



## Constituency Committee - Wirral South

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 16 October 2014
<b>Time:</b>	6.00 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Mayer Hall, The Village, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 7PL

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### AGENDA

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary or non pecuniary interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE (Pages 1 - 16)**

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 June 2014 as a correct record. **(Copy attached.)**

**4. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE**

To receive an oral update on any matters relating to Wirral South's Community Representatives.

**5. WIRRAL SOUTH BUDGET AND SPEND UPDATE (Pages 17 - 30)**

A report of the Constituency Manager (Wirral South) **attached**. It provides the Committee with an update on budgetary spend thus far in 2014/15. The report also makes recommendations regarding various projects to be funded from the "Your Wirral" grants programme.

**6. WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITIES UPDATE (Pages 31 - 44)**

A report by the Constituency Manager (Wirral South) is **attached** which provides the Committee with an update on the progress of the three main priorities for the Wirral South Constituency Committee (as agreed 25 June 2014).

**7. UPDATE FROM MERSEYSIDE POLICE**

To receive an oral report from the Neighbourhood Inspector, Ross Meredith.

**8. UPDATE FROM THE MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

To receive an oral report from Station Manager, Sean McGuinness.

**9. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION (APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES)**

Although it is possible to forward pre-notified questions to the Constituency Manager, questions will also be answered on the night, via the Chair.

**10. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**

To consider any business that the Chair accepts as being urgent.

**11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee is reminded that its next meeting will be held at 6pm on Thursday, 22 January 2015 at Mayer Hall, Bebington.

## CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - WIRRAL SOUTH

Wednesday, 25 June 2014

Present: Councillor S Niblock

Councillors C Carubia Tracey Smith  
P Gilchrist W Smith  
D Mitchell A Sykes  
C Muspratt J Walsh  
S Niblock I Williams  
C Povall KJ Williams

Apologies Councillors A Hodson L Rowlands  
K Hodson

### 1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

#### RESOLVED:

That subject to the following amendment, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 February 2014 be confirmed as a correct record:

Minute No. 24 – Police - ‘Couple with a Copper’ be replaced with ‘Cupper with a Copper’.

### 2 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors C Muspratt and W Smith declared non pecuniary interests in Item No. 6 on the agenda – Wirral South Health and Wellbeing Fund Update by virtue of them being friends of Mayer Park, a community group who had made an application for a funding contribution and were listed in Appendix 1 to the report.

### 3 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

The Constituency Manager reported that a recruitment process for co-opting community representatives onto the Committee had run from 23 May to 13 June 2014. A Selection Panel had met on 19 June 2014 to consider the applications received and had recommended that the following community representatives be co-opted onto the Committee:

Lin Longshaw Parr  
Dave Johnson  
Kevin Sutton  
Mal Wright  
Mark Anthony Craig  
Warren-Andrew Ward

The Committee was informed that Mr Sutton had been unable to attend this meeting and had sent his apologies.

**RESOLVED:**

**That those recommended for co-option by the Recruitment Panel and listed above be co-opted onto this Committee with immediate effect and be invited to join Elected Members at the table.**

The newly Co-opted Members indicated that they had no interests to declare.

**4 WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITIES, SPEND AND BUDGET UPDATE 2014/15**

A report by the Constituency Manager detailed the proposed priorities for the Wirral South Constituency Committee for 2014/15 and beyond. This report also detailed the confirmed budget for 2014/15 and progress on spend so far.

At its meeting on 25 February 2014, the Council had agreed to allocate £50,000 to each of the four Constituency Committees. This had been done to “enable the new approach to Neighbourhood Working to be further developed.”

On 13 March 2014 the Cabinet had approved recommendations set out in a report that covered the greater Local Transport Capital Funding and the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme for 2014/15. The report had proposed an allocation of £77,750 for each Constituency Committee. Recommendation 13.1 had requested that discussion take place and a decision made by the Constituency Committee on how this fund would be allocated. Appendix 1 to the report provided examples of the various ways this money could be spent and approximate costs of any such schemes.

It was reported that £50,000 in total had been allocated to this Committee from the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Fund. An update on this was provided in a report elsewhere on the agenda. (Minute No. 32 refers.)

The Committee at its second meeting held on 18 December 2013, had approved a funding allocation of £10,000 to each of the five wards (Minute No. 12 refers). The agreed £10,000 per ward had to be spent on a number of improvement ideas developed by Elected Members. Members noted that as of 31 March 2014 £38,720.50 remained to be spent of this £50,000. This

amount had been carried over into the 2014/15 financial year and those Elected Members with a balance were currently working with the Constituency Manager to deliver various projects utilising this funding.

The Constituency Manager informed that 'Your Wirral' funding had been devolved to the Constituencies Committees for 2014/15. This was a small grants programme that had been in operation since 2007. It was a strand of the Community Fund that came into being as a result of the Value Added Tax (VAT) return generated by the housing stock transfer from Wirral Council to Wirral Partnership Homes, now Magenta Living. From November 2007 to October 2012 a total of £1,835,585.85 had been spent supporting 783 groups, projects and activities across Wirral. Members noted that the fund had lain dormant during the last financial year.

The Committee was informed that grants were available to voluntary and community sector (not for profit) groups across Wirral. The Fund rested with Magenta Living. A Joint Working Group acted as an accountable body for the Fund and was composed of Elected Members and Magenta Living Board members. Previous applications had been evaluated by representatives from Magenta Living and Wirral Council and then payments had been either signed off to successful groups or withdrawn by the Joint Working Group.

A total of £250,000 was available for 2014/15. The amount allocated had been determined by the number of Magenta Living housing units within each Constituency. £50,000 was available for projects or activities that were delivered in two or more constituencies or across Wirral.

The Committee noted that to be eligible for funding, applications had to be compatible with one or more of the seven themes agreed by the Joint Working Group in line with the charitable objectives of the Community Fund Deed as follows:

- Creating an attractive and safe environment
- Contributing to community economic regeneration
- Preventing crime or reducing the fear of crime
- Providing employment and training for local people
- Benefiting local people who face discrimination
- Improving community facilities
- Engaging communities to improve quality of life

Members noted the conditions that had to be adhered to, so as to ensure that the conditions of the Community Fund deed were not compromised. They also noted the proposed process set out in detail in the report, a breakdown of the Committee's confirmed budget for 2014/15 and the Committee's priorities.

It was proposed that each of the three priorities below should be allocated £15,000 each, thus leaving £5,000 of core budget to support various engagement initiatives:

- Improved Open Spaces; to increase the number of green flag parks in Wirral South year on year.
- Gaps in Youth Provision; to work with the internal and external partners to identify and rectify any existing gaps in provision of youth services in Wirral South.
- Tackle Social Isolation; Identify the various groups affected by social isolation in Wirral South, establish the evident gaps in provision throughout the Constituency and aim to either support existing providers or commission a new piece of work.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) **one Elected Member per ward be nominated to sit on a Task and Finish Group to discuss directly with colleagues from Road Safety the various options for spending the Local Transport Capital Funding and the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme budget of £77,750;**

**(Names to be supplied by Ward Members in due course.)**

**(This Task and Finish Group will report its proposals to the next Committee meeting scheduled for 8 October 2014 with a view to commencing work shortly thereafter.)**

- (2) **Members will continue to work with the Constituency Manager to spend the remaining core budget for 2013/14 as expediently as possible; and**
- (3) **the establishment of the 'Your Wirral' fund and its associated processes be noted.**

**5 CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE HANDBOOK UPDATE**

The Constituency Manager reported that Members had met in a number of Panels to consider how the Constituency Committee Handbook would be drafted. This had now been accomplished and each Member of the Committee had received a copy of the Handbook with their agenda for the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the progress made in producing the Constituency Committee Handbook be noted.**

## 6 WIRRAL SOUTH HEALTH AND WELLBEING FUND UPDATE

A report by the Constituency Manager provided the Committee with an update on the funding allocation of £50,000 from the Wirral South Health and Wellbeing Fund. Appended to the report was Appendix 1 which contained the detail of the selection process used and the recommended successful projects.

The Committee was informed that on 10 December 2013 the Director of Public Health had presented a report to the Cabinet recommending a further £100,000 be "...administered through the Constituency Committees" aimed at supporting the voluntary sector in Wirral (Cabinet Minute No. 120 refers). Therefore, the Committee was now responsible for administering the original £25,000 provided by Public Health and the further £25,000 Voluntary Sector Support Funding.

Members noted that the Wirral South Health and Wellbeing Fund was aimed at increasing the healthy life expectancy of local residents and reducing differences in healthy life expectancy between communities. Funding applications were able to be submitted between 1 April and 6 May 2014 and 51 applications had been received, bidding for a maximum of £3,000 per project. A strict scoring criteria was set out in Appendix 2 to the report which had been used to score the projects that were the subject of the funding applications. All Members of the Committee had been invited to the assessment session held for all the applications received on 28 May 2014. Applications had been scored against:

- Need (demonstrated need within the application rather than perceived/understood need)
- Demonstrated impact upon public Health Outcomes (Set out in Appendix 3 to the report)
- Partnership Working

Those Members who had declared pecuniary interests had left the room whilst the projects they had an interest in had been under discussion.

The Constituency Manager reported that from the scores allocated 18 projects out of the 51 received were being recommended to receive funding within the £50,000 budget. This would then leave a surplus of £1,881.03. This could be allocated by the Committee in line with its proposed themes of work, provided they matched the Public Health Outcomes. All spend would be reported back to the Public Health Department in order to satisfy its audit processes.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) funding be awarded as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and**
- (2) the £1,881.03 under spend be allocated in line with Wirral South's agreed priorities during 2014/15 ensuring all spend satisfies the criteria outlined in Appendix 2 to the report (Public Health Outcome Framework Indicators).**

**7 INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION**

The introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) was a Government initiative to transfer the existing property-based electoral register to a new register which would rely on individuals registering themselves.

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Public Health/Head of Policy and Performance that had been written for consideration by the Policy and Performance Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on 15 January 2014. The report provided a detailed account of a Scrutiny Review that had considered the Council's preparations for the introduction of IER in 2014. Attached to the report as Appendix 1 was the Scrutiny Review Final Report.

The report set out the formal process for transferring to IER in summer 2014 and the preparations the Council had made so far.

It was noted that the Scrutiny Review Panel consisted of the following Members: Councillors Jean Stapleton (Chair), Moira McLaughlin, Denise Roberts and Steve Williams. It was also noted that the review had provided an opportunity for Members to gain a good understanding of the work being undertaken to mitigate the risk associated with all voters on the register successfully transferring to the new one.

The report informed that the Panel's assessment was that overall the Council was in a strong position and was likely to have a relatively smooth transfer to IER in 2014. However, Panel Members were concerned that in some wards, notably those with higher levels of known deprivation, there would be higher proportions of voters not automatically transferred. It was noted that additional work would have to be undertaken to ensure these voters were successfully transferred.

It was also noted that the Panel was also concerned that these same locations tended to have higher numbers of people not on the electoral register. As such, Members were keen for the IER process to be used as a vehicle to promote electoral registration more generally to encourage those not registered to register.



The Senior Electoral Services Officer was in attendance at the meeting and informed that the Council was in a strong position to implement this scheme, it had been possible to register online since 10 June 2014 and take up had been high. He also informed that there would be a national publicity campaign which the Electoral Commission would launch in an attempt to boost registration figures.

Members had a number of questions on IER which the Senior Electoral Officer answered as appropriate. It was noted as a consequence of this that:

- People who were already on the Electoral Register would be transferred automatically to the new one and would receive individual letters confirming that this had been done and that no further action was required.
- People who were not on the Electoral Register often had difficulty in opening bank accounts etc.
- There would also be a local publicity campaign involving the local media.  
(Free Newspapers, radio announcements, publications in One Stop Shops and the Council's website.)
- Schools, Sixth Form Colleges and interest groups e.g. Magenta Living and other Housing Associations would be informed of the IER process.
- Advanced copies of the local IER publicity leaflets would be sent to Members of the Committee providing the appropriate wording was received from the Electoral Commission in enough time to do so.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the Senior Electoral Officer be thanked for his report and attendance at the meeting; and**
- (2) the contents of the Wirral Council's Preparations for Individual Electoral Registration Scrutiny Review Final Report and the recommendations therein be noted.**

**8 PARKING ON PAVEMENTS/VERGES UPDATE**

At its last meeting held on 26 February 2014 the Committee had been asked to consider a report in relation to parking on pavements and grass verges (Minute No. 22 refers). It was resolved:

**'That this Committee looks forward to working with Highway Officers to tackle the problem of parking on pavements and grass verges and they be invited to attend the next meeting to progress this'.**

Consequently, the Group Leader (Road Safety) was in attendance at the meeting to outline any progress/future projects in relation to this matter. He

reported that pavement parking was a vexatious issue nationally. There was a blanket ban on it in the Greater London area but the rest of the country was left to implement restrictions. To do this involved the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order plus appropriate signage.

The Group Leader (Road Safety) informed that legislation regarding pavement parking was very complex. Action could be taken if the Council could prove that damage had been caused as a result and so witnesses who saw the damage being done were required. The Police had powers to deal with pavement parking but it was a witness able offence and Police Officers had to see it happening before taking action. If they witnessed an obstruction they could act. Members noted that grass verges were constantly being damaged but it was difficult to prove who had caused the damage.

The Group Leader (Road Safety) informed the Committee that he was willing to speak to the Task and Finish Group about warning people and encouraging them to be better community minded and not park on grass verges and pavements.

The Group Leader (Road Safety) was then asked a number of questions which he answered as appropriate. Matters discussed included the following:

- There was a problem of unseated kerbs on Kings Road by Sunnybank because motorists parked on the kerb. The damage had been caused by a serial offender and there had been 50/60 complaints from residents about it. The person concerned had not been invoiced for the damage caused. The answer to this could be a Traffic Regulation Order but the cost of this would be an issue.
- The offenses being committed needed to be determined and then Officers should take them forward with the Parking Enforcement Contractor.
- Some Members had not heard of motorists being prosecuted for parking on verges and pavements but they were aware that recently, a person had been prosecuted for placing stones on the grass verge to deter motorists from parking there. Under the Highways Act stones should not be placed on verges. If damage was caused to vehicles as a consequence of this the Council was legally obligated to take action because stones should not be there.
- Preventative measures should be taken where there was a particular issue.
- The Council needed to work with the community as much as possible to bring about improvement.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the Group Leader (Road Safety) be thanked for his report and attendance at the meeting; and**
- (2) the Group Leader (Road Safety) be requested to work with the Task and Finish Group to pick up and progress all of the transport issues raised.**

**9 UPDATE FROM MERSEYSIDE POLICE**

The Neighbourhood Inspector Wirral South reported on current Policing issues including the following:

- Merseyside Police Authority was 40 years old this year having come into existence in 1974. To commemorate this there was to be a Grand Exhibition at the Museum of Liverpool between 10am and 5pm on Saturday, 28 June 2014 and admission was free. This would include displays from the Fire Arms Unit, the Mounted Police and the Dogs Sections. There would also be a fly past by the Police helicopter.
- A mobile Police Station borrowed from St Helens Policing Division was currently on trial on Wirral and the general consensus from the public on this had been very positive so it was intended that two mobiles would be purchased for Wirral West and for Wirral South's use. People could use these to speak privately to Police Officers.
- Statistics in respect of reported crimes and burglaries. Nationally Merseyside suffered more crimes than the national average but Wirral suffered less. In Wirral most crimes were carried out in Birkenhead and Wallasey. Burglaries were two over target. Some had been technical and some traditional. The figures were significantly under target for auto crime e.g. stealing and criminal damage. There was some retail theft.

Members then asked a number of questions which the Inspector answered as appropriate. Issues raised included the following:

- Bebington residents were concerned by a spate of burglaries where elderly people's doors had been kicked in.
- It was important to get the message over to residents to ensure their homes were secure when they were out in their gardens.
- The Police intended to send out leaflets to prevent burglaries and would inform the Constituency Manager which areas were being targeted and when.
- The Police was actively promoting Home Watch again. The information provided was brilliant but the way it was delivered was not. The data base was not very user friendly.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Neighbourhood Inspector Wirral South be thanked for his report and his attendance at the meeting.**

**10 UPDATE FROM THE MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

The Station Manager Wirral South reported on current Fire and Rescue Service issues including the following:

- Statistics for the period April to June 2014. There had been seven accidental fires dealt with, six had been to do with kitchen and cooking and there had been 51 secondary fires. Wirral South was not very high risk.
- There had been an Open Day at Heswall Fire Station with the aim of attempting to reduce the risk of fire.
- In respect of road traffic collisions advice had been prepared on how to drive safely.
- The Fire and Rescue Service sent representatives into schools to target 15/16 year olds about being safe.
- The second round of the Prince's Trust Programme was underway and it was expected that there would be a third and fourth round this year.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Station Manager Wirral South be thanked for his report and his attendance at the meeting.**

**11 PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION (APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES)**

Elected Members and members of the public in attendance raised the following questions, comments and requests.

**Number 1**

A member of the public requested that additional parking space be provided in Oakfield Road, Bromborough. Residents who lived on that road had lots of vehicles and the parking of them was causing issues. Neighbours were falling out as a result. Buses had difficulty in getting by the parked vehicles. This was also considered a health and safety issue because emergency vehicles could not get past. The Committee was advised that additional parking space had been provided in other areas e.g. Bromborough Pool at a cost of £28,000 for a vast area and Oakfield Road was only half the size of that area.

The Group Leader (Road Safety) informed that he would look with the Task and Finish Group at the possibility of providing the requested additional

parking. However, similar requests had been received from elsewhere in the Constituency area and he had the details of them on file.

A Member informed that the green in Oakfield Road belonged to Magenta Living. The Group Leader (Road Safety) informed that he would look into this and ascertain which was adopted highway and which was not adopted highway.

## **Number 2**

A member of the public informed of a persistent offender who regularly drove a vehicle on the pavement in Eastham. She asked if an Officer could make a site visit in an attempt to witness this.

The Group Leader (Road Safety) informed that he would discuss this with the member of the public after the meeting and take the details.

## **Number 3**

A member of the public enquired about the makeup of the Committee that had made decisions in respect of the grants awarded from the Wirral South Health and Wellbeing Fund.

The Constituency Manager informed that an open invitation had been issued to all Members of this Committee and eight or nine Members had been able to attend the meeting where recommendations to allocate the funding had been made.

## **Number 4**

A member of the public was concerned about having to walk children to St Peter's C of E Primary School and back, along the lower part of Thurstaston Road where there were sandstone walls. Whilst doing this she had been clipped by car wing mirrors because motorists drove onto the pavement. She asked how motorists could be prevented from doing this.

The Group Leader (Road Safety) informed that the Council was constrained by the sandstone walls which were not in its ownership. The Council could look at the possibilities of making this road one way but if this was to be done the speed of traffic on the road may then increase. He agreed to look into it and take some details from the member of the public.

The Constituency Manager agreed to arrange a site visit with all interested parties including representatives from the School.

### **Number 5**

A member of the public informed that in Bromborough where he lived there were two massive grass verges in the centre of The Avenue. There was no where to park so motorists parked on the kerb.

The Group Leader (Road Safety) informed that the carriageway was the place for vehicles to drive on and it was not acceptable to drive on kerbs and grass verges. It was costly to widen roads. Motorists should not damage the infrastructure and should not drive on pavements.

The member of the public informed that if motorists did not park on the kerb they could get their vehicles damaged as the road was very narrow.

### **Number 6**

A member of the public requested the contact details of the newly co-opted community representatives. (Minute No. 29 refers.)

The Constituency Manager informed that he would discuss this request with the Co-opted Members but they could be contacted through him.

### **Number 7**

A member of the public asked if arrangements were being put in hand in retail parks to encourage people not already on the Electoral Roll to register.

### **Number 8**

A member of the public noted that a Cultural Strategy was being put together for Wirral. She was very interested in this and enquired if the Committee was represented on the group that had been tasked with this work.

It was noted that the Head of Regeneration and Planning was a member as was Alison McGovern MP.

A Member informed that the Cultural Strategy was an absolute priority and was in its early stages of development. He agreed to take the member of the public's details and pass them on to the Head of Regeneration and Planning.

### **Number 9**

A member of the public asked how the new Individual Electoral Registration would affect him.

The Constituency Manager informed that the vast majority of people would receive a letter informing them that they were registered and the member of the public would probably one of them.

The member of the public was concerned that the Senior Electoral Officer had been allowed to leave the meeting because it meant that the opportunity to question him had been lost. He informed that for those who did not receive copies of the free press, there were free Newspapers available in Co-op Stores and some Tesco Stores.

The Constituency Manager informed that as well as information about IER being in free newspapers the publicity campaign would also involve face to face contact by knocking on doors in some areas.

### **Number 10**

A member of the public was aware that the Government had provided funding of £360,000 to help repair potholes caused by severe weather last winter. He enquired whether this funding would be allocated via the Constituency Committees.

The Group Leader (Road Safety) informed that the Government funding would be used on priorities that had been identified by Highways Inspectors. Members of the public were invited to raise issues via Streetscene.

The member of the public asked if the Committee could not take the responsibility for allocating the funding.

The Constituency Manager informed that the funding for road repairs had not been devolved to the Committee this year and that the roads were scored to determine the priority for receiving attention.

The member of the public informed that this was a perfect opportunity for the Constituency Committees to take responsibility for spending this funding.

It was noted that the Council had adopted a prioritised system for road repairs but Elected Members could push to get potholes repaired as well. It was their job to identify issues like this.

Some Members agreed that the funding should have been devolved to the Constituency Committees. Others reminded the meeting that it was new money and it was not known whether a similar Government grant would be provided in future years. The funding would go into the Integrated Transport Block programme budget and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport would decide which roads were resurfaced.

## **Number 11**

A member of the Public informed that Heswall Hall Community Trust wanted to thank the Committee for the grant it had provided from the Health and Wellbeing Fund.

### **12 DISCUSSION OF ITEM RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE REGARDING ELECTING A CHAIR FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MUNICIPAL YEAR**

It was proposed by Councillor Adam Sykes and seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall that instead of having a different chair and Vice Chair for each Committee meeting, a Chair and Vice Chair be elected for the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year. This was put to the vote and it was

**RESOLVED: (Unanimously)**

**That a Chair and Vice chair be elected for the ensuing Municipal Year.**

### **13 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING MUNICIPAL YEAR**

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) Councillor Phil Gilchrist be elected Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year; and**
- (2) Councillor Jerry Williams be elected Vice Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.**

### **14 URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

#### **(a) Seating Arrangements**

A Member proposed that as the Committee was large, in future only one Elected Member from each ward should sit at the table whilst the other two Members from each ward sat with the public in the seats at the side of the Hall. There was little support for this proposal however, so the Member indicated that he wished to withdraw it.

#### **(b) Use of Microphones**

Members of the public made representations that in future microphones be used at Committee meetings as it had been difficult to follow the debates and hear what was being said without them. Members agreed with this and it was



**RESOLVED:**

**That microphones be used at future Committee meetings.**

15 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee Calendar for 2014/15 had been agreed by the Council. However, Constituency Manager informed that it was not now possible to hold Committee meetings at the Mayer Hall on Wednesday, 8 October 2014 and Wednesday, 15 April 2015 because a Community Group had made a block booking for Wednesday evenings. Consequently, he proposed that the Committee meet instead on Thursday, 16 October 2014 and Thursday, 16 April 2015 and that the Constituency Committee Handbook be printed with these revised dates in it.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the proposal put forward by the Constituency Manager and set out above be agreed.**

**{NB Following the meeting it was noted that the Committee meeting scheduled for 21 January 2015 also needed to be rescheduled as it was due to be held on a Wednesday. With the agreement of the Chair, it will now take place on Thursday, 22 January 2015. This change will also be included in the Constituency Committee Handbook.}**

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## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

16 OCTOBER 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WIRRAL SOUTH BUDGET &amp; SPEND UPDATE</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>BEBINGTON</u></b></li> <li>▪ <b><u>BROMBOROUGH</u></b></li> <li>▪ <b><u>CLATTERBRIDGE</u></b></li> <li>▪ <b><u>EASTHAM</u></b></li> <li>▪ <b><u>HESWALL</u></b></li> </ul>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL SOUTH)</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING &amp; ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report gives an update on the current allocation of all budgets devolved to the Wirral South Constituency Committee. This includes:

- £50K Wirral South Health & Wellbeing Fund
- £38,720.50 core budget rolled over from 2013/14 (allocated £10k per ward)
- £50K Core budget allocated to three main priorities
- £77,750 Road Safety Money
- £35K “Your Wirral” funding

#### 2.0 WIRRAL SOUTH HEALTH & WELLBEING FUND

2.1 On December 10 2013 the Director of Public Health presented a report to Cabinet recommending a further £100K be “...administered through the Constituency Committees” aimed at supporting the voluntary sector in Wirral (minute 120 from said meeting refers). As such the Wirral South Constituency Committee is now responsible for administering the original £25K provided by Public Health and the further £25K ‘Voluntary Sector Support Fund’.

- 2.2 The Wirral South Health and Wellbeing Fund is aimed at increasing the healthy life expectancy of local residents and reducing differences in healthy life expectancy between communities.
- 2.3 On Wednesday 28 May 2014 all elected Members for Wirral South were invited to attend an assessment session for all 51 applications received. As previously mentioned a strict scoring criteria was utilised (appendix two) scoring applications against:
- Need (demonstrated need within the application rather than perceived/understood need)
  - Demonstrated impact upon public Health Outcomes (appendix 3)
  - Partnership Working
- 2.4 From the scores allocated 18 projects out of the 51 received were proposed to be funded within the £50K budget. This would leave a surplus of £1,881.03.
- 2.5 At the first Wirral South Constituency Committee of 2014/15 (June 25) the above outlined allocation (2.4) was recommended and resolved. Payments were subsequently made to the approved 18 projects. Many of these projects are at varying stages of completion (some are complete and were one off events, others are yet to begin until later in the year). Each funded project was contacted on September 2 2014 and asked to complete an update report regarding level of completion and projected spend dates (see appendix 1)

### **3.0 REMAINING CORE BUDGET FROM 2013/14**

- 3.1 Over £38K of the 2013/14 devolved core budget for Wirral South remained and was carried over into 2014/15. Each ward was allocated £10k each and spend continues. There are a number of imminent projects lined up which will see this figure dramatically reduce but members are reminded to ensure this allocation is used expediently (see recommendation 16.2). A further report will be brought in January giving specific detail of spend per ward.

### **4.0 2014/15 CORE BUDGET**

- 4.1 At Wirral South's first Constituency Committee of 2014/15 three main priorities were proposed and resolved:

These priorities were:

- Improved Open Spaces; to increase the number of green flag parks in Wirral South year on year
- Gaps in Youth Provision; to work with the internal and external partners to identify and rectify any existing gaps in provision of youth services in Wirral South

- Tackle Social Isolation; Identify the various groups affected by social isolation in Wirral South, establish the evident gaps in provision throughout the Constituency and aim to either support existing providers or commission a new piece of work

*For further information relating to progress on this matter please see the report entitled “Wirral South Priorities update 2014/15” presented to the Wirral South Constituency Committee 16 October 2014.*

## **5.0 ROAD SAFETY DEVOLVED BUDGET**

5.1 It was outlined at Wirral South’s first Constituency Committee of 2014/15 that £77,750 had been devolved to Wirral South to address Road Safety issues within the constituency area.

5.2 The “Local Transport Capital Funding/Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme budget Task & Finish Group” for Wirral South met for the first time, Wednesday 13 Aug (see appendix 2 for meeting notes). This group discussed possible options for distributing the relevant budget and came to the following conclusion:

“Utilise some of the £77,750 (£10K suggested) to carry out a constituency wide project to future proof a number of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). The remaining amount to be split evenly per ward”. ((see recommendation 16.3).

5.3 Based upon the above proposal all members were requested to submit a concise “wish list” in order of preference stating schemes they would like to fund from their ward based budget (approximately £13.5K). The aforementioned schemes can be programmed in for completion throughout the remainder of 2014/15 (see recommendation 16.4).

## **6.0 “YOUR WIRRAL” BUDGET**

6.1 Your Wirral funding has been devolved to the Constituencies Committees for 2014/15. It is a small grants programme that has been in operation since 2007. It is a strand of the Community Fund that came into being as a result of the Value Added Tax (VAT) return generated by the housing stock transfer from Wirral Council to Wirral Partnership Homes, now Magenta Living. From November 2007 to October 2012 a total of £1,835,585.85 was spent supporting 783 groups for projects and activities across Wirral. The fund has been dormant for the last financial year.

6.2 To be eligible for funding, applications must fit within one or more of the seven themes, which were agreed by the Joint Working Group in line with the charitable objectives of the Community Fund Deed they are:

- i. Creating an attractive and safe environment
- ii. Contributing to community economic regeneration
- iii. Preventing crime or reducing the fear of crime
- iv. Providing employment and training for local people
- v. Benefiting local people who face discrimination
- vi. Improving community facilities
- vii. Engaging communities to improve quality of life

6.3 The first tranche of the “Your Wirral Fund” for Wirral South closed on. On 1 October 2014 a representative task and finish group met to assess the application received against an agree criteria. The group in question consisted of:

Cllr Phil Gilchrist (Chair)  
 Cllr Jerry Williams (Vice Chair)  
 Cllr Christina Muspratt (Bebington)  
 Cllr Irene Williams (Bromborough)  
 Cllr Tracey Smith (Clatterbridge)  
 Paula McGlynn (Magenta Living Rep)

Each application was scored and an agreed list of funded applications was produced (see appendix three and Recommendation 16.5). If the proposed recommendation is resolved then Wirral South has £11,886.28 remaining to allocate. Recommendation 16.5 proposes this fund be reopened until November 28<sup>th</sup> to allow for applications to considered expediently by the already existing task and finish group. It is also recommended that said task and finish group are granted delegated powers to award monies without returning to committee. Funds awarded will be reported back to the committee in January.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 Failure to agree project spend expediently may result in a loss of funding allocation in future years.

## **8.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 Careful consideration has been given to the best way to distribute this funding to help tackle the Constituency’s priorities.

## **9.0 CONSULTATION**

9.1 Extensive online literature was available to both promote and explain the “Your Wirral Fund” and support was offered from Community Action Wirral to aid those applying. Elected members have been consulted via various task & finish groups.

## **10.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

10.1 The “Your Wirral” fund will offer a well needed injection of funds into the social sector within Wirral South.

## **11.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

11.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South Constituency Committee.

11.2 Funding may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

## **12.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 The arrangements will help the Council to deliver on the Localism Act 2011 and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

## **13.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Yes an impact review can be found at the link below (Progressing Neighbourhood Working). A specific EIA related to the grants fund itself will be carried out should the relevant recommendation be approved.

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/chief-executives>

## **14.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 Allocation of funds promoting localised services will have an impact on the Wirral South’s overall carbon footprint

## **15.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 This report may have positive community safety implications dependent upon the allocation of spend determined by the Constituency Committee.

## **16.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

16.1 Members note the progress made regarding the allocation of the “Wirral South Health & Wellbeing Fund”.

16.2 Members work closely with the Constituency Manager and other officers to ensure the remaining under spend from 2013/14 is allocated prior to the first Constituency Committee of 2015 (22 January).

16.3 Members agree the proposal of the “Road Safety Task & Finish Group”:

“Utilise some of the £77,750 (£10K suggested) to carry out a constituency wide project to future proof a number of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). The remaining amount to be split evenly per ward”.

16.4 Members work closely with the Constituency Manager and other officers to ensure the ward based road safety monies are spent in a timely manner (with a full and detailed report of the projects and their progress be brought to the first Constituency Committee of 2015 (22 January).

16.5 Members agree the proposal to fund the ten “Your Wirral” projects outlined in appendix three. To reopen the aforementioned fund until November 28, reconvene the existing task and finish group to assess applications expediently and allocate monies reporting back to committee in January.

## 17.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

17.1 To enable the work of the Constituency Committee to be focused upon the needs of the local area and to ensure projects commence as expediently as possible.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** **Fergus Adams**  
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## REFERENCE MATERIAL

*Improving Outcomes and Supporting Transparency: Part 1B: Public Health Outcomes Framework; Department of Health; Nov 2012; p4*

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Voluntary Sector Support Fund Wirral South Constituency Committee	10 December 2013 25 June 2014

Appendix One: Wirral South Health & Wellbeing Fund Successful Projects Updates  
Appendix Two: Wirral South Road Safety Task & Finish Group Meeting Notes  
Appendix Three: “Your Wirral South” Recommended Funded Applications



Appendix One: Wirral South Health & Wellbeing Fund Successful Projects Updates

Project ID	Organisation	Project name	Contact's Name	Contact's Role	Project Start Date	Project End Date	Amount Received	Has Funding Been Spent	Spend So Far	Remainder Spent BY
PH06	Higher Bebington Junior Football Club	Renewal / Repair of Changing Room roof	Martin Stacey	Secretary	Jul-14	Oct14	£3,000.00	No	£2,451.05	Nov-14
PH07	Wirral Community Meals	Meals on Wheels	Val Hamlet	Trustee	Oct-14	Mar-15	£3,000.00	No	£100	Mar-15
PH11	KH2 Community Link Services CIC	Be Mindful on the Move	Kate Hughes	Project manager	Aug-14	Oct-14	£1,160.00	No	£152	Nov-14
PH14	Mill Park Tenants and Residents Committee	Luncheon Club, Kids Holiday Club, Knit & Knatter, Seasonal Events.	Pam Stewart	Chair	Aug-14	Mar-15	£3,000.00	No	No breakdown supplied	Mar-15
PH15	123 (Hooton Park) Squadron ATC	Active Adventure	Deborah Collins	Treasurer	May-14	Ongoing	£3,000.00	No	£2,508.70	Dec-15

<b>PH17</b>	Royal Voluntary Service	Good neighbours	Kim Griffiths	Project leader	Aug-14	Mar-15	£3,000.00	No	£560	Mar-15
<b>PH19</b>	Grief Recovery Method	Grief Recovery Method	JANE GRIMES	Workshop Leader		Mar-15	£1,900.00	No		Mar-15
<b>PH20</b>	The Friends of Higher Bebington Park	Footpath	Paul Wallington	Secretary			£3,000.00	No	£0	Mar-15
<b>PH21</b>	SUEvivor Stroke Support	Stroke Awareness and Support	Kirsty Lever	Vice Chair	Jul-14	Mar-15	£2,939.37	No	£1,476.94	Mar-15
<b>PH22</b>	Memories of Yesterday	A Trip Down Memory Lane	Liz Howard	Director	Jul-14	Feb-15	£2,980.00	No	£1,155	Feb-15
<b>PH29</b>	Bebington Swimming Club (Coaching)	coaching for young people	Elisabeth Fallows	Fundraising officer	Jul-14	Mar-15	£1,080.00	Yes	£1,080.00	Na
<b>PH32</b>	Friends of Puddydale Park	Fitness for All	Linda Paul	Chair	Jan-15	Mar-15	£2,600.00	No	£0	Mar-15
<b>PH34</b>	Cycling Projects	Wirral Health on Wheels	Kevin McCann	project lead	Aug-14	Mar-15	£3,000.00	No	£2,608	Oct-14

<b>PH36</b>	South Wirral Children's Centres Parent Forum	Fun in the Sun, Grub in the Tum	Toni Reeder	Treasurer	Jul-14	Jan-15	£3,000.00	No	£1,555.43	Jan-15
<b>PH41</b>	Heswall Hall Community Trust	Heswall Hall Community Garden	John Lack	Trustee and Project Manager	Sep-14	Mar-15	£2,930.00	No	£0	Mar-15
<b>PH48</b>	Friends of Mayer Park Group	Community Nursery/Allotment	Dennis Boyd	Chair		May-15	£3,000.00	No	£0	Mar-15
<b>PH49</b>	Coaching and Community Support Ltd	Think Healthy, Feel Healthy, Be Healthy	Susan Reuben		Jul-14	Jan-15	£2,529.60	No	£508.96	Mar-15
<b>PH50</b>	Bromborough Trailblazers	Trailblazers	Tommy Grierson	Group Leader			£3,000.00	No	£2,022.02	Mar-15

**Local Transport Capital Funding/Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme  
budget Task & Finish Group  
Wirral South**

**Wednesday, 13 August 2014**

Present	Councillors	D Mitchell C Muspratt L Rowlands T Smith J Walsh
	Constituency Manager	Fergus Adams
	Group Leader, Road Safety	Dave Rees

**1) MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were expressed

**2) SCENE SETTING**

FA outlined the events that had led up to this meeting. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 Wirral South Constituency Committee agreed the following recommendation:  
*1) The Task and Finish Group will discuss directly with colleagues from Road Safety the various options for spending the Local Transport Capital Funding and the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme budget of £77,750 and provide a report for the next meeting of the Committee in October 2014.*

**3) Objectives for the meeting**

Three proposed options were discussed in relation to how the budget might be split:

1. Split the £77,750 evenly between the five constituency wards
2. Utilise some of the £77,750 (£10K suggested) to carry out a constituency wide project to future proof a number of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). The remaining amount to be split evenly per ward
3. To investigate the need/appetite for carrying out one or two large scale projects within the constituency

All members present voted for option 2 above. The future proofing reference above relates to the fact that current VAS have the capability to collate data using sim cards. These sim cards need an active contract associated with them (just like a mobile phone) in order to send data (re. drivers speeds and times etc.) back to be collated.

The existing VAS can be adapted to save all driver related data directly to a local SD card within the sign. This would allow an operative to physically retrieve said data on a quarterly basis and pass to the Police to inform their operational approach re. speeding motorists.

Dave Rees was asked to confirm exactly how many VAS signs there were in Wirral South. Members agreed that if the amount needed to amend all VAS was within a reasonable tolerance of the proposed £10K this could be recommended on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October (thus reducing the ward based share slightly).

Members present agreed that chosen VAS for adaptation should represent a fair geographical spread throughout Wirral South. Chosen VAS sites should also be in sound working order to minimise the potential for complete unit failure post adaptation. This is paramount as there is currently no existing budget for replacing those units that cease to function.

It was also noted at this point that buy in from the Police would be integral to this approach being worthwhile and that it could not be progressed without such initial buy in.

#### **4) Next steps to ensure the priority is achievable within timescale**

- Notes/minutes of the task and finish group will be produced and shared by Fergus Adams (ASAP)
- The aforementioned notes/minutes will be shared amongst the attendees for accuracy/comments before being shared amongst the wider committee membership
- All members that have not yet done so are to submit a concise “wish list” in order of preference stating schemes they would like to fund from their ward based budget (approximately £13.5K)
- A report will be produced inline with agreed proposals and presented on October 16<sup>th</sup>
- If resolutions are achieved on October 16<sup>th</sup> then a planned timetable of work will be produced by colleagues in road safety/highways and shared with the membership of the committee

#### **5) Recommendations**

- 5.2 It is recommended that a full report be brought to the Wirral South Constituency Committee (October 16, 2014) outlining both progress so far and proposed actions to ensure budget spend is successful and with maximum impact.

<b>Actions from 6/8/14</b>		
1	Notes/minutes of the task and finish group will be produced and shared by Fergus Adams (ASAP). These notes/minutes will be shared amongst the attendees for accuracy/comments before being shared amongst the wider committee membership.	FA
2	Dave Rees to provide an accurate list of locations of all existing VAS within Wirral South	DR
3	All members that have not yet done so are to submit a concise "wish list" to the Constituency Manager (in order of preference) stating schemes they would like to fund from their ward based budget (approximately £13.5K). This should be e-mailed by end of play 31 August.	All Cllrs
4	A report produced inline with agreed proposals and presented on October 16 <sup>th</sup>	FA

Appendix Three: "Your Wirral South" Recommended Funded Applications

Ref	Ward	Organisation	Project	Number Benefiting	Brief Description	Total Cost Of Project	Amount Applied For
AF78493	Multiple but most relevant to Wirral South (Beb/Brom)	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Composting toilets for visitors and volunteers comfort	2,500 Wirral wide visitors a year	Composting Toilet in Park	2514	2500
AF79998	Multiple but most relevant to Wirral South (Heswall)	Heswall Arts Festival	Marquees for Heswall Arts Festival	Everyone attending. In 2013 = 5000+	Marquees for festival and other community events	2500	2500
AF81280	Bromborough, Eastham	1st Bromborough Boys' Brigade	BB Steadfast Corner	100 plus	Disabled access to Boys Brigade	2661.19	2500
AF81317	Heswall	HESWALL & DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION	HESWALL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS	All residents and Visitors	Christmas Lights	4552	2500
AF80573	Bebington	Jireh Community Project	Growing Together	100	intergenerational Allotment	2475.11	2475.11

AF81135	Bebington, Heswall	The Residents of Brimstage Manor Nursing Home	Silversong Music Box for the Residents of Brimstage Manor Nursing Home	200 +	On Site singalong facilities	1680	840	
AF81440	Bebington, Clatterbridge	Bebington Village Retail Association	A Brighter Bebington	All residents and business's	Planters	4200	2500	
AF81250	Multiple but most relevant to Wirral South (Bebington)	Bebington Park Bowling Club	Bebington Park Bowling Green Shelter	200+	Shelter	2512.5	2500	
AF81443	Multiple but most relevant to Wirral South (Bebington)	SUEvivor Stroke Support	SUEvivor Art Therapy and Hand Mobility Aid	we interact regularly with 100 individuals and will interact with a minimum of 800 local community members.	Art therapy and hand therapy	2498.61	2498.61	
AF81522	Bromborough, Eastham	Eastham Community Centre Limited	Delamere Refurbishment	200+	Refurb and Chairs	2300	2300	
						Total	27893.41	<b>23113.72</b>



## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

16 OCTOBER 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITIES UPDATE 2014/15</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>BEBINGTON</u></b></li> <li>▪ <b><u>BROMBOROUGH</u></b></li> <li>▪ <b><u>CLATTERBRIDGE</u></b></li> <li>▪ <b><u>EASTHAM</u></b></li> <li>▪ <b><u>HESWALL</u></b></li> </ul>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL SOUTH)</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING &amp; ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report details the progress relating to the resolved priorities for the Wirral South Constituency Committee for 2014/15 and beyond.

#### 2.0 PRIORITY SETTING

2.1 At its meeting on 25 February 2014, Council agreed to fund the four Constituency Committees with £50k each. This was to “enable the new approach to Neighbourhood Working to be further developed.”

2.2 On Wednesday 9 April 2014 Wirral South’s Elected Members were invited to attend a priority setting session. The objective of this session was to produce a set of proposed themes that could be presented at the first Wirral South Constituency Committee of 2014/15 for consideration.

2.3 Based upon the findings of the above priority setting session three main priorities were proposed and resolved at Wirral South’s first Constituency Committee of 2014/15, 25 June.

2.4 These priorities were:

- Improved Open Spaces; to increase the number of green flag parks in Wirral South year on year
- Gaps in Youth Provision; to work with the internal and external partners to identify and rectify any existing gaps in provision of youth services in Wirral South
- Tackle Social Isolation; Identify the various groups affected by social isolation in Wirral South, establish the evident gaps in provision throughout the Constituency and aim to either support existing providers or commission a new piece of work

It was resolved that each of the priorities above should be allocated £15k each, thus leaving £5k of core budget to support various engagement initiatives.

### **3.0 PRIORITY PROGRESS**

#### 3.1 Improved Open Spaces

3.1.1 Since 25 June Wirral South's Constituency Manager met with representatives from the Wirral South Park's Team, including the Senior Manager of Parks and Countryside Services. Discussions were held in an attempt to highlight the most suitable location on which to focus the Committee's efforts throughout 2014/15. Based upon this discussion and a subsequent site visit it was decided that Mayer Park was the most suitable location based upon a number of factors, not least the existence of an enthusiastic and active "Friends Of" group plus the overall infrastructure being in acceptable condition.

3.1.2 On 6 August a representative group of Elected Members for Wirral South were brought together forming the 'Parks Priority Task and Finish Group' (see appendix 1 for meeting notes). At this meeting the proposal to focus upon Mayer Park in 2014/15 was discussed. Members agreed that this proposal was both acceptable and logical. To add context to this decision the main judging criteria for the Green Flag Award are contained below:

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Well maintained and clean
- Sustainability
- Conservation and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing
- Management

3.1.3 At the task and finish group meeting on 6 August 3 initial proposals were made based upon the recent site visit:

- i. Installation of new bins
- ii. Arboreal work (removal of old tree stumps which require specialist equipment)
- iii. Installation of a small fence to make a "kick around" area safer as it currently opens on to a main road

It was agreed that these proposals be recommended to committee on 16 October 2014 (see recommendation 13.1). Since initial discussions took place The Parks manager for Wirral South has purchased a stump chipper (to remove tree stumps) and has committed to removing the existing stumps in Mayer Park as a priority for the area. With this in mind no monetary contribution is requested from the Committee for this item.

One further issue was discussed in relation to remedial works needed in Mayer Park:

- iv. Removal of vegetation currently growing in and causing damage to the roof of Pennant House

Although the above issue would not traditionally be seen as a parks issue it was very much felt (on the opinion of an existing 'Green Flag Awards' judge that this would detract from any attempt to attain the award in question based upon the one of the eight main award criteria: 'Conservation & Heritage'. Members felt that it was more appropriate that existing budgets held by Wirral Council's Asset Management section be used to address this issue. As such (in his role as Chair) Councillor Gilchrist commenced correspondence with the aforementioned team.

Since the aforementioned correspondence works have begun to remove the offending vegetation from the roof of Pennant House. Further repair work (including repairing failing stonework) has also been undertaken.

Other initiatives have already commenced or are scheduled to begin within the park based upon increased partnership working between the existing 'Friends Of' group and Wirral South's Parks Manager. These include:

- Edging of existing paths (carried out by volunteers)
- Surveys of trees (to highlight issues with death and disease)
- New flower beds at main entrance
- Revitalised rose bed
- Adaptations to hedge heights to increase lines of sight
- Proposals to refurbish existing but dilapidated ironwork gate

The 'Parks Priority Task and Finish Group' also recommended an amendment be made to the current parks related priority to ensure an element of inclusion was added moving forward. There was an appetite to ensure that any park receiving Wirral South's attention and related funding should strive to be accessible to all (see recommendation 13.2). With this in mind Wirral South's Parks manager has been tasked with supplying quotations to install an accessible swing in Mayer Park, footpaths have also been surveyed to ensure they are wheelchair friendly.

It is recommended (see recommendation 13.3) that a shortlist of possible locations for the Committee's focus in 2015/16 is presented at the January Committee.

### 3.2 Gaps in Youth Provision

3.2.1 Since 25 June Wirral South's Constituency Manager has engaged directly with the Youth Support Team Manager for Wirral South in an attempt to produce a list of proposals to present to the committee. Based upon the key parameters of the above priority (i.e. "To work with internal and external partners to identify and rectify any existing gaps in provision of youth services in Wirral South") the following proposals were agreed for presentation (see appendix 2 for full details):

- i. **Diversionsary Activities**  
*2 x excursions to mountain biking facility in Delamere Forest for 14 young people to encourage engagement in focussed locations experiencing existing anti social behaviour*
- ii. **Education in Theatre**  
*20 x themed performance/workshops aimed at equipping young people with the tools to deal with both abusive relationships and bullying*
- iii. **Extension of 'The Lads' engagement programme**  
*Doubling the provision for Wirral South from 14 to 28 for young Men completing the above development programme*
- iv. **One to One Counselling Services**  
*Offering a one to one counselling service to young people within the Wirral South Constituency footprint until 31 march 2015*

The above proposals would cost a total amount of £10,567, just slightly more than two thirds of the Committee's youth budget for 2014/15. If the above proposal is resolved then the Constituency manager will work with Youth Support to compile a list of further initiatives in relation to the remaining budget. The aforementioned list will be presented to Committee in January (see recommendation 13.5).

### 3.3 Social Isolation

3.3.1 Since 25 June members of the Wirral South Public Service Board have been investigating ways in which the issue of social isolation could be addressed. Based upon the evidence on the subject it is clear to see that there are a number of elements of our communities that could feel socially isolated, for different reasons.

Based upon the evidence related to Wirral South's aging population it was proposed within the Public Service board to investigate existing programmes that addressed social isolation within the older population. Following a number of different conversations with external partners, the Alzheimer's Society's "Dementia Friendly Communities" model (see appendix 3) was seen to be an appropriate method of addressing social isolation in both those with dementia and their Carers.

Members of The Wirral South Public Service Board met on 4 September to discuss the opportunity of setting up “Dementia Friendly Communities” in Wirral South. Utilising existing evidence from the Wirral South Profile (produced by Public Health) and with support from the Alzheimer’s Society it was proposed that Heswall be recommended as a pilot location for this initiative (see recommendation 13.6).

It is further proposed that Wirral South promotes 2015 as its year of “Dementia Friendly Communities” engaging stakeholders from the public, private and third sectors in its delivery. This initiative should be almost fully self-sustainable; based upon the commitment of existing partners. It may be that a small element of financial support is required from Wirral South’s £15k budget (allocated to Social Isolation) to promote events etc.

- 3.3.2 Further work continues with colleagues in Adult Social Services to identify ways in which the Wirral South Constituency Committee can support carers within the five wards. This work stream will require further attention over the coming months with the aim of having a detailed proposal developed for presentation and approval in January (see recommendation 13.7).

#### **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 4.1 Failure to agree project spend expediently may result in a loss of funding allocation in future years and an inability to deliver tangible improvements within 2014/15.

#### **5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 Careful consideration has been given to the best way to distribute this funding to help tackle the Constituency’s priorities.

#### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Existing evidence from the Wirral South Profile Document (produced by Public Health) has been used to inform the formulation of Wirral South’s priorities. Feedback from communities to Elected Members has also factored into the priority setting process. Wirral South’s Community Representatives have been consulted upon the proposals relating to their allocated theme.

#### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 7.1 The overarching proposed model for neighbourhood working will strengthen the Council’s relationship with the voluntary and community sector.
- 7.2 Tackling the priorities of the Constituency will benefit communities directly.

## **8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 8.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South Constituency Committee.
- 8.2 Funding may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The arrangements will help the Council to deliver on the Localism Act 2011 and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

## **10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Yes an impact review can be found at the link below (Progressing Neighbourhood Working). A specific EIA related to the grants fund itself will be carried out should the relevant recommendation be approved.

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/chief-executives>

## **11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 None

## **12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 This report may have positive community safety implications dependent upon the allocation of spend determined by the Constituency Committee.

## **13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

- 13.1 The Committee agree to the spend associated with the following improvements to Mayer Park
- Installation of new bins
  - Installation of a small fence to make a "kick around" area safer as it currently opens on to a main road

13.2 The Park Related Priority for Wirral South be amended to encapsulate the wishes of the task and finish group regarding increased access for those with a disability. The updated Priority should read:

“Improved Open Spaces; to increase the number of green flag parks in Wirral South year on year and ensure accessibility is improved in each chosen location.”

13.3 The Constituency Manager continues to work with Colleagues in the Parks and Countryside Service and members of the ‘Parks Priority Task and Finish Group’ to produce a shortlist of locations for consideration in 2015/16.

13.4 The Committee grant delegated powers to the existing and representative ‘Parks Priority Task and Finish Group’ to ensure budgetary spend can be agreed and improvements made as expediently as possible, thus maximising the potential for applying for the Green Flag Award within 2014/15.

13.5 The Constituency manager work with Youth Support to compile a list of further initiatives in relation to the remaining youth budget for 2014/15. The aforementioned list be presented to Committee in January.

13.6 Members note the progress made in relation to initiating a “Dementia Friendly Community Pilot” in the Heswall area and approve an initial allocation of up to £1000 between now and January 2015 to allow the project to proceed in a timely manner.

13.7 Notes the progress made in relation to the identification of ways in which the Wirral South Constituency Committee can support carers within the five wards with a proposal being presented in January.

#### **14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

14.1 To enable the work of the Constituency Committee to be focused upon the needs of the local area and to ensure projects commence as expediently as possible.

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#### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

#### **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Wirral South Constituency Committee	25 June 2014

**Parks Priority Task & Finish Group  
Wirral South**

**Wednesday, 6 August 2014**

Present	Councillor	P Gilchrist (Chair)
	Councillors	C Muspratt
		C Povall
		I Williams

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	Constituency Manager	Fergus Adams
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Apologies	Councillors	L Rowlands
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**1) MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors C Muspratt declared non pecuniary interests by virtue of being the Treasurer of friends of Mayer Park, a community group who feature in the plan for 2014/15.

**2) SCENE SETTING**

FA outlined the events that had led up to this meeting. On Wednesday 9 April Wirral South's Elected Members were invited to attend a priority setting session. The objective of this session was to produce a set of proposed themes that could be presented at the first Wirral South Constituency Committee of 2014/15 for consideration.

A parks related priority entitled "Improved Open Spaces; to increase the number of green flag parks in Wirral South year on year" was devised at the above meeting and agreed at the Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2014.

**3) Progress since the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2014**

FA explained that he had met with Mary Worrall (Senior Manager Parks and Countryside Services) and discussed possible locations within Wirral South that would benefit from our assistance in achieving a green flag award in 2014/15 (as per our agreed priority). Mayer Park was highlighted as the most promising location, given that it already has an active "friends of" group and plans in place for improvements.

Following the above conversation a site visit was arranged with representatives from the "friends of" group, Mary Worrall and Kevin Callaghan (Parks Manager Wirral South). A number of issues were identified that would need to be improved in order for a judge to deem the location suitable for a green flag award. The main criteria are listed below.



A welcoming place  
Healthy, safe and secure  
Well maintained and clean  
Sustainability  
Conservation and heritage  
Community involvement  
Marketing  
Management

#### **4) Other locations for consideration**

Elected Members discussed future locations for consideration within the priority. It was agreed that FA would collate a list in collaboration with Parks staff (see action 1 below).

This preparation work may mean Wirral South can deliver more than one new green flag award in Wirral South for 15/16.

#### **5) Next steps to ensure the priority is achievable within timescale**

The timeline for action was discussed. It was noted that with the next committee being in October waiting for full committee sign off (October 16, 2014) to commence any works would delay investigations and preparations that could be progressed..

As the relevant budget has already been agreed (June 25, 2014) it was deemed acceptable by all present to agree the proposed work/spend. This could then be formally reported in October.

The areas recommended for immediate attention following the site visit were as follows:

- a) Installation of new bins
- b) Arboreal work (removal of old tree stumps which require specialist equipment)
- c) Installation of a small fence to make a "kick around" area safer as it currently opens on to a main road
- d) Removal of vegetation currently growing in and causing damage to the roof of Pennant House

Members were happy to agree items a, b and c above but it was felt that item d should be referred to asset management for their attention (see action 2 below).

It was also discussed that members would like to see an element of inclusion added to the priority moving forward. This would reflect an appetite to try and ensure that young people with disabilities were able to interact with play areas in the parks receiving the committee's attention.

A full report is proposed for the October Committee giving specific costs and progress.

Further conversations will take place shortly with parks in an attempt to identify plausible locations for 2015/16.

**6) Recommendations**

6.1 It is recommended that progress be made on the following items:

- v. Installation of new bins
- vi. Arboreal work (removal of old tree stumps which require specialist equipment)
- vii. Installation of a small fence to make a "kick around" area safer as it currently opens on to a main road

6.2 It is recommended that a full report be brought to the Wirral South Constituency Committee (October 16, 2014) detailing progress so far and proposals to further the priority

<b>Actions from 6/8/14</b>		
1	Collate list of locations (in collaboration with parks) that could be considered for attention in 2015/16	FA
2	To contact David Armstrong and request remedial works (outlined in 'd' item 5 above) be carried out on Pennant House	Cllr PG
3	Check if there is any limitations re. smaller parks applying for Green Flag Awards	FA

## Appendix 2: Proposed Spend Re. Gaps In Youth Provision

### 1) *Diversiory/Incentive Activity*

Aimed at addressing a current issue with young people in the New Ferry area (predominantly in the park/shorefields area). Although these young people do engage with the youth services in the area there has been an increase in criminal damage. The proposed project mirrors a recent successful initiative in the Woodchurch using the prospect of attendance at a mountain biking facility in Delamere Forest as a reward for modified behaviour. It is important to note that this initiative not only acts as diversion/incentive but affords youth workers the opportunity to further engage with the individuals in question. Example costs are outlined below:

- 14 young people + 2 staff @ £15 per head = £240
- £100 for instructor
- £50 for mini bus =

**Total: £390**

### 2) *Expansion of The Lads Personal Development Project*

This is an 8 week project aimed at 13-19 year olds, referred for attendance based upon existing issues. The project is currently programmed to run from September 2014, with 14 individuals from Wirral South attending. Further funding would allow a further 14 individuals to attend in the spring, thus doubling the existing impact for individuals and communities in Wirral South in 2014/15. The programme culminates in a residential element at Oaklands. Example costs are outlined below:

- 14 young people plus 4 staff @ £104 per head = £1872
- Contingency money = £100
- Mini Bus and fuel = £150 (includes fuel for a minivan that we own)

**Total £2122**

### 3) *Theatre in Education*

Pieces to tour Youth Units/other relevant venues in South Wirral. These cover various subjects from abusive relationships to bullying. Attendees are also offered follow up workshops in which they receive signposting to further support and advice where necessary. These sessions cost between £200 to £400 depending on the scale. Example costs are outlined below:

**IF YOU LOVED ME per performance and after show workshop:** 'If You Loved me You Would' is a play which explores healthy and unhealthy relationships. It enables young people to see, and, understand the full spectrum of relationship abuse. A follow up workshop facilitated by company members offers young people the opportunity to check their understanding, and where to seek advice or support if they, or, someone they know are in an abusive relationship

- 6 ACTORS/performers X 3 HOURS X £9 p/hr - £162.00
- 2 tech workers x 3hours x £9 per hour- £54.00
- Transport x 1 people carrier- £55.00
- 1 transit van for set and lighting- £50.00
- Fuel- £10.00
- 1 Level 2 worker x 3 hours x £15p/hour- £45.00

**TOTAL £376.00**

**‘BECAUSE’ per performance and after show workshop** ‘Because’ explores the bullying spectrum, including cyber bullying. Young people will learn about the impact of bullying behaviour on others. The follow up workshop helps young people understand the consequences of bullying behaviour and where to get help and support.

- 5 x peer educators x £15 per show- £75.00
- People carrier- £55.00
- Fuel- £10.00
- 1 level 2 worker x 3 hours x £15 p/hr- £45.00

**TOTAL £185.00**

**4) *Pilot offering one to one counselling sessions offered in Wirral South*** (delivered by Response in two locations -Eastham Hub and Children's Centre in Bromborough)

On average Response have up to 50 young people on the waiting list for counselling. We know that young people need immediate support, waiting for long periods to see someone can exacerbate the problem. They are unable to note early signs of low mood or stress and by the time they ask for help, the need is critical.

Response have put in place a drop in (in Birkenhead) to help reduce the waiting time for young people which young people have found very helpful. Our statistics show that 16% of the young people using the service are from Wirral South. Therefore is it important to extend services in these areas to help reduce the need for costly intervention at a later stage. To have counselling services in the South Wirral Locality will ensure that the reach is extended to many young people who feel travelling into central Birkenhead a barrier and prefer a local service.

The counsellor will operate within the Wirral South area offering a counselling service. The counsellor will deliver this service during the operational opening times of the Hub and the local Children’s Centre. A typical counselling session will last for 50 minutes. Response will provide 3 x 3hrs counselling sessions per week for young people between Oct 2014 – March 2015. These young people will all be from Wirral South and will either be on an existing waiting list or signposted via gateway.

- Staff costs (Counsellor) 10 hrs per week @ £11.4637 + 22% on costs

- £14.70 per hour for 30 weeks (300 hours) = £ 4410
- £450 travel costs = £450
- Non Managerial supervision £30 per hour ( met by Response ) = £000

**Total £ 4860**

Given the information above if the Wirral South Constituency Committee spent only **£10,567** of its agreed £15K youth provision budget it could:

- Facilitate heightened engagement with 14 young people based upon an existing issue related to criminal damage etc. - **2 x events total £780**
- Double the impact of the Lads' Personal Development Project in 2014/15 (meaning 28 young males are involved rather than 14 as currently funded) - **£2122**
- Provide 10 performance and after show workshops (one of each theme per Ward e.g.) - **£2805**
- Provide ongoing counselling within Wirral South from October 2014 to March 2015 - **£4860**

# Dementia-friendly communities

