & Wirral Council officers, have been working with the Community Partnerships, LHT, and a Skating Consultant, to assist with the design and procurement process for the Skatepark which be built in the MUGA area on Fender Way, opposite the shops. The timetable for the project will see the Skate Park be completed by the end of May 2017 and will include designs to incorporate beginner and intermediate skill levels of the users. The community will be consulted on the naming of the Skate Park and multi-use coaching sessions will take place prior to the Skate Park completion and soon after.

## **Big Local Partnership**

The Big Local Partnership which consists of representatives from Wirral Council, Local Councillors, Community Groups, Schools, Housing Associations, & Churches from across Beechwood, Ballantyne and Bidston, have been developing their spending priorities for the next three years of the programme which will be decided by the Partnership board at their next meeting in March 2017. This includes a wide range of activities for all members of the community, from very young to the elderly.

## **Community Boxing Club**

Following a successful pilot on mischief night, which was organised with Wirral Council and Police, Big Local and LHT have joined forces with Venture Boxing Club to pilot a three month programme of activity for 6-18 year olds in/around the Big Local area. Qualified ABA Boxing sessions will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from the 7<sup>th</sup> March and will enable young people to come along free of charge.

## **LHT 'Get In Construction'**

LHT's innovative new employment scheme helping residents get into the construction industry has proved a great success since the new year. 11 of the 12

participants have completed their CSCS cards and have started various placements with LHT contractors/local companies to get experience in the industry (CSCS cards provide proof that individuals working on construction sites have the required training and qualifications for the type of work they carry out).

## **Apprenticeship Scheme**

George Thomas from Beechwood Community Trust, is looking to work with Wirral Council's Apprenticeship and Skills Manager Gareth Jones, to take on apprentices at the new centre. It is hoped that young persons from the area, will take up this opportunity, in a variety of roles.

With support from Gareth, the Big Local Partnership has supported a single mum from Birkenhead to secure a career in hairdressing thanks a unique apprenticeship programme helping local young people enter into employment. Heather Sadler, aged 23, successfully applied to a unique scheme run by the regeneration programme Big Local which funded the total cost of employing a local resident throughout the life of an 18 apprenticeship programme. In addition, additional funding has been allocated to allow the business to pay Heather £1.60 per hour above the national apprenticeship minimum wage making it one of the best paid apprenticeship roles in England. The scheme has been developed to allow local young residents in Beechwood, Ballantyne & Bidston Village area apply for apprenticeship roles without the competition of applicants from outside the area and allows local businesses to grow and expand.

## **Rock Ferry Food Hub – Neo at The Beaconsfield Centre**

Half Term holiday provision went well and Neo worked with Birkenhead boys club 3 days a week it was brilliant to be able to take a group of 20 kids from Beaconsfield to join in and use all the amazing facilities up at Birkenhead Boys Club and being able to use their new mini bus to do this.

Neo have been working closely with the Labour party, Tranmere Rovers FC, Birkenhead Constituency Committee, and the Wirral Council ILM programme to secure the employment of one of our Volunteers Colin to a full time position, starting his adult teaching qualification at the end of the month, managing 9 traineeships and running our new surplus food storage and distribution unit.

The business plan is being developed to explore moving towards asset transfer which hopefully will take place within the next few months.

The new look purpose built social supermarket has opened in Beaconsfield and will also be offering on-site training programmes including retail qualifications and customer services.

Neo are delivering a community dinner every Monday and numbers are growing each week.



Adult learning courses begin at the end of March in partnership with Crosby Training and the DWP, including a Job centre adviser working from the centre and having a drop in and appointment service on site each week.

Neo are doing well with attracting more external catering work and functions all adding to both the fundraising for building costs, opening up employment opportunities and redirecting more and more food away from landfill, we are averaging about 3-5 tonne of food a week now.

We are also very pleased that with the support of Peer Head Housing we are able to open a community boutique and wellbeing centre in Hamilton Square.

We were so proud to have been awarded the Wirral Award earlier this month followed a week later by Jen being announced on the Future Women of Leadership list for the Northern Power House and Ema winning the person of power for the North, and the most amazing part of all was being able to take 10 of the Neo team with the support of Magenta, Wirral Chamber, Wirral Radio as well as others, what an opportunity for our team to spend an evening at a formal black tie event at the Hilton Hotel in Manchester (Proudest Moment ever). For further details please contact: Ema Wilkes

### **Gautby Road Community Centre**

Gautby Road Community Centre has been offering a discounted supermarket weekly to local residents since January 2016. They subscribe to Fareshare, His Church and get surplus food from Tesco's through the icloud app.

Gautby is ordering pallets from His Church and negotiated a good price from Fareshare for surplus food and will receive the next pallets on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

The centre has recently refurbished the kitchen in order to offer holiday food to local children and food offer as part of the ASB project. They are working with local children to grow and cook their own vegetables as part of Gautby in Bloom 2017, building on the 'Thriving' award they received last year.

Gautby Road is working with St James, the police, YIP and the sports development team to provide food and activities across the North end for young people including a Saturday night disco. As part of the project Gautby has taken on two ILM work placements and updated its CCTV. Gautby is planning a fund raising trip to Snowdon to generate additional funds for the project.

A new mums and tots group has started and a course in functional skills will begin from April. There has been a lot of support for these activities from the local community.

## **Livingstone Street Centre – BEE Wirral Council**

In 2013, in partnership with Wirral Change, BEE took part in the asset transfer for Livingstone St Community Centre. The transfer was finalised in April 2015 and since then, Bee Wirral has been running a full timetable of activities within the centre.

The centre is now buzzing – literally! The gardens, created and tended by volunteers, won a level 4 award at the RHS In Your Neighbourhood scheme in 2016 and will hopefully do even better this year! So, how did BEE get to where they are today, a thriving community centre with a footfall of over 3000 in the last six months? Much of it is down to the dedication of the staff team and the hard work of volunteers.

The centre was handed over without a dowry, and was in poor condition; outgoings were high, particularly as the building was poorly insulated, and some bills were unexpectedly high (£1500 for waste water). One of the jobs of Rachael McCoosh, finance director, was to negotiate with all our suppliers to begin building in sustainability.

Volunteers have transformed the building inside and out, and we have action plans in place so that the improvements continue until we have a building local people can be truly proud of.

Groups run for all ages. The men's group, Silverbacks, run in partnership with Wirral Ways to Recovery, is well on the way to becoming a social enterprise in its own right with a team of 20 volunteers.

BEE has some amazing activities taking place for young children, from infant massage and sensory groups, to an after school club that runs three evenings a week and during the holidays. We were lucky to have a complete kitchen donated by a local company, Finsa, and the installation was funded by a small grant from Public Health. Our after school club now includes a hot meal at each session which we eat communally. Once the warm weather is back, Messy Play will restart.

BEE subscribes to FareShare and run a social food coop which is always busy and is now self funding. People can fill a bag with groceries in return for a donation, which we cap at a maximum of £3.

BEE are funded in part by Reaching Communities and The Morgan Foundation. We now have a staff team of 8, all but one are local people. We are heavily involved with the ABCD process and are committed to working in partnership with organisations across Birkenhead.

Our plans for the future? Based on consultation with our community we want to build on the offer for young children, with early language and music sessions, extend our food activities and our environmental activities, but most of all we want to ensure that Livingstone Street Community Centre stays open and busy, used by the whole community. Contact Kath Shaughnessy for details.

## Holiday Food Provision

Below are the projects that the Task Group have funded for 2017:

- Wirral Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted - £2500
- Neo Café - £4000
- North Birkenhead Development Trust - £3990
- St Pauls Primary School - £5000 for 2 applications for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2
- The Green Community Shop - £1500
- Wirral Play Council - £4000
- Tranmere Methodist Church - £2500
- Wirral Christian Centre - £3836

These food projects are being delivered over the next year during school holidays, before or after school.

**Total amount awarded: £27,676**

### 3.3 Birkenhead to host 'Festival of Beautiful Ideas' in April

Wirral has a long and strong heritage of innovation. Generations of entrepreneurs from food makers, to ship builders, to musicians and performers began their ventures in Wirral. It also has wealth of unique spaces and places that could accommodate, and require, enterprising activity and ideas.

To test the market for home grown ideas, that could become viable as part of a growing community of local entrepreneurs, Wirral Council has sponsored its first Festival of Beautiful Ideas for Birkenhead. A series 'hack days' will encourage people to share ideas that are potentially viable and will add to the atmosphere, sense of place and activity in Birkenhead and Woodside.

The week-long festival will begin on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April and end with a pitch opportunity for entrepreneurs on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April. A funding pot of £5000 will be shared amongst the best ideas that have the potential to be viable and sustainable businesses. Wirral Chamber of Commerce is supporting the festival by offering funded working space and mentors to some of the winners. One of the festival events will also take place at Pacific Road to coincide with the launch of *The Sheds*, a new creative and digital co working space in Wirral. For more information on this contact [www.Pacificsheds.co.uk](http://www.Pacificsheds.co.uk)

The festival will start with a call for ideas. Tours of spaces and places available to entrepreneurs will be on offer and the event at Pacific Road will provide an opportunity to meet those people who could help ideas find the space, investment, expertise or connections they need to get started.

The festival is open to people with ideas, but also those who have a problem they want solving, a challenge they are facing, or an opportunity they can offer an enterprise or entrepreneurs. There will be opportunities throughout the week to problem solve, collaborate, and test ideas out on experts, investors and commissioners.

The final event will bring all the ideas together and attendees will be invited to pitch or submit their idea to a panel of established entrepreneurs and commissioners with a prize for the best and most beautifully ingenious idea(s) for Wirral.

Further detail regarding the 'hack days' and festival programme should be available from week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 via [www.thebeautifulideas.co/wirral](http://www.thebeautifulideas.co/wirral) and follow @wirralideas and hashtag #wirralBICO on Twitter.

Contact Officer: Beverley Staniford [beverleystaniford@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:beverleystaniford@wirral.gov.uk)

### **3.4 Great British Door Knock comes to Rock Ferry 27th-19th March**

Age UK are leading on an initiative in Rock Ferry to combat social isolation and it will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March from 9am – 1pm.

Participants will include Birkenhead Constituency Team, Councillors, representatives from the Council's recycling team, neighbourhoods team, police, magenta living, fire service, Community connectors and others. Participants will meet at the Salvation Army Hall, Old Chester Hall.

- Door Knock has been planned to coincide with spotlight on older people month within the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness, and to coincide with the planned visit from Lord Geoff Filkin (Chair of Centre for Ageing Better)
- Aim to knock on 1000 doors during 3 days
- Partners will participate in door knock and be able to take part in follow up meetings to look at how door knock evidence can be used and acted upon to strengthen the community.

The following areas/roads were suggested as places to target during the door knock:

<b>Day One</b>	Roads and area surrounding Highfield Road
<b>Day Two</b>	Roads and area off Old Chester Road (Oriol, Tudor Moorland, and Grenville)
<b>Day Three</b>	Roads and Area around The Dell, Proctor Road, St Peters Road Plus any final roads to finish from day 1 and 2

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Rock Ferry has small pockets of communities from different cultures - Eastern European and Philippine families have been identified. Main community groups they would be involved in churches, or mums and tots groups. Interpreters will be available for the door knock.

The following conversation prompts will be used:

- Do you feel connected to your neighbours?
- Do you feel connected to the Rock ferry community?
- How long have you lived in the area?
- What could you do to help in your community (e.g. look out for neighbours, skills to set up a group, willing to volunteer locally)?
- How does transport affect your connections to people and places in Rock Ferry?
- Have you had a fire safety check?
- Are you registered with a GP?
- Do you feel safe in your home?
- Are you part of any local groups?
- Do you have the right support and know who to turn to in a crisis (i.e. support with financial concerns or ill health)
- Are you worried or concerned about any of your neighbours?

Responses to questions will be collated and referrals made to Rock Ferry residents regarding a range of activities and services in their areas.

### **3.5 Improving Life Chances**

#### **Update for Improving Life Chances Community Pilots**

The Improving Life Chances Steering Group is working towards the following aims across Wirral:

- a. Improving life chances for children
- b. Supporting families to be financial resilient
- c. Tackling the immediate impacts of poverty
- d. Supporting parent into sustainable employment

Task groups in two wards have been set up to target specific areas experiencing high child poverty: Bidston and St James ward, and Seacombe ward. The areas have had their first and second meetings and have developed their respective action plans for the next year.

There has been a lot of enthusiasm for the ILC community pilots so far which is encouraging. People coming to the meetings include residents, GP, community group representatives, Councillors and agencies.

Some generic aims have been established across the areas:

- Improve partnership working
- Improve sustainability of the food projects
- Improve joint work eg. energy week, loan shark awareness week
- Establish joint data to establish evidence base and increased evaluation
- Raise profile of food hubs and community centre
- Strengthen referrals to food hubs and community centre
- Promote other wider services as part of food project
- Increase volunteering and befriending in to services

Already some good outputs have been completed:

- Christmas holiday food hamper project across Birkenhead and in each community pilot, working together in partnership. Deliver over 2500 hampers across the Birkenhead area. The food hampers are an opportunity to promote services through an info pack inside each hamper.
- The project has galvanised partnership working. Information in food hampers includes reporting ASB/Crimestoppers, energy advice, magenta news, Fairforyou, credit unions, school uniform swaps etc.
- A supplementary sheets has been developed which is tailored to each area and particular themes which can be distributed at the food hubs, in hampers, Halloween events etc.
- Beechwood and the North End have jointly bussed young people to the River of Light festival on bonfire night as part of Operation Banger
- St James has successfully secured funding for a joint Warm Home awareness event
- Christmas grotto in Gautby Road 17-18<sup>th</sup> December and in Beechwood on 20<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas table decorations taken place in each pilot area delivered by Life Long Learning.
- Beechwood has developed St Paul's School community hub and Will offer a breakfast food club, possibly in partnership with Fareshare
- North end ASB project set up and delivered across North end
- Addressing Fuel poverty event in Beechwood

### **ILC Actions for 2017-18:**

- Beechwood has identified a need for a handyman service for the elderly – this is being explored through 'unltd' funding
- A volunteering/befriending project is being explored in Beechwood which has the potential to be replicated across other areas (hopefully with a portfolio for the volunteer that will lead to training or jobs)
- Invite agencies like Job Centre Plus/Remploy/Reach Out/Health Connectors to discounted supermarkets to promote services in each area
- Joint training and e-learning will be offered eg. child poverty e-learning, Energy Projects Plus training, Food Hygiene training
- Sharing of initiatives and learning across the areas
- In bloom projects to be delivered in each area
- Look at joint funding applications to fund increased activity
- Implementing data collation and evaluation tool
- Applications to the community funds

### **Recommendations:**

**The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

**Note the updates on Improving Life Chances pilot projects**

### **3.6 Community Connectors Project**

The commission for community connectors is a joint commission between the Public Health and Investment teams from Wirral Council and was awarded to Involve North West for a period of two years, commencing the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017. There are 13 community connectors employed across the east and north of the borough with 7 of the 13 connectors based within the Birkenhead Parliamentary Constituency.

The following wards will be covered by the contract based on insight research, worklessness and health inequality data; New Brighton, Moreton West and Saughall Massie, Leasowe and Moreton East, Wallasey, Liscard, Seacombe, Bromborough, Eastham, Bidston and St James, Claughton, Oxton, Prenton, Birkenhead and Tranmere and Rock Ferry.

The connectors role is to provide support for individuals to access local community activity to improve their wellbeing and as appropriate their readiness for

employment. Interventions will include providing them with up to date information regarding local opportunities available in relation to community activity as well as signposting/referring participants to mainstream services as appropriate. They will be tasked with building on the asset mapping exercise that has already been undertaken ensuring that it is kept up to date and provide a platform to identify gaps in community provision. They will act as enablers for people providing individuals with “hand holding” to community activities/groups or mainstream services and supporting participants to build/extend their individual personal networks and friendship groups and neighbourhood. Examples of this could include organising days out, environmental and/or community participation projects.

The project has a target to engage with 1,885 across the specified wards, it is expected that 1,015 of the participants:

- Are at least 18 years old and of working age;
- In receipt of employment support allowance with priority given to those in the employment support allowance work related activity group (owing to the continued expansion of DWP’s Universal Credit payment system this eligibility may be subject to future expansion with prior agreement and at the absolute discretion of the commissioner), and
- A minimum of 75% reside in the parliamentary constituency of Birkenhead (this figure can be subject to flexibility in consultation with and at the absolute discretion of the Commissioner).

Thanks to Involve North West for coming to the Birkenhead Constituency Committee to give us a presentation on the project.

### **3.7 Tackling ASB in Birkenhead**

**Merseyside Police and Birkenhead Sixth Form College coordinated a play at the Floral Pavilion 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017 called ‘Bored’ about Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

Students from the sixth form college have delivered a play to highlight the consequences of anti-social behaviour, which they have developed in close partnership with Neighbourhood Officers from Merseyside Police. The play took place on 17<sup>th</sup> February at the Floral pavilion and 750 young people from schools from across Wirral came to view the play. The play had a strong impact and Masher (Sean Dodd World Light Weight Boxing Champion) originally from Birkenhead gave the young people an inspiring talk.

**North Birkenhead Youth Project  
Launched at Gautby Road Play and Community Centre - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

The project targets and engages with a group of young people causing (or at risk of causing) anti-social behaviour in the North End of Birkenhead. The group of young people targeted, has been identified by local agencies who met on 18.11.16 at a Problem Solving Group (PSG) made up of the Police, Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour team and the Youth Offending Team. The PSG recommended increased and



expanded diversionary activity in the North end of Birkenhead. This project was set up by Birkenhead Constituency team to address the issue and currently offers a range of diversionary activities for young people for a minimum of 5 nights a week for 6 months across venues in North Birkenhead.

Sports nights have been taking place in Ilchester Square and Bidston tennis centre since October 2016, delivered by the Sports Development Team with support from Kontacabus. Youth Inclusion Programme 1-1s started on 9th February and will continue in Gautby Road until April 2017. The 'sitting off' youth project begins in Gautby on 20th February. There is now activity for young people in the North end 5 days a week and this will continue for 6 months. Levels of ASB have already shown a reduction in the area compared with last year and similar weather. The partnership project is seeking further funding from July 2017.

### **Activities**

Consultation has been done with the group and as a result activities delivered include:

- Sports development football sessions delivered at Ilchester Square
- Youth nights 2/3 evenings a week at Gautby Road Play and Community Centre, play Xbox FIFA, table tennis
- Boxing training at venture Boxing club in Brassey Gardens
- Martial arts training at Gautby Road Community Centre
- Sport development astro turf football at Bidston tennis centre,
- mobile climbing wall sessions at Ilchester Square
- Youth Inclusion 1-1 sessions
- DJ and rapping sessions at Gautby Road Community Centre
- trips to Llandegla and awesome walls
- Food available at each session
- Motivational speakers

### **Added Value**

Young people are encouraged to get involved in using the Gautby Road Community Centre computer suite to encourage the young people to consider further education and training eg. Cornerstones BTEch in Sport and others. The group are also encouraged to volunteer at the food hub at Gautby Road and St James Centre.

The project will be promoted in the press, Council publications and is a feel good project that will raise the profile of the positive activities in the North end. The activities are delivered by the sports development team, Eden, Brassey Street Venture boxing Club, Hype and rapping. A deal has negotiated with His Church and Fareshare to buy discounted food to provide food as part of this project.

Local community role models will engage with the group in July- December 2017 eg. Sean 'Masher' Dodd local boxer from Birkenhead. There are a range of weekly sessions planned which also provide a food element from Gautby Road, which supports 'Feeding Birkenhead' campaign. Data shows the Bidston and St James area is one of the highest for child poverty in the country and a hot spots for ASB. The project delivers sessions of diversionary activities to a group of young people who have been identified as at risk of offending or committing ASB.

## **Recommendations:**

### **The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the updates on activities to tackle ASB in the area**

## **3.8 Birkenhead First Activity Update: March 2017**

The BID team have been working hard to deliver the following activities:

- 541 businesses' issues handled
- 153 an social behaviour (ASB) incidents tackled
- 92 ASB incidents passed to Merseyside Police
- 76 visitors welcomed/helped
- 70 clean-ups in shopping centre
- 65 clean-ups outside shopping centre
- 37 extra police officers
- 30 hanging baskets for shopping centre
- Intelligence sharing partnerships with Merseyside Police, town security and local agencies.
- New controls on fundraising in Grange Road in response to complaints from public and businesses
- New Christmas lights in Hamilton Square and shopping centre
- New alley gates installed on Vincent St in response to complaints from local businesses about antisocial activity
- Won 'Place Marketing - Small Location' category at The BID Awards 2016

## **Birkenhead Town Hosts Role**

- Welcome visitors and help deter antisocial behaviour
- Daily patrols to visit local businesses and identify issues affecting local economy

## **Activities of the Town Centre Hosts:**

- Keep an eye out for graffiti, litter and fly tipping and alert the local authorities.
- Work with local agencies that assist vulnerable adults and rough sleepers in Birkenhead to help them break the cycles of poverty/abuse/addiction.
- Helped deliver Homeless Awareness Day in Grange Road with Wirral Ways to Recovery and The Salvation Army - part of a drive to change public attitudes towards people who beg and provide info about services available to help the homeless and needy.
- Arranged several high-visibility reassurance policing patrols of the town centre by Merseyside Police - to reassure local shoppers that the town centre is policed and remind that antisocial behaviour is not tolerated.
- Wirral Against Business Crime

- Upgrading Birkenhead's 'Shop Link' radio system
  - Monthly intelligence-sharing forums with Merseyside Police and local businesses.
- Several town centre clean up operations have taken place with volunteers from town centre businesses.

### **Businesses Supported by BID**

- Getting Started on Social Media for Businesses workshop (28 Feb) - free training for BID businesses, to reach new audiences.
- Utility offers - currently working with Inteb and Power Solutions to provide free energy checks to BID businesses to see if they can lower their energy bills and to assist with any switching processes.
- Birkenhead First quarterly business forums - free networking sessions for BID businesses presentations relevant to the local economy.

### **Birkenhead First Events so far**

- Be in Birkenhead Summer Festival in Hamilton Square (26 Jul) - more than 6500 attended a free family fun day. Town centre retailers reported increase in footfall/sales on the day and during the week of the event.
- Birkenhead Loves Christmas (25 Nov) - John Barnes helped switch on the town's Christmas lights in front of more than 2000 people. Local schools, charities and businesses attended.
- River of Light (5 Nov) - Birkenhead First commissioned street theatre at Woodside and Hamilton Square to entertain visitors arriving to watch the firework display.
- Chinese New Year at Wirral Transport Museum (28 Jan) - free family entertainment at Pacific Road with Chinese cultural performances by China Spirit UK.

Thanks to BID for providing the report and the excellent work they are doing in the area.

### **3.9 The Hive**

The Hive Youth Zone is going live on 8th April 2017. We are asking the Hive to come and tell us more about the project at the next committee meeting. They have provided us with the update below for this committee.

If you have had the opportunity to see 'The Hive' on Bright Street in Birkenhead you will have seen the building is now complete, with internal fittings and furniture arriving by the day. There's a lot going on from Time Capsule competitions to a host of pre-opening events which we would love for you to get involved with to give you a real flavour of what Wirral Youth Zone will offer young people in Wirral. [Check out our 'What's On' section for a list of the events and how you can get involved in.](#)

Last Saturday marked a special day where the 100 strong staff team and volunteers united to take part in an induction and training day ahead of opening. It is imperative that staff and volunteers are trained to the highest of standards. There is still time for you to get involved though so please do visit our [volunteer section on our website](#) or

get in touch with our Volunteer and Training Manager Sam Curley on [sam.curley@thehiveyouthzone.org](mailto:sam.curley@thehiveyouthzone.org).

[Saturday 8th April](#) will mark the start of a new journey for Wirral's young people and we want you to join us from 1pm. The opening day will lead us on to our first Junior, Senior and Inclusion sessions. If you share our vision and can support the project I would love to hear from you at [stuart.barnes@thehiveyouthzone.org](mailto:stuart.barnes@thehiveyouthzone.org).

### **3.10 Birkenhead Assets update**

#### **The Beechwood Centre**

The Beechwood Centre signed the lease to take on the former Beechwood Community Centre as an asset transfer on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

The Directors of the Beechwood Centre formerly, members of the Joint Management Committee, have worked relentlessly for the past few years to develop a business plan, secure funds and run the building as a community interest company.

The building is currently being refurbished and will provide food hub, community café, soft play area, sports hall, community room, play scheme and much more for the local community. The group are giving a presentation on their journey at tonight's committee.

#### **Beaconsfield Centre, Rock Ferry**

The Beaconsfield Centre is being operated by Neo café. They are providing office space for the Early Years Trust. They have a food hub, youth club, residents association, Bingo, advice and guidance, community garden and much more. They are developing their business plan and accessing funding whilst working towards asset transfer in the near future.

Thank you for Beechwood Centre, Livingstone Street and Beaconsfield for coming to the meeting for updating us on their Community Assets work. The group are giving a presentation on their journey at tonight's committee.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications.

### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

There are no staffing implications.

### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

There are no relevant risks.

### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

Please see section 3.0 for details.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no equality implications.

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## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: Finance Table**

**Appendix 2: Environmental Update**

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

**Council Meeting Date**