



## Constituency Committee - Birkenhead

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 26 February 2015
<b>Time:</b>	6.00 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Birkenhead Town Hall

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### AGENDA

**1. 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 the agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

**2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 16)**

The Committee be requested to approve the accuracy of minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2014.

**3. CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S UPDATE (Pages 17 - 26)**

**3a Appendix 1 - Town Talk ( Pages 27-34)**

**3b. Appendix 2 - Improving the Environment ( Pages 35-53)**

**3c Appendix 3 - Breast Feeding Monitoring Report ( Pages 55-60)**

**3d. Appendix 4 - Birkenhead data update- Anti Social Behaviour Action Plan ( Pages 61-70)**

**3e. Appendix 5 - Community Researchers Project Action Plan ( Pages 71-74)**

**3f. Appendix 6 - February 2015 Neighbourhood Engagement  
Update ( Pages 75-76)**

**4. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR DATA UPDATE**

To receive a verbal report.

**5. BIRKENHEAD ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACTION PLAN**

To receive a verbal report.

**6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**7. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

28 May 2015

**8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**

## CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - BIRKENHEAD

Thursday, 30 October 2014

Present:

Chair Rt Hon Frank Field MP

Councillors	A Brighouse	G Davies
	P Cleary	P Davies
	B Davies	P Doughty
	S Kelly	A McLachlan
	M McLaughlin	C Meaden
	D Realy	D Roberts
	J Stapleton	P Williams

Also Present

Mr J Brace	Ms T Blood
Mrs L Brace	Ms E Barratt
Mr P Dowling	Ms J Smith
Mr M Brobbin	Ms A Smith
Ms T Derbyshire	Ms P Worrall
Mrs R Shaw	Ms R Cheesman
Mr D Shaw	Mr A Lennon
Mr M Morton	Mr A Fletcher
Mrs K Morton	Mr D Reed
Ms M Rushton	Ms M Bragg
Ms M Moile	Mr D Potter
M P Haywood	Revd. S Carpenter
Ms M Grounds	

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

Councillor G Davies by virtue of him being a member on the Magenta Living Community Fund Working Group declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 3 – Constituency Managers Update, Paragraph 2.6 – ‘Your Wirral’

Councillor D Roberts by virtue of her being a Board Member of Magenta Living declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 3 – Constituency Managers Update, Paragraph 2.6 – ‘Your Wirral’

16 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

**That subject to the amendment of Minute 13 (Question 2) to read “Gautby Road” not “Gorseby Road”, the minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2014 be approved.**

17 **CONSTITUENCY MANAGERS UPDATE**

The Committee considered the report by the Head of Neighbourhoods and Engagement that updated the Committee on progress on the actions taken following its last meeting on 24 July 2014 (Minute 8 refers).

Attached to the report were appendices which the Constituency Manager presented to the Committee in relation to the Antenatal Breast Feeding Project Quarterly Report (July-September 2014); proposals to increase signage in Birkenhead, reduce anti-social behaviour; development of Community Researchers and the ‘Love Wirral’ funding; requests for Dropped Kerbs in Birkenhead and a performance overview of the Seven Beats Project.

The Constituency Manager updated the Committee on the following:

**Community Publication – Birkenhead**

The Constituency Manager indicated that the tender process had been concluded and she would inform Members of the details of the successful tenderer in due course. The 12 month contract was due to start on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014.

**Improving the Environment**

The tender was currently being advertised with a closing date of 24 November 2014. She had also been contacted by various community groups indicating that they were interested in getting involved in this project.

**Public Health Outcome Fund**

A Member reported that an expression of interest had been received and the panel had met with staff at St Pauls Catholic Primary School, following this, the panel formed a task and Finish group to monitor the developments to evaluate the impact of the project and provide updates to the committee at each meeting. Funding was available to award £25,000 to two schools, only one application was received, therefore it was decided that the Task and Finish Group would use their local knowledge and understanding to discuss and progress with other schools. Following this the Panel had received a

proposal from Rock Ferry Primary School and a further meeting would take place with the school at the end of November 2014.

### **Constituency Committee Budget 2014/15**

The Priorities Task and Finish Group met on 12 September 2014 to discuss proposals for the remaining £40,000. The proposals discussed and recommended were:

1. An allocation of £2993.24 to improve the environment by increasing the signage in Birkenhead to act as a deterrent for environmental crime and increase awareness of enforcement proceedings as detailed in appendix 2 to the report; and
2. An allocation of £35,000 to be allocated for a service to aim to reduce anti social behaviour as detailed in appendix 3 to the report;
3. An allocation of £2000 to develop Community Researchers in Birkenhead

The Chair indicated that in relation to the proposal regarding anti social behaviour that he and Councillor P Davies had met to discuss this issue and felt that all public services and external organisations had specific budgets to cater anti social behaviour and that all budgets should be combined to tackle this issue collectively.

A Member indicated that at the meeting, it was clear that activities were being undertaken but there was no evidence of the outcomes; a Member indicated that residents needed reassurance and physical evidence as to what was being achieved. A Member indicated that the YMCA at Whetstone Lane had been undertaking some excellent work with young people tackling anti social behaviour they felt that the Committee should be assisting these examples of good work in the community.

It was commented that there was a need for greater partnership working between registered social landlords (RSL's) and housing to alleviate the growing issue of anti social behaviour for all residents.

In response to a Member, the Constituency Manager indicated that the Neighbourhood and Engagement team would be working with the Wirral Youth Service amongst others to ensure there was no replication of initiatives and the work commissioned by the Committee complimented existing services to improve the outcomes for anti social behaviour.

### **‘Love Wirral’ Funding**

It had been discussed and agreed by the Priorities and Budget Task and Finish Group to recommend to the Committee to utilise this funding to deliver a reactive fly tipping service to improve the environment. A detailed overview of the criteria, delivery and costings for this service were attached as an appendix to this report.

### **‘Your Wirral’ 2014/15**

Councillors Denise Roberts and George Davies having declared an interest in this matter left the room during its consideration.

The Chair indicated that at the July meeting the Committee had recommended that better use of the funds would be to support those struggling to pay their rent as a result of the Bedroom Tax and consequently faced eviction. A letter was sent to the Joint Working Group of ‘Your Wirral’ requesting the budget allocation be used for this purpose. The request was considered at a meeting of the Joint Working Group on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and a written response had been supplied.

The Chair indicated that Magenta Living had rejected the Committees proposals and suggested that in line with the Committees priorities to reduce poverty and hardship, the Chair suggested that the funding be spent on setting up of breakfast clubs; teaching of healthy cooking skills; and ensuring children have access to meals during the school holidays when they don’t had access to free school meals.

### **Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme 2014/15**

Councillor S Kelly updated the Committee as the only Member in attendance at the Task and Finish Group; he suggested that the Committee in future appoints deputies to the Task and Finish Groups to enable them to remain quorate.

In response, the Constituency Manager indicated that this would be added to handbook to ensure minimum attendance at task and finish groups. It was suggested and agreed that the remaining Members on the Committee be appointed deputies to the Task and Finish Groups as and when appointed.

### **Wonga Loans Enquiry**

The Chair indicated that a letter had been sent to Wonga but it was returned unopened, this would now be re-done with a request for an appropriate response.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the content of the updates detailed in Paragraphs 2.1-2.3 of the report in relation to specific schemes of work be noted and approved for progress to continue;**
- (2) the recommendations for the remaining spend of the 2014/15 budget allocation as detailed in Paragraph 2.4 of the report be approved;**
- (3) the proposal detailed in Paragraph 2.5 of the report for use of ‘Love Wirral’ Funding be approved;**
- (4) recommend to the Joint Working Group that in relation to ‘Your Wirral’ the funding be used to in the setting up of Breakfast Clubs; encourage healthy cooking by enhancing skills of parents/carers and residents through training and courses and ensure that all children have access to meals in school holidays when there was no provision for “free school meals” in line with Committee’s priorities on reducing poverty and hardship;**
- (5) the recommendations related to the Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme be approved and a minimum of 5 members be appointed for the Task and Finish Group;**
- (6) Deputies be appointed for each of the Task and Finish Groups to be drawn from the remaining Members of the Committee and the provision for minimum attendance at Task and Finish Groups be added to the Handbook.**

**18 ELECTORAL REGISTER**

Further to Minute 11 of the meeting held on 24 July 2014, the Committee considered a verbal update from the Senior Electoral Services Officer regarding the progress of individual electoral registration.

The Senior Electoral Services Officer indicated that the transitional canvassing was currently being undertaken. Canvassers were visiting homes to encourage residents to register; however, those that did not register would be automatically re –registered.

Online registrations were going well with over 3 million people nationwide now registered, 7,000 of those were in Wirral. In response to a Member, the Senior Electoral Services Officer clarified that of the 7,000 people registered, 50% of those were duplicate registered voters.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Senior Electoral Services Officer be thanked for his attendance and update.**

19 **NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE - PRESENTATION**

The Chair invited representatives from the young people who were taking part on the National Citizen Service project to update the Committee on their recent activities.

A Support Worker from the Children and Young Peoples Department introduced the group of young people and explained that the NCS (National Citizen Service) was a government project engaging with young people aged 16 – 17. The project offered young people life skills, whilst they were taking part in the programme.

The young people in attendance had achieved and completed the summer programme, which was carried out in six phases as follows:-

Phase One: Keeping them warm - meeting young people giving them an insight of the possible achievements meeting up and making friends with people within their cohorts.

Phase Two: Away Residential Taking the young people outside their comfort zone, many of the young people had not been outside Wirral

Phase Three: Home Residential within Wirral gaining qualifications such as; First Aid and Basic Food Hygiene

Phase Four and Phase Five: Planning Social Action and delivering Social Action in the community - All the planning, preparing and delivery of the social action plan was completed by the young people

Phase Six: Graduation - A celebration event for the young people to receive their certificates from here the young people do post sixteen hours, within the social action plan they have previously delivered or a new project, to serve the community to make a difference and work for it to become sustainable. The young people have worked in partnership with the Birkenhead Elders Luncheon Club, to deliver this programme.

It was reported that on the 22nd December 2014, the Elders Luncheon Club had arranged for a Christmas Luncheon for the Homeless with the support of the young people.

A Member indicated that she was aware of the excellent work that the young people had undertaken including the food kitchens which the young people

had raised money for and cooked the food themselves. She commended the young people on their hard work and thanked them for their commitment to helping others in the Borough.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the young people be thanked for their informative update and their excellent work and commitment to helping others within the Borough.**

20 **FUTURE COUNCIL**

The Assistant Chief Executive presented the report of the Chief Executive on the Future Council.

The Assistant Chief Executive informed that the purpose of the report was to provide Members of the Birkenhead Constituency Committee with the opportunity to provide feedback on the Chief Executive's Budget Proposals which were currently out for public consultation.

Members were advised that the Future Council project had completed a full review process across every Council service. The information gathered had been used to redesign the Council through merging similar services, streamlining senior management and getting better value for contracts and goods purchased. This work had resulted in proposals being developed which would reduce the budget gap for 2015/16 from £18 million to £2.5 million as well as achieve the already agreed savings of £9.4 million through remodelling the Council.

The report provided Constituency Committees with a reminder of the options which were out for public consultation and gave more detailed information as to the direct impact on the Wirral West constituency area should the option be accepted.

In response to questions from Members, The Assistant Chief Executive provided further details in respect of 'Play Schemes'. He advised that a number of representations had been received in relation to this option.

Ms Eve Barratt asked a question about the consultation process. She indicated that she worked closely with residents in Bidston Rise and the North End, and saw how hard ordinary people worked to encourage people to have a say and fill the consultations in. But felt the consultation itself was academic and inaccessible. It was worded in a complicated manner and seemed to have been designed to discourage people from filling it in.

She indicated that people did care and wanted a say and in an area where voting turnout was 36% last May, people should be encouraged to have a say

and take part in decision making. Ms Barratt indicated that the easy read version of the consultation document was much clearer to understand; however the image came across as patronising. It implied that people who needed the easy read version had some form of learning disability, and also it emphasised stereotypes of those with Downs Syndrome. In reality, those living with Downs could often read and write and understand perfectly. She asked why the consultation was designed this way and asked the Council if they would consider doing it differently next time.

Councillor P Davies indicated that the Council had made every effort to ensure local people had the opportunity to take part in local decision making. Every year the Council received the highest level of engagement in the UK for budget consultation exercises, and would do so again this year. However, producing a consultation questionnaire and associated documents was often difficult. Officers are required to explain what were sometimes quite complex budget issues and potential impacts in the simplest language possible. Officers try their best to achieve this, and sought external support to help them, but sometimes residents did raise the issue that reports and consultation documents were still quite difficult to understand.

Councillor Davies indicated that officers would continue to work on improving this element of their work, in relation to the easy read document;

He reiterated that the Council had no in-house expertise available to produce these documents, therefore commissioned the work to a company which specialised in easy read. This company also had Liverpool Mencap assess the documents that made some further suggestions.

Councillor Davies indicated that the Council would take on board the comments made by Ms Barratt when the Council came to deliver a project such as this in the future.

It was reported that aside from the 6,500 responses received the Council were also in receipt of petitions and letters and emails which had been received by both the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.

The Chair thanked Ms Barratt and all those involved in writing the alternative questionnaire.

In response to Members comments, The Assistant Chief Executive reiterated that the options were the suggestions of the Chief Executive and that members of the public could still respond to the consultation until the closing date on 31 October 2014.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the contents of the report be noted.**

21 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

The Chair indicated that 25 questions had been received prior to the meeting all of which had received a response from appropriate officers, copies of which were made available at the meeting.

The Chair invited the following members of the public to ask their questions.

Question 1 John Martin (Friends of Walker Park)

Mr Walker asked for an update on the recent consultation undertaken on Walker Park?

In response it was reported that the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer had been in discussion with Mr Martin regarding the consultation on Walker Park and would be liaising with him in a meeting outside of the Constituency Committee.

The Chair further indicated that he had been contacted by residents regarding Japanese Knotweed. In response, a Member informed the Committee that the area was currently being cleared.

Question 2 - Valerie Price

Ms Price indicated that she had been informed that 10,000 homes in Birkenhead and Tranmere were earmarked for demolition and asked why none of the residents were informed and more importantly I am a home owner who wants to sell in a couple of years how this would affect me and yet I was not informed.

Ms Price had received the following response from the Housing and Regeneration Department.

“Wirral Council did not have any plans to demolish any further houses other than those which were in existing clearance schemes. There were still around 30 properties to be demolished in the Tranmere and North Birkenhead areas in the next few years. When houses are to be demolished, it would always follow full consultation with the community and local residents concerned”

The Neighbourhood Engagement Officer for the Birkenhead Constituency Committee had attempted to contact Mrs Price on numerous occasions via email and telephone to obtain further information regarding the exact location the houses she believed were due to be demolished and where she first heard the information being raised. Unfortunately none of the attempts to contact Mrs Price were successful.

### Question 3 - Richard Neale

Mr Neale indicated that parking was yet again a difficult issue in this part of Prenton. The business hours parking in Waterpark Road and surrounding roads not in the residential parking area was becoming increasingly difficult as cars were being parked wholly or partly on pavements thereby reducing the effective flow of traffic. This was largely due to the huge increase in estate agents offices in Woodchurch Road with employee totals seemingly increasing four fold in the past year or so.

Some part time employees in other Woodchurch Road businesses were taking to parking well in excess of the 1 hour limit in residential parking areas and along Woodchurch Road. Might it be possible to reintroduce the old Birkenhead parking disc scheme whereby discs would indicate timings for parking etc?

Another factor was that one or two businesses were now opening longer daytime hours through until 7 p.m. There were relatively few problems with those using the eating houses etc. in the evening periods.

Traffic wardens could presently only monitor the situation if they were able to be about for periods of time which was really impractical for them.

Mr Neale had received the following response from the Traffic Management Department.

“The Woodchurch Road area did receive enforcement from the Councils Civil Enforcement Officers. For example Curzon Road has been visited 44 times in October this year on fifteen of the 20 days. 27 vehicles have been observed, and 7 penalty charge notices have been issued.

Civil Enforcement Officer’s regularly enforce during the evenings and this can be arranged for the above areas. However where there are no restrictions on traffic by law no enforcement can be undertaken”.

### Question 4 - Alfred Lennon (Oxton Village People)

Wirral had a problem with alcohol as detailed in its Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and required the recent police crackdown. Yet the Authority persisted in licensing ever more premises with ever longer drinking hours. Why can’t the Authority be brave, reduce the number of licensed premises and reduce their opening hours?

Mr Lennon received a response from the Licensing Section outlining the Licensing Application Process, the four licensing objectives and explaining cumulative impact and explained that the information provided sought to advise of the parameters within which the Licensing Authority operated. If

applications for the grant of a new licence or the variation of an existing licence are received, the Licensing Authority will take all relevant representations into consideration. If an application meets the requirements of the Act and no relevant representations are received the Licensing Authority will grant the licence or variation as applied for.

A Member indicated that as a Member of the Licensing Committee she was aware and had raised concerns regarding the number of licensed premises in Oxtun Village, she explained that as Members it was very difficult not to approve applications that met the Licensing objectives; however the Committee did impose conditions on the licences and these were regularly monitored for compliance.

A Member indicated that the Borough had seen an increase in the number of alcohol outlets; Oxtun being a particular hotspot. He further commented that anti social behaviour due to alcohol was accelerating but due the legislation Councils were unable to anything about it, this was a matter for the Government and MPs to take action and make a change to the legislation.

A Member commented that members were currently undertaking a review on cumulative impact at the Policy and Performance Co-ordinating Committee.

The Chair of the Licensing Committee indicated that there was a current trend of traditional public houses being replaced by 'trendy' bars; people were also going out less so the Licensing Department were seeing an increase in off licence applications. He reiterated that the Committee's hands were tied as they have to give due regard to the Legislation.

A Member indicated that a meeting had been held on Oxtun Village regarding this issue and indicated that the issues regarding the Licensing Act and cumulative impact needed to be looked at as an urgent matter.

#### Question 5 – Mr John Brace

Mr Brace referred to Agenda item 2 of the draft minutes of the Birkenhead Constituency Committee meeting of the meeting held on the 24th July 2014 which currently stated that in respect a question asked by his wife at agenda item 11 (public questions and answers) "Referring to the Childs Play Area in Gorsey Road, she had asked if arrangements could be made to open the gates to allow residents to access the play area with their children."

However she did not say "Gorsey Road" but said "Gautby Road" at the meeting itself. He asked that the minutes currently in draft form be corrected to reflect the correct location of the children's play area that she was referring to.

Mr Brace received a response from the Committee Services Team explaining that the minutes of the previous meeting were for Members to approve as an accurate record. Members would be invited to identify any inaccuracies in the previous minutes and the text would be altered accordingly.

#### Question 7 – Paul Haywood

Mr Haywood asked if the Committee could request the Merseyside Police Commissioner to attend to give an update on policing within Birkenhead & Wirral.

Mr Haywood received a response from the Merseyside Police Commissioner Office indicating that unfortunately the Merseyside Police Crime Commissioner had a pre-arranged function to attend on the night of the Constituency Committee. However, if requested by the Committee Jane Kennedy would be happy to attend a future Committee meeting.

The Chair asked the Constituency Manager to write and formally invite the Police Commissioner to attend a future meeting.

#### Question 20 - Patrick Dowling

Mr Dowling asked if Councillors were content that a comprehensive Health and Safety survey of the Priory site had been carried out, he asked for information as to when it was carried out and if the subsequent report was available to the public. Mr Dowling indicated that their particular concerns included; the absence of a designated route around the site, negotiable by users of walking aids and wheelchairs; the four feet deep unguarded drainage ditches around the Chapter House and the metal stairway up to the Conway Chapel.

Mr Dowling received a response from the Asset Management Department indicating that following Mr Dowling's enquiry with regards to accessibility in and around Birkenhead Priory:

Both the Birkenhead Priory Access Audit completed 2010 by the Equality and Diversity Team and the Birkenhead Priory fire risk assessment - 18/08/2010 completed by The Health & Safety Team reports were made available. And a further inspection was undertaken following the enquiry from Mr Dowling. The Birkenhead Priory Inspection Summary Report (29/10/14) - Including photographs - completed by The Health & Safety Team, Copies of the above reports could be made available to Mr Dowling.

It should be noted that since the Access Audit was undertaken in 2012 2 significant projects had been undertaken (i) Restoration of St Mary's Tower, completed in March 2013 and (ii) stone work to the North and South ranges, this was a 26 week contract and was due to be completed in November. Both

projects were designed and managed by Ainsley Gommon Architects in partnership with Wirral Council. A number of issues had been identified by the Health and Safety Officer and these would be followed up.

The Assistant Chief Executive commented that he would take on board the comments raised by Mr Dowling and indicated that the Department was doing all it could and suggested that improved ramping, stair climbing machines could be introduced to the site to improve access but officers would have to apply for the appropriate permissions as the site was a Grade 1 listed building.

#### Question 13 – James Kay

Mr Kay who was not present at the meeting had asked when work was expected to start on the Church Road phase of the regeneration. He also asked if the Council could take the opportunity to quash the rumours circulating in Tranmere that the scheme had been shelved in order to use the empty land for a traveller site.

Mr Dowling received a response from the Regeneration and Environment Department which was read out by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Engagement.

In relation to the Church Road phase of the regeneration scheme in Tranmere, Lovell (the developer) were currently working up a mixed tenure proposal in conjunction with Regenda (the housing association) which in total would comprise of 8 bungalows at Hillside Court and 76 new homes for a mix of rent and sale on the main Church Road site.

Subject to the proposal being finalised and agreed between these two parties, a planning application for the Church Road site would be submitted in December to enable a programmed Start on site in March 2015. There were no proposals to use any part of these sites for travellers.

#### Question 11 - Sheila Howe

Ms Howe who was not present at the meeting had asked when was Townfield Lane going to be tidied up. The old Petrol station had been vandalised, also the car park was full of pot holes new white lines were painted on but no repairs to the tarmac it was a sight.

Ms Howe received a response from Environment Health and Traffic Management which was read out by the Constituency Manager indicating that the site of the petrol station, shops and car park was in private ownership. An Environmental Health Officer visited the petrol station site in relation to the litter in August 2014 as a matter of public health concern. At the time of the

officers visit the site was in the process of being cleared of all vegetation and litter and therefore no further action was deemed necessary as the owners employed a local garden maintenance contractor, for long term maintenance. In relation to the vandalism the onus would be on the owner of the premises to make the necessary repairs.

With regards to the condition of the car park, the owners of the site had civil duties under the Occupiers Liability Act 1957 in relation to site safety and disrepair and subsequent accidents associate with the car park could result in civil claims being made against them.

Furthermore the owners may also have duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Health and safety enforcement of car parks falls to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and thus Wirral Council have no jurisdiction to require remedial works on this site. The details of the concerns could be forwarded on to the HSE.

The Birkenhead Constituency Team, Environmental Health and Traffic Management would continue to work together to explore ways of resolving these issues.

Question 23 - Bob Giles

Mr Giles indicated that there was a highly successful public health initiative called the I Van which was set up a number of years ago by Merseyside and Cheshire Cancer Network (MCCN) the unit goes to various sites throughout Merseyside (One of the best sites it used on the Wirral was outside ASDA in Grange Road) and provided health information and guidance with a strong emphasis on cancer.

It connected with many vulnerable and hard to reach members of society offering advice and signposting .It saved lives. It is staffed by two health heroes Debbie Doherty and Justine Kennedy assisted by health education staff from Community NHS and Public Health. This was health education and advice that worked.

The service was funded by eight Merseyside and Cheshire Local Authorities on a collective basis, and was administered by Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic Clinical Network. The Directors of Public Health (including Wirral) had unilaterally decided to cease funding from March 31 2015 this cannot be allowed to happen.

The Constituency Manager indicated this question had been forwarded to Public Health for a written answer to be provided to Mr Giles.

The Chair indicated that he would also write to Public Health to enquire about the success of this service.

## Question 18 - Tracie Blood

Ms Blood asked about the lollipop people outside Woodlands Primary School and future traffic management, currently the area was near to dangerous with parents parking on zigzags, yellow lines etc. without any due care and attention to children.

Ms Blood had a response from the Road Safety Team indicating that there was currently a budget option out to consultation which put forward the option to 'review the School Crossing Patrols which were currently at 47 sites across the borough where there was already a pedestrian, pelican or puffin crossing in place'. Elected Members would make a decision as to whether this option is selected and if it is- then risk assessments and survey data would be used to assess each location on a case by case basis. The consultation closed on 31 October 2014 and feedback could be given through the Council's website: on <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/council-and-democracy/have-your-say/future-council>. All feedback received would be put into a report, which would be considered by Councillors in November, before they set the budget for the financial year in December.

Civil Enforcement Officers had been requested to pay a visit when the schools return after the half term to enforce the parking restrictions and monitor the location. These requests could be made through Streetscene 606 2004 or [streetscene@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@wirral.gov.uk)

## 22 **SCHEDULE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Chair proposed that due to the general and local elections being held in 2015 the dates set for January and April be moved to February and late May 2015. Therefore it was proposed that the meetings be held as follows:

- 26 February 2015
- 28 May 2015

### **RESOLVED:**

**That above dates be agreed.**

## 23 **MS DAWN TOLCHER - CONSTITUENCY MANAGER**

The Chair announced that Ms Dawn Tolcher, Constituency Manager would be leaving the Authority to undertake a new post in Sport England. The Chair indicated that Ms Tolcher had made an outstanding contribution to the

Birkenhead Constituency Committee and on behalf of the Committee wished her well for the future.

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY MANAGERS UPDATE</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>WARDS WITHIN THE BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY.</b>  <b>BIRKENHEAD AND TRANMERE BIDSTON AND ST JAMES CLAUGHTON OXTON PRENTON ROCK FERRY</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>HEAD OF NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Section 2.0 of this report provides an update on progress in relation to agreed schemes of work from the budget allocated and devolved to the Constituency Committee to date.
- 1.2 Section 3.0 of this report details updates and actions agreed at the previous Constituency Committee meetings, including the last one on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

#### 2.0 UPDATE ON BUDGET FOR BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

##### 2.1 Constituency Committee budget 2013/14- £50,000

The Committee was given a budget of £50,000 in 2013/14 to 'kick-start' work on the new neighbourhood working model with a focus on tackling inequalities. Below is an update on each of the schemes of work that were agreed by the committee to be developed utilising this budget allocation to deliver against identified priorities:

1. £20,000 was allocated to 'Improving Communication' through the development of a community publication for Birkenhead.

**Update:** A tender process was carried out to appoint a provider to deliver this project for a 12 month period. The closing date for submissions was 20<sup>th</sup> October and the evaluation of them took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

Lairdside Community Trust (LCT) secured the tender to deliver three publications of the new newsletter publication 'Town Talk' over one year to 40,000 households

in the Birkenhead Constituency Area. Please see Appendix 1 for first edition of 'Town Talk'.

LCT has set up an editorial group made up of community representatives and statutory partners. The first edition of 'Town Talk' is to go to print in February 2015. The content of the newsletter includes details of local events and updates on community activities and services.

If anyone has an ideas for articles they would like to include please forward details to LCT at email address news-towntalk@hotmail.com. We hope to have copies of the newsletter available at the constituency meeting.

**Actions:** The Constituency Manager will manage the contract and a report on progress will be provided at each Committee meeting along with copies of the publication for information.

2. £20,000 was allocated to 'Improving the Environment' through the development of a service to improve sites in Birkenhead that have been left open, poorly maintained and/or disused, therefore looking unsightly in the area often attracting litter and fly tipping (dumping of waste illegally). It was also agreed to use this funding to deliver a reactive fly tipping service; this is referred to in point 2.5 of this report.

**Update:** A tender was advertised with a closing date of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and a 12 month contract has been put in place with a start date of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 to appoint a service to improve poorly maintained sites in Birkenhead.

Lairdside Community Trust (LCT) has won the contract and will clear up a number of grotspot areas around the Birkenhead constituency. Locations for clean ups have been identified by Local Councillors and will be prioritised by LCT following a site visit. LCT will undertake clearance and will engage with nearby residents to complete satisfaction surveys.

Members of the Committee have submitted proposals of schemes of work to be considered to be carried out within this contract.

**Action:** LCT has agreed to provide an update report which can be found in Appendix 2.

3. The Committee wish to have a clear overview of current spend and delivery on public services within Birkenhead through the appointment of an expert to collate, evaluate and analyse the existing data. Due to the size of this task it was agreed by the Committee to initially carry out the task on spend for services of children aged under 5.

There has been collection of some of this information (primarily spend is from Public Health, Wirral Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups) which was presented to the Constituency Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Continuation of this work has been delayed due to the introduction of the Future Council project. Future Council project was established to help meet the future budget challenges and as part of the project Wirral Council has conducted a comprehensive review into all of

its services (82 service reviews), the report states 'Every part of the Council has been scrutinised to ensure every pound is spent effectively and every service is as efficient as it can possibly be'. The challenge with this task set by Birkenhead Constituency Committee was that the data required was not available.

**Update:** Prior to Future Council starting, the Chair of the Constituency Committee and Constituency Manager had a series of meetings with Liverpool University and an Audit Manager from KPMG. The meeting concluded that it would be difficult to analyse the data due to how diverse datasets are from differing agencies. At the same time the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) issues were being focussed on in Birkenhead and it was agreed that the some of the allocated funds could be used to analyse ASB data.

**Action:** Tony Kinsella has been invited to the Committee meeting to report on data collation around Anti-Social Behaviour spend across agencies in Birkenhead.

## 2.2 **Public Health outcome Fund 2013/14- £25,000 (plus a further £25,000)**

The Committee were given this budget allocation to deliver against specific priorities identified by Public Health. It was agreed by the Committee to utilise the funding to focus on one priority of 'Reducing the Impact of Child Poverty'. It was agreed to develop a 'Community Hub' at a local primary school based on a model that has been delivered in two other sites in Wirral through the Child Poverty Working Group. All primary schools in Birkenhead with over 50% of pupils living in areas of high income deprivation were invited to submit an Expression of Interest to this project, two schools will be offered a grant of £25,000 each to achieve the outcome that 'Children are Ready for School'. They will utilise the funding to:

- Provide high quality service provision and interventions for children below statutory school age that will have a positive affect on Childrens' intellectual and social /behavioral development prior to school entry.
- Work in partnership with parents to help children to learn and develop at home and in the community, delivering the key message and understanding that what parents do is more important than who parents are.
- Build on the strengths and well-being of the local community; mapping what resources are available for parents and children and help families learn about and use resources and services available within the community

Based on the proposal Public Health agreed to offer a further £25,000 to this project.

One expression of interest was received and an interview was carried out with this school on 21<sup>st</sup> October to discuss the proposal in more detail. The panel consisted of:

- Councillor Moira McLaughlin
- Councillor Ann McLachlan
- Birkenhead Constituency Manager
- Public Health Manager
- Chair of the Child Poverty Working Group
- Director, Birkenhead Foundation Years Project

**Update:** This panel has now formed a Task and Finish Group to monitor development, make recommendations, evaluate the impact of this project and provide updates to the Committee at each meeting. There is funding to award £25,000 to two schools.

St Paul's Roman Catholic Primary School was successful in their tender to develop a community hub focussing on school readiness. The Task and Finish have made recommendations around the operating of the hub and ensuring the hub is linked with the already established hubs in Leasowe and Woodchurch.

The project steering group is being set up and delivery is expected from the Easter holidays onwards.

Contact has also been made with Rock Ferry Primary School by the Task and Finish group and a meeting has been set up to support their bid to deliver a further community hub focussing on school readiness.

**Action:** The Task and Finish group will receive regular updates from the Community hub at St Paul's and will report back to the Birkenhead Constituency Meeting. The group will also make recommendations around how the project will be delivered in Rock Ferry and report back to the Committee.

### 2.3 **Voluntary Sector Support Fund- £25,000**

On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013 the Director of Public Health presented a report to Cabinet recommending £100K to be administered through the Constituency Committees" aimed at supporting the voluntary sector in Wirral, Birkenhead received an allocation of £25,000. Below is an update on each of the schemes of work that were agreed by the committee to be developed utilising this budget allocation:

1. £15,000 was allocated to increase Breast Feeding initiation rates in Birkenhead by developing an antenatal support programme.

**Update:** Appendix 3 contains the third quarterly report submitted by Home Start, the provider of this service for the period of October 2014 – January 2015.

One of the challenges highlighted with this service was low referral rates and ensuring all pregnant women were aware of the support available. A significant development to overcome this challenge is that the Hospital Trust midwifery service has agreed to an information sharing protocol being set up between them and Home-Start Wirral which would mean that the provider would get the contact details of every pregnant Wirral woman and they will then contact them at 28 weeks of pregnancy to offer them information/support. It has also been agreed that an information sharing protocol will be established with the Health Visiting Service and that they will do an automatic referral to Home Start when they do their antenatal visit. They don't at the moment and very few antenatal referrals are received from Health Visitors.

**Action:** The Birkenhead Constituency Antenatal project would like to come to a constituency meeting to make a presentation about the project and its impact on individuals in the area.

2. £5,000 was allocated to increase and develop the use of the Wirral Well website through improved and targeted promotion.

**Update:** The artwork and content has been agreed through market testing with residents and the following products will be purchased to promote the website

- Banner stands
- Leaflet Vinyl's for shop windows
- Fold out credit card
- Stickers

An engagement plan has been written and will be implemented through the Birkenhead Engagement Officer and Community Action Wirral.

Work has been ongoing with Community Action Wirral to agree a broad marketing plan and marketing materials have been designed by the Council's in-house Graphics Section. These materials will go to print shortly and the full marketing plan will be finalised and then implemented in due course in conjunction with partners.

**Action:** The marketing plan and marketing materials will be brought to the next Committee meeting for information.

3. £5,000 of this budget was allocated to provide additional support with the development of a local publication detailed in point 2.1 of this report.

The additional £5K was set aside to provide additional support for the publication if required.

**Action:** There have been no requests for additional support for the newsletter as yet. So it is recommended that the £5K could be used to add pages to the future editions, as there are more articles than space available at the moment. Please could the Committee consider this option which is recommended for their approval.

#### 2.4

##### **Constituency Committee budget 2014/15- £50,000**

The Constituency Committee were given a further £50,000 to develop schemes of work to deliver against agreed priorities.

It was agreed by the committee to use £10,000 of this allocation to give a grant to Rock Park Trust Company to carry out the repairs to the Esplanade.

**Update:** The specification for the works has now been agreed and the Rock Park Trust Company is currently inviting tenders.

The Priorities Task and Finish group met on 12<sup>th</sup> September to discuss proposals for the remaining £40,000, in attendance were Frank Field MP, Councillor P Davies and Councillor S Kelly. The proposals discussed and agreed at the Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were:

1. An allocation of £2993.24 to improving the environment by increasing the signage in Birkenhead to act as a deterrent for environmental crime and increase awareness of enforcement proceedings.
2. An allocation of £35,000 to be allocated for a service to aim to reduce anti social behaviour. An action plan has developed and is in Appendix 4.
3. An allocation of £2000 to develop Community Researchers in Birkenhead to increase the engagement with residents to offer greater knowledge sharing for improving public service provision.

The Community Research project is being steered by the 'Handbook Task and Finish Group' who are due to meet week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015. At the meeting the Councillors will confirm which of the available research topics they would like to focus on what order they will choose to focus on them. Please see Appendix 5 for details of the proposed community researchers project for information.

## 2.5 'Love Wirral' Funding 2014/15- £10,000

Love Wirral was a borough wide campaign that was launched in June 2013 to encourage people who live, work and visit Wirral to take pride in our local environment. As part of this campaign a Love Wirral grant scheme was launched in October 2013. This grant scheme aimed to encourage existing and new groups to get involved offering a small amount of funding for projects to be developed to improve the local area and encourage people to take pride and responsibility in keeping their part of Wirral clean and attractive and a pleasant area for them to live, work and visit. The grant was split equally across the 4 constituencies, £10,000 to each.

On reviewing the grant process the following points were highlighted to determine was a grant process the best use of this funding allocation:

- The funding was limited to £500 per application; this meant a lot of the projects were short term with no long term impact or sustainability.
- Many of the proposals required specialist installation and removal (e.g. planters), this was causing additional revenue implications for Wirral Council or community groups.
- Due to the assessment process not including technical expertise some of the projects could not be delivered due to health and safety implications, resulting in groups feeling frustrated and disadvantaged.
- The small projects required a lot of Wirral Council's technical services staff time to advise, this meant some time delays with a lot of the projects, again resulting in frustrated community groups.

Based on the above points being highlighted it has been agreed that for 2014/15 each Constituency Committee will have an allocation of £10,000 that they can use how they wish to, they do not have to follow a grants programme but can devise a scheme that will work towards Improving the Environment.

It was discussed and agreed by the Priorities and Budget Task and Finish Group on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014 to recommend to the Constituency Committee to utilise this funding to deliver a reactive fly tipping service to improve the environment. It was then approved at the Committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

**Update:** A template has been developed and circulated to Councillors to identify areas to be cleaned up. The form is then uploaded through the Council's CRM system. The Council's environmental team then co-ordinate the work via the Biffa contract.

## 2.6 **'Your Wirral' 2014/15- £75,000**

The Constituency Committee was informed at the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014 that 'Your Wirral' funding has been devolved to the Constituency 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. The report on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014 stated that Birkenhead Constituency Committee was given an allocation of £75,000 for 2014/15 with the recommendation to offer a Community Grants application process in Birkenhead to deliver against identified priorities.

It was discussed at the July Committee meeting and recommended from the Committee that better use of the funds would be to support those struggling to pay their rent as a result of the Bedroom Tax and consequently faced eviction. The action following the meeting was a letter was sent from the Chair of Birkenhead Constituency Committee to the Joint Working Group of 'Your Wirral' requesting the budget allocation can be used for this purpose. The Joint Working Group acts as an accountable body for the fund and is composed of representation from Wirral Council and Magenta Living. The request from the Chair was considered at a meeting of the Joint Working Group on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

After the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and discussions with Magenta Living, it was agreed that the Birkenhead Constituency 'Your Wirral' funding 2014/15 should be allocated to feeding Birkenhead children. The fund is open to "schools and other interested groups" with the aim of supporting families. This has been promoted in the local press and is detailed on the relevant pages of the Council website. Schools can apply for 'Your Wirral' as long as it is for activities that are extra-curricular.

The criteria require this funding to be used for new projects, excluding existing schemes. Priorities include the continuation of free schools meals in the holidays, breakfast and after schools clubs and for these programmes to begin in the 2015 Easter Holiday Period. The deadline for applications 25th February 2015 and there is a maximum of £2500 per organisation.

## 2.7 **Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme 2014/15- £77,500**

The Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme for 2014/5 agreed by Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (minute 178 refers) provides an allocation of £77,750 to each Constituency Committee to be distributed in relation to two objectives; Improving Road Safety and Promoting Active Travel and Health (£38,875). This was discussed at the Birkenhead Constituency Committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and it was agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to provide recommendations for this budget, the group agreed from self-nominations Councillor G Davies, Councillor S Kelly and Councillor D Realey. All members of the committee were asked to submit proposals to be considered to meet the

objectives of this funding; these were collated and presented to the Task and Finish group on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The group were to be supported by an officer from the Council's Traffic & Transportation Division to advise on the costs and feasibility of schemes.

Councillor S Kelly was the only member of the Task and finish Group in attendance (the Road Safety Manager and Constituency Manager were also present.) therefore decisions on the recommendations could not be made. There was a detailed discussion regarding the submitted proposals and how to progress utilising the funding. Based on the proposals and the timescales to use this funding (it must be spent by March 2015) the following recommendations made and agreed by the Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014:

1. To split the funding into 2 allocations:
  - £32,000 to promote active travel by increasing the volume of dropped kerbs and some cycling infrastructure.
  - £45,750 to schemes of work to improve road safety e.g. parking issues, speeding reductions.
2. To re establish the Task and Finish group with a minimum of 5 members of the committee. The group will be supported by the Road Safety Manager for Wirral Council. It was suggested to invite representation from Merseyside Police to discuss input to the road safety issues and how they could support developments and WIRED (Wirral Information Resource for Equality and Diversity). Due to timescales of this funding allocation it is proposed this working group has the authority to prioritise use of funding and implement the schemes outside of the Committee meetings.

**Update:** The Task and Finish group met on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and agreed to spend £32,000 on dropped kerbs and to specifically focus on medical centres to improve access to wheel chair and motorability users.

£29,000 was allocated to signs around local schools to try and reduce speeding. The remaining £10,000 was allocated to a larger £50,000 scheme to implement traffic calming measures around Birkenhead High School Academy, which will also impact on St Anselm's College and Red Court School. The £50,000 for the project is a separate road safety funding source, but it was decided that the £10,000 would add value to the larger scheme.

### 3.0 Other Updates

- 3.1 The Handbook Task and Finish Group met on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014, in attendance was Councillor G Davies, Councillor M McLaughlin, Councillor A Brighthouse and Councillor T Norbury, Constituency Manager and Engagement Officer for Birkenhead. This meeting focused on developing Community Researchers in Birkenhead as detailed in the handbook and discussed at the committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014. It was agreed to recruit Community Researchers specific to research topics and to engage with community organisations that have a specialism in the identified topics.

A pilot piece of research was developed with the National Citizenship Service (NCS) to pilot the Community Researchers Project using young people to research what it is like to live in Birkenhead. A questionnaire was developed with a number of young people from the NCS course which will help to gather the opinions of fellow young people online and via a number of 'listening surveys'.

It was decided the next piece of research will be with Black and Ethnic Minority groups to enhance understanding of this community group in Birkenhead. The NCS group were used for the pilot, in terms of how the project may proceed. The NCS have completed all their listening surveys which will be collated and the data will be used as a guide to future community researchers. Details of the Community Researchers Action Plan can be found in Appendix 5.

- 3.2 Sixty one applications have been received for the second round of the Wirral Wide allocation of 'Your Wirral' funding of £20,000. The panel which is made up of Local Councillors and Magenta Living representatives will assess the applications and will meet towards the end of March with applicants being informed of the panel's decision following the meeting.
- 3.3 It was resolved at the Birkenhead Constituency Committee meeting on 24th July 2014 the Constituency Manager, on behalf of the Chair be requested to write to the Chief Executive of Wonga Loans to request information as to how many loans had been issued in Birkenhead.

**Update:** The letter was sent to Wonga but it was returned, the contact details have been checked and it is the correct registered address for the company therefore this is being followed up by MP Frank Fields Office.

- 3.4 There have been other community engagement activities taking in place in Birkenhead and some of these activities are detailed in Appendix 6.

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

- 4.1 All resource implications detailed within this report are related to budgets aligned or devolved to the Birkenhead Constituency Committee for their recommended use.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **6.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for each of the proposals.

#### **7.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 This report has no direct carbon reduction implications.

#### **8.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 This report has no planning and community safety implications.

## **9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee are asked to:

- 9.1 Note and approve the content of the updates detailed at 2.1-2.7 related to specific schemes of work and approve for progress to continue.
- 9.2 Consider and agree the proposal detailed at 2.3.3 £5,000 additional newsletter fund.
- 9.3 Consider and approve the recommendations in the ASB Birkenhead Action Plan for £35,000 of the 2014/15 Constituency Committee budget allocation as detailed at 2.4.2

## **10.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To continue to progress the targeted schemes of work identified within the constituency to develop the new approach to neighbourhood working.

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## **APPENDICES**

APPENDIX 1 - First edition of 'Town Talk' newsletter

APPENDIX 2 - 'Improving the Environment' project, LCT update

APPENDIX 3 - Antenatal Breast Feeding Project Quarterly Report (Oct 2014 - Jan 2015)

APPENDIX 4 - Birkenhead Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan

APPENDIX 5 - Community Researchers Project Action Plan

APPENDIX 6 - Community Engagement Activity

## Welcome to the very first edition of Town Talk...

a brand new community newsletter for all residents of the Birkenhead Constituency area. Produced three times a year, the aim of Town Talk is to provide you with news and information about activities and services in your area. So whether you live in Bidston or Rock Ferry, Beechwood or Oxtan, we aim to have something in here for you, and if there isn't, then let us know what is happening where you live and we'll try to include it in our next edition.

Email [news-towntalk@hotmail.com](mailto:news-towntalk@hotmail.com) with any feedback, story ideas or contributions. The deadline for the next edition is **Friday 1st May 2015**. We look forward to hearing from you and we hope you enjoy this first edition.

## Help celebrate 50 Years in the Viking Centre

The Viking Centre opened in May 1965 to house the Birkenhead Lads Club, later on admitting girls as well. Now a registered charity, the Vikes seeks to provide activities for all age groups.

In May 2015 we intend to celebrate our 50th anniversary. If you used to attend the club in years gone by, please get in touch and leave us your contact details and your memories. Feel free to message us through our website or Facebook page. This could be your chance to renew old friendships. If you have any photos or press cuttings we would love to see them and with your permission, copy them to use in promoting the Vikes generally and the 50th anniversary in particular.



The Viking Centre, 40 Thorsway, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead CH42 1NW

Tel: **0151 644 1535** Email: [vikingcentre@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vikingcentre@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: [www.vikingcentre.co.uk](http://www.vikingcentre.co.uk)

Like our page <http://www.facebook.com/VikingCentre>



*Opening of Café at the Vikes, June 2014*

## Do you need support finding employment or training?

If so why not pop in to one of Reachout's FREE work clubs.

- Prenton Library Monday 9.15am-10.30am
- Birkenhead Library Monday 10am-12noon
- Beechwood Library Tuesday 9.30am-11am
- St James Library Tuesday 11.30am-1pm
- Birkenhead JCP Wednesday 10.30am-12noon
- Ark Wednesday 12noon-1pm (You must book an appointment on 0151 652 6406)
- The Viking Centre & Youth Club Thursday 10am-12noon
- Birkenhead Library Thursday 10am-12noon

**The team can help with job searches and advice, CV writing, job applications and sourcing suitable training and educational opportunities.**

Why not drop in and speak to one of our advisers or give us a call on 0151 644 5459 (Residents of Tranmere, Rock Ferry through to Eastham) or 0151 652 4349 (Residents of Birkenhead, Prenton, Beechwood, Bidston & Oxtan)



## Birkenhead resident named Street Champion

Birkenhead resident Arthur Whitehead has been named Street Champion for his dedication to keeping the streets of Birkenhead clean whilst using his green fingered expertise to help out in the communal gardens in his neighbourhood.



To show their appreciation and support, Magenta Living also presented Arthur with a voucher from a gardening supply store to help him continue improving the quality of his local environment. Carl Murphy, Magenta Living's Neighbourhood Officer, spoke highly of Arthur saying "I'm looking forward to working with him on various environmental projects in the next few months. He really is a Street Champion and deserves this loyalty reward."

## 10th Anniversary of the Wirral Flower and Vegetable Show

The 10th Anniversary of the Wirral Flower and Vegetable Show will take place at Birkenhead Park Pavilion on 9th August 2015. There will be the flower and vegetable competition, activities for kids, home produce including pies, chutneys, cakes and lots more.

Entry forms to enter the flower and vegetable competition are available from Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre. For further information you can contact Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre on **0151 652 5197**

## St James Centre News

St James Centre, 344 Laird Street, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 7AL



There is something for everyone at the St James Centre this spring. From adult learning to afterschool clubs; job clubs to benefits advice; activities for babies, children and adults; exercise classes and even a relaxation class; home cooked food in our Café to volunteering opportunities. . . our timetable is bursting with things to do! Pop into the centre, call us on **0151 670 9974** or check out our Facebook page or website for all the details.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Got a spare couple of hours a week? Want to give something back to the community? Looking to complete an accredited learning programme? Join our team of volunteers, supporting us in our shop (retail), café (catering), at reception (administration) and with our community programme. Call in and pick up a registration form today.

### CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: **0151 670 9974** Website: [www.nbdt.org.uk](http://www.nbdt.org.uk)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StJamesCentre](http://www.facebook.com/StJamesCentre)

**It's our 10th Birthday this year!**

**Look out for your party invite coming soon....**

# TRANMERE COMMUNITY PROJECT

helping young parents...



**Are you a dad or about to become one? Meet others and have the opportunity to get any help or support that you need.**

Young dads are welcome to have a game of football on a Wednesday evening 6.00-9.00pm or drop in for some individual help and support on Friday morning between 9.00 and 12 noon. Both times you will meet Mark King or you can call him on **649 8017**, email **mark@tcp.org.uk** or text **0754 999 1693**.

**Young mums** - bring your babies and toddlers to Messy Play on Monday mornings any time between 10.00 am and 12 noon. Here you can help your child to develop through play, particularly with things you don't want in your own home: water, paint, sand and jelly mixes!!!! Come for a chat and make new friends. If you are interested please contact Anne Keggins on **649 8017** or e-mail **Anne@tcp.org.uk** or text **0754 999 1693**.



**Young mums-to-be** - Rachel provides help, support and knowledge for those of you who are pregnant and would like some time to consider how your life will change and what you need to know to be ready for these changes. Give Rachel a call on **649 8017**, text **0754 999 1693** or email **Rachel@tcp.org.uk**. These sessions are on a Monday afternoon so please feel free to call in 1.00-3.00pm.

Tranmere Community Project, 1 Whitfield Street, Tranmere, Birkenhead CH42 0LR  
Visit our website **www.tcp.org.uk**

## Tranmere Community Project needs your help...

### DO YOU HAVE AN HOUR A WEEK TO SPARE?

Tranmere Community Project is desperately in need of volunteers who can give an hour or two each week to work alongside one of our young people. You will need tolerance, patience and a sense of humour.

We run, in partnership with Wirral Secondary schools, an Emotional and Social development programme for 14-16 years old who find it difficult to cope in school. Initially these young people are much happier working with adult support and this is why we need volunteers.

All volunteers will be given training and provided with support. For the purposes of keeping young people safe, volunteers will need enhanced Disclosure and Barring clearance before starting. We can organise this. If you are interested please contact Anne Keggins on **649 8017** or e-mail **Anne@tcp.org.uk**



## Wirral Food Bank growing to meet increased demand



The importance of the Wirral Food Bank is highlighted by the fact more than 12,000 local people - including nearly 4,500 children - were supported by the charity in 2014. Since opening its doors in December 2011, Wirral Food Bank has grown in demand with 14 distribution centres across the Borough. There is a Food Bank Distribution Centre open every day except Sunday. Individuals struggling to put food on the table can approach one of the 70 frontline agencies now working in partnership with the Food Bank to seek advice and help to get them out of their current situation. They may be given a food voucher which will entitle them to three days food for themselves and their family.



**If you are struggling to make ends meet, contact us today and we will advise you where help can be sought.**

All the food is kindly donated by the community through churches, schools, businesses, individuals and supermarket collections. The Food Bank is always in need of volunteers so if you're interested, please download an application form from [www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk) or call us on **0151 638 7090**.

Contact Details: Telephone **0151 638 7090** Email [Wirral.foodbank@btconnect.com](mailto:Wirral.foodbank@btconnect.com)

## St Catherine's Community Centre going from strength to strength...



Birkenhead's newest community centre continues to go from strength to strength with the launch of a series of new activities. St Catherine's Community Centre on Church Road, Tranmere has been open less than a year but in that time has established a firm footing in the area by offering a variety of popular activities and useful services.

These include things such as baby massage, bag-a-bargain fruit and veg, Zumba, Buggy Park Fitness sessions, yoga, Nordic Walking, 'IT and Biscuits' and an all-abilities running group, which is part of the award-winning Run In Wirral programme.

To find out more about what's on at St Catherine's Community Centre or to book a place at any of the sessions, contact Anna on **0151 647 3619** or visit their Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/StCathCommunitycentre](http://www.facebook.com/StCathCommunitycentre)

# Allotments available locally...

## Bebington Road Allotments

Are you getting your 5-a-day? Ever thought of growing some of it yourself? Used to have an allotment but gave it up because it became just too much? Know you need more exercise but can't face jogging or going to the gym?



If you can say YES to any of those questions, TRAP can help you.

TRAP, the Together Residents Allotments Partnership has plots on 3 allotment sites - Church Road, Bedford Avenue and Bebington Road. All these plots are sub-divided into smaller areas to provide opportunities for residents, or local charities, to grow fresh vegetables and fruit on areas that they can cope with, without having to take on the commitment of running a full-sized plot. TRAP currently has beds (approximately 20 m x 1 m) available at Bebington Road Allotments. A contribution of just 23p a week (£12 a year) will get you a bed. Interested? Then contact Eric on **0151 653 7905** or **07442 168509** or [georgerobe.42@talktalk.net](mailto:georgerobe.42@talktalk.net)

## Big Local comes to Beechwood, Ballantyne and Bidston



### The Big Local programme is a Big Lottery Fund initiative.

Across England it is investing at least £1 million in 150 neighbourhoods which have been overlooked for funding in the past. Big Local encourages local people to identify their own priorities and invest in activities and ideas that are aimed at making their own area a better place to live now and in the future. Local people shape and drive Big Local in their area.

### What's it all about?

It's about bringing together local people, talent, ambitions, ideas, skills, assets and energy in our area to inspire our local community to act. Whether this be through individuals, groups, organisations or partnerships of all of them, the big idea is to make this a better place to live.

### How does it work?

Beechwood, Ballantyne and Bidston have been selected as a Big Local area. The funding is a charitable endowment to be spent over 10 years. An independent organisation called Local Trust has been set up to help local areas decide how to spend their allocations. Local Trust arranged for a Big Local representative to help people pull together ideas for making their community a better place to live in, now and in the future. If you would like to hear more about the project, contact Karl Rooney, Big Local Programme Manager Beechwood, Ballantyne and Bidston Village on **0151 353 9700** or email [karl.rooney@vcawirral.org.uk](mailto:karl.rooney@vcawirral.org.uk)





The Viking Centre & Youth Club Limited  
Established 1965

The Viking Centre has developed into a vibrant community centre over the past few years with a wide range of activities for everyone. These activities include Zumba, Zumba Gold (chair based), junior and senior youth clubs, work club and benefits advice, football, community café and lots more. For regular updates, pop in and speak with one of our volunteers, call **0151 644 4512** or check out our website or Facebook page.

## Volunteering in the Community

**Looking for paid work?** Improve your chances - enhance your c.v. - by volunteering in your local community, or perhaps you have a few hours spare and would like to give something to your local community? The Vikes is always on the lookout for volunteers to help with various aspects of our work. At present we are looking in particular for volunteers to work in our community café - free training and uniform provided.



We would also love to hear from people with a skill to share- anything you know that you are good at that you could show others how to do - and don't let false modesty stop you - get in touch and we will give you the chance to share that skill with others.

Contact us on **644 1535**,  
by email to [vikingcentre@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vikingcentre@yahoo.co.uk) or by calling in to the centre.

Keep in touch...  
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## Residents Together Partnership welcomes new members

The Residents Together Partnership (RTP) meets on the second Monday of each month in Royal Standard House, 330-334 New Chester Road, Birkenhead CH42 1LE. It provides an opportunity for representatives of residents groups operating in Tranmere or Rock Ferry, and individual residents too, to meet to talk about issues of mutual interest or concern. Guest speakers bring their expertise and experience to talk about current issues.

We meet at 12noon for light refreshments and the meeting begins at 12.30pm. New members are always welcome. find out more by emailing [gregvogiatzis23@msn.com](mailto:gregvogiatzis23@msn.com)

## Victoria Colts Junior Girls Football Club



Victoria Colts Junior Girls Football Club meet at the Vikes every Saturday 9am-10am

As part of the FA's Get into Football programme, Victoria Colts Junior Girls (5-10 years) football takes place at the Vikes every Saturday 9am-10am. Bring a drink, sports wear and trainers, shin pads if you have them.

Play in a bright, warm sports hall, well away from the winter weather (in the summer we play outdoors in the park). First week FREE, then £2.50 a week.

For more information contact Barry on **07719 576716**  
or Vicki on **07792 599742**

# Thornton Allotments wins Best Improved Site for third consecutive year!

Thornton Allotments has won Wirral's allotment competition for Best Improved Site for the third year running. The site is a far cry from the derelict eyesore it was in 2004 before local residents came together to bring the site back into use.



They secured funding from Neighbourhood Renewal which enabled them to carry out work to clear, reset plots and put in new water lines. By 2008, the site was completely renovated and new tenants were able to take on plots.

Gardeners World's Joe Swift visited the site in 2009 for the 'Get Digging' campaign and the efforts of Thornton allotments plot holders were broadcast to the nation. Gardeners World are due to return to Thornton in the near future to show how the site has progressed from the initial filming.

The site improvements have gone on from strength to strength. The Allotment Society successfully secured further funds for a newly resurfaced road and toilet. They are now working on clearing two remaining overgrown plots and replacing fencing and hope to win Best Improved Site in 2015 for an unprecedented fourth time.

Congratulations to everyone at the Allotment Society for their tremendous work.



Before improvement



After improvement

## Community Spirit Wirral

This group has been created to provide food bags for anyone on the Wirral who is struggling to put a meal on the table. They also require donations from as many as possible to keep these bags going.

Currently, they have drop-off/collection points in Bidston, Wallasey, Birkenhead, Tranmere, Woodchurch and Rock Ferry.

They also endeavour to provide those in unfortunate situations with furniture and soft furnishings, free of charge. So please contact the team if you require assistance, or have anything to offer to make a house a home for those in a sticky situation.

Join Community Spirit Wirral on Facebook or contact Mandy Upton on 0151 630 3346/ 07981 805 634.



ROCK FERRY OPERATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS

*Carmen - The Musical*

(by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Limited)

at the GLADSTONE THEATRE, PORT SUNLIGHT

Wed.20th - Sat.23rd May 2015 at 7.30pm

TICKETS £12 and £10 concessions

For further information 'phone 0151 645 1369 or email  
rockferryoperatic@hotmail.co.uk



**Clear Solutions is a Government funded training provider which aims to deliver a personal and enjoyable experience to all of its customers.**

CLEAR SOLUTIONS TRAINING delivers courses in Workskills, Customer Service and also sources tailored placement opportunities which often turn into job offers. If you are between 16-18, they deliver The Study Programme, the aim of which is to up skill young people and help them find a placement which improves their employability.

For further information, call 0151 644 4556 or email [tess.kirkhambond@cs-training.co.uk](mailto:tess.kirkhambond@cs-training.co.uk)



*Flower Word Search*

Try to find all of the hidden flower related words in the puzzle below. Remember, words can be diagonal, vertical, horizontal, frontward or backwards.

**DAFFODIL LILY TULIP DAISY ROSE BLUEBELLS  
BUTTERCUP CROCUS ORCHID SUNFLOWER**



D	A	I	B	R	F	Y	L	I	L	F	A
K	H	D	R	E	W	O	L	F	N	U	S
N	C	X	E	S	G	O	U	K	D	J	L
D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	S	O	B	L
D	I	H	C	R	O	M	R	U	M	A	E
S	R	S	Q	U	F	D	N	T	Y	M	B
P	U	C	R	E	T	T	U	B	Z	Q	E
O	Q	R	Y	L	K	E	C	R	D	L	U
C	F	O	W	S	O	G	S	X	A	T	L
R	W	C	R	P	I	L	U	T	D	F	B
A	E	U	S	U	H	A	N	O	J	V	X
O	V	S	T	O	W	N	D	T	A	L	K

**Tell us what you think!**

We want to hear what you think of the first edition of Town Talk. Email: [news-towntalk@hotmail.com](mailto:news-towntalk@hotmail.com) with your views and you will be entered in a prize draw for a £20 voucher.



@TownTalkNews  
Like our Facebook page



9QCH-3PU7PO – Improving the Environment in Birkenhead

# Three Month Contract Report

<b>Reportable Date(s)</b>	December 2014 – February 17 2015
<b>Author</b>	Environmental Services Team / Mike Clarke (Business Development Manager)
<b>Date</b>	February 17 2015

## EXECUTIVE INTRODUCTION

LCT’s environmental team have been providing bespoke initiatives over the past 10 years to support the environment of Wirral.

The improving the environment in Birkenhead tender is able to fully utilise the skill set within the environmental team including working with wider partner agencies such as advocacy in Wirral to truly provided a coordinated community centred approach to improving areas that blight the landscape of Birkenhead.

The approach we have taken is to methodically work with the council to firstly identify appropriate sites to be supported, use imagery as recording mechanisms, and provide some quick wins around clearance. The second stage is identification of areas that need further investigation to identify land owners that will be contacted in support of the project.

This contract has a number of sites that we will be working on over the remainder of the contract and providing reports as to progress.

**Justine Molyneux**  
**Interim Chief Executive Officer**  
 Lairdside Communities Together  
 T 0151 644 4500  
 E [justine@involenorthwest.org.uk](mailto:justine@involenorthwest.org.uk)

**OPERATIONAL DELIVERY: Site Analyses**

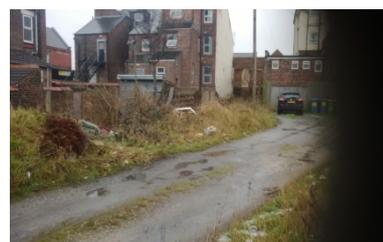
**SITE 1**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
9 Newark Close, Noctorum	Claughton	'seems ideal for community-based project'	Large stretch of unmanaged land behind houses. Raised soiled verge, rumble, overgrown trees and weeds - attracting rats.	The land is reported as unadopted. Residents have attempted to clear it themselves but it requires too much work; then have no way of removing waste	Clear the area and concrete over Create community links and determine long-term plan - <b>one of the priority projects for this tender</b>  Shows as council owned - no records - maybe should have been in stock transfer to Magenta. Is gated but not numbered, so may not be "ours" anymore; already adopted by local community and has pigeon coops and is flagged?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Team site assessment confirms 'community claim' to elements of land, i.e. pigeon coops</li> <li>2. Team to schedule site clearance of litter and rubbish in short order</li> <li>3. Team to leaflet drop local households to organise resident meeting to gain feedback on land usage and other associated issues</li> <li>4. Community engagement to identify sustainable maintenance solutions</li> </ol>



**SITE 2**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
Open land to rear of "The Bedford" pub; known as 178 Bedford Road & 62 Lees Avenue. Not visible from and no connection with Rock Ferry Merseyrail	Rock Ferry	'seems ideal for a community-based project'	Land not maintained		Needs tidying up and maintained long-term by whoever is responsible  Scope for good community focussed project with Merseyrail	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clear litter from site</li> <li>2. Strim grass areas and cut back/remove shrub vegetation</li> <li>3. Areas of hardcore/rubble to be removed</li> <li>4. Potential for community-based project perhaps limited as no access to, nor site line with Merseyrail Station</li> </ol>



**SITE 3**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
Council-owned, cleared housing land between Liversidge and Harland Rds and junction of Seymour St.	Birkenhead & Tranmere	'seems ideal for a community-based project'	Not Maintained		Needs tidying up and maintained long term.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Services Team to contact HMRI and clarify situation</li> <li>2. Tidy/clear site as far as practicable</li> <li>3. Research community asset value and likelihood of success in developing community-based project</li> </ol>

**SITE 4**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
Old Chester Road 9 and in front of Beacons - field Estate	Rock Ferry	'possible quick win subject to land owner approval'	area collects litter in overgrown perimeter		Once cut back, liaise with TD's team to talk about sustainable solutions, e.g. is it a litter wind trap? Does a litter bin need citing? Are there shops nearby from where the litter is coming from?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No identifiable source of litter, i.e. no shop(s) in immediate vicinity</li> <li>2. Environmental Services Team to litter-pick, remove rubbish, strim grassed areas and tidy shrub borders</li> <li>3. Team to liaise with TD to develop a longer-term solution</li> </ol>



**SITE 5**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
Old Southend Social Club	Rock Ferry	'seems ideal for community-based project'	Overgrown		<p>Assuming social club still running, need to see if Social Club willing to commit to improvement project and maintain in longer term. If active but no commitment, we should take a more regulatory route depending on perceived community detriment.</p> <p>Cleared fenced land; owner has cleared when asked in past.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social Club no longer present</li> <li>2. Environmental Services Team to establish maintenance programme</li> <li>3. Team have noted that For Sale signage is present</li> <li>4. If seen as a potential community-based project, then likely only on a Meanwhile Lease basis with landowner</li> </ol>



**SITE 6**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
Land at bottom of Holt Road	Rock Ferry	'possible quick wins subject to land owner approval'	Overgrown		High hoardings, buddleia and trees behind, cannot see if waste on land. Planning Permission,	1. Environmental Services Team to formally approach owner and gain agreement for site maintenance and/or frontage enhancement



**SITE 7**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
Land between Chatsworth and Buxton	Rock Ferry	'possible quick wins subject to land owner approval'	Overgrown; rubble		Council-owned grass and flower bed. Not highway verge; no idea who is maintaining this; it is clearly getting mowed though. Rubble in middle, we could have waste cleared easily enough.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Team have cleared the site of identified rubble/hardcore</li> <li>2. Team to liaise with Wirral Council on maintenance schedule</li> </ol>



## SITE 8

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
Derby Road and Harland Road	Birkenhead Tranmere	'possible quick wins subject to land owner approval'		The site has been empty for years and there's a very poorly maintained temporary fence around it allowing access for rubbish	We have owner details.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Team to liaise with landowner on environmental improvement(s)</li> <li>2. Team to offer fencing and site clearance services</li> </ol>



**SITE 9**

<b>Address</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Supporting Information</b>	<b>Provisionally suggested works</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>
Derelict shops to east of Birkenhead Central Library				IN PROCESS OF DEMOLITION	N/A

**SITE 10**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
Land at the junction of Balls Road and Oxton Road	Birkenhead and Tranmere/Oxton	'seems ideal for community-based project'	Land is not maintained	Council is in negotiations for potential development	Needs tidying up prior to any development.  Already community interest in this site for clean ups  We have ownership details. Two sites: one overgrown but with hoardings round on Oxton Road; one open and more visible on Balls Road.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Team site assessment suggests clearance of items/rubble from Balls lane frontage is practicable</li> <li>2. Clearance of tree and shrub growth primarily fronting onto Oxton Road is impractical due to (1) size of area and (2) likely need for heavy machinery due to unstable, uneven ground</li> </ol>



**SITE 11**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
Former petrol station on Townfield Lane	Oxton / Claughton	'possible quick wins subject to land owner approval'		Has planning approval but it could be some time before any development commences.	Needs tidying up.  Was being litter picked by landowner.	1. Team to liaise with landowner on maintenance and litter pick scheduling



**SITE 12**

<b>Address</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Provisional Classification</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Supporting Information</b>	<b>Provisionally suggested works</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>
Former HSBC bank site in Oxton village	Oxton	'may not be suitable for this Project'	Vacant site in the centre of Oxton Village	Planning consent to build shops/flat first granted six years ago	Replacement of metal hoarding with more appropriate fence	

**SITE 13**

Address	Ward	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
Car wash on Woodchurch Road	Oxton	Untidy appearance of this commercial site often subject of adverse comments by residents		Is this the land adj to car wash? If it's the actual car wash come back to TD's team and need to know more about perceived issues. Advise to seek more info from Env Enforcement team before land owner of car wash approached.	

**SITE 14**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
68 Balls Road	Oxton	'May not be suitable for this project'	Empty property in poor state of repair; surrounding wall is partially demolished	Property owned by Magenta for the last 2 years; they have promised refurbishment. Still no action.	Make improvements to exterior and repair surrounding wall. Refer to Empty Property Strategy Team to deal with	

**SITE 15**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
7 Lorne Road	Oxton	'May not be suitable for this project'	Front garden overgrown and full of rubbish			<b>Being dealt with formally by environmental enforcement; Do Not Touch</b>

**SITE 16**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
97 Westbourne Road	Oxton	'seems ideal for community-based project'	Land adjacent to large Victorian dwelling is overgrown and unfenced		<p>Clear the vegetation and other dumped rubbish.</p> <p>Owner short of funds, would probably welcome help. Does try to do stuff when we ask. Might be that fencing would be more to the point than clearing alone.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Team have approached Owner of land directly during site assessment</li> <li>2. Would welcome help with site tidying</li> <li>3. Team to timetable access/work in short order</li> </ol>



**SITE 17**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
Corner of Derby Road and Harland Road	Birkenhead & Tranmere	'possible quick win subject to land owner approval'	It's been empty for years and there's a very poorly maintained temporary fence around it		Repair the fence Possible quick win but liaise with Empty Property Strategy Team. This has already been listed above.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fencing repairs largely impractical due to temporary nature</li> <li>2. Team to liaise with EPS Team to erect more permanent domestic fencing solution</li> </ol>



**SITE 18**

Address	Ward	Provisional Classification	Issues	Supporting Information	Provisionally suggested works	PROPOSED ACTION
Marquis Street, vacant plot	Tranmere	'seems ideal for community-based project'	Overgrown; untidy	Site has been vacant for decades; owner cannot be traced.	Needs tidying up, potential for community garden.  Has been cleared several times by EH. It is understood that the named title holder at land reg has never had a direct interest in this land and is now in London. EH have tried to contact them but never any response. May be substantial charges against this land from former work?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Team to schedule site tidying in short order</li> <li>2. Site assessment identifies animal fouling and potential other harmful detritus on-site</li> <li>3. Team identifies Risk Management as a key consideration in scheduling of site tidying</li> </ol>



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**Birkenhead Constituency Antenatal Project  
Quarterly Report - Oct 2014 - Jan 2015**

**Section A Outputs**

**1 User Numbers**

**Initial contacts with women seen this quarter:**

St Catherines Hospital at Scan	1
Arrowe Park at Scan	15
Home Visit following referral by staff or volunteer	8
Telephone contact only following referral	13
Roadshow/Events	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>
Completed antenatal checklist	17
Intend to breastfeed	36
Going to be a first time mum	18

We met with the Hospital Trust in September and they have agreed to the introduction of an Information Sharing Protocol which will mean that we will no longer have to rely on referrals into our service. We will be given automatic notification of all pregnant women by the hospital so that we can then offer them an opt out service. This is taking time to go through the Hospital Trust system to be approved but should be in operation shortly.

## 2 Areas

Which areas of Birkenhead do the above mums live in?

Bidston & St James	9
Birkenhead	4
Claughton	5
Oxton	4
Prenton	6
Rock Ferry	8
Tranmere	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>43</b>

## 2 Age Range

Of the mums seen this quarter how many were:

Under 18	1
18-21	3
21-25	7
26-34	21
35-44	6
45+	0
Not stated	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>43</b>

## 3 Breakdown of Support

Of the mums seen since April:

How many home visits were made	51
How many telephone calls were made	566
How many texts were sent	960
How many women have a support network available to them	125
How many women were signposted for additional support	37
How many mums initiated breastfeeding	49% *
How many mums breastfed until 6 weeks +	38% *

\* NB 48% of mums being supported are still at the antenatal stage

#### 4 Promotional Work

Number of antenatal group support sessions delivered in Birkenhead locations during quarter

Total number of pregnant Birkenhead women attended these support sessions during quarter

Number of presentations/meetings attended in the Birkenhead District to promote benefits of breast feeding during quarter

Number of community/public events attended in Birkenhead District

## Section B Outcomes

### 5 Specific Outcomes of the Service

**Please identify the main impact/improvements:**

Outcome 1 - Improve the health and well-being of children in Birkenhead 49%

Outcome 2 - Providing a targeted intervention for expectant mums in Birkenhead 75%

Outcome 3 - Improving support and care available to mums in Birkenhead during pregnancy. 38%

Outcome 4 - Improving support networks available to pregnant mums 13%

**Please identify any specific problems which have not been successfully addressed by the project:**

## 6 Case Study 1

### **Background:**

Young woman from the Central Birkenhead was referred by one of our partner agencies (metime pregnancy smoking cessation), at approximately 24 weeks pregnant with her first child as she was open to information about breastfeeding.

### **Input:**

On receiving J's details a First Response Worker (FRW) contacted J on the telephone to introduce/explain the service, invite along to a group session and to offer the scheme's 'text buddy' service, which is a weekly text message from a breastfeeding peer support volunteer giving information related to breastfeeding & the opportunity to ask the volunteer questions. J accepted the invitation to the group session for further into her pregnancy (30+ weeks) and was happy to receive weekly information via the 'text buddy' service. J received her first text message two days later and this continued every week throughout her pregnancy.

Two weeks after the initial referral a FRW contacted J to share information about an upcoming antenatal PEEP programme (Parents Early Education Partnership Reflective Parenting - antenatal programme to support strong parent-baby bonding and attachment relationships) being offered by Home-Start Wirral. J was really interested in this and agreed to be contacted by the Home-Start Co-ordinator running this project, and later began attending sessions at the Home-Start Hub.

A week before the antenatal breastfeeding session J was contacted by a FRW to remind about the upcoming session. J attended the session at the Home-Start Hub with a friend who was also pregnant and had referred into the Home-Start breastfeeding service. At the session the benefits of breastfeeding were discussed alongside the practicalities of breastfeeding and what to expect. In addition information was shared on how and where to get support with breastfeeding and parenting in general. Leaflets & handouts were discussed and given out on specific breastfeeding topics of interest and contact details/websites of maternity services on Wirral & nationally. J asked specific questions about breastfeeding which were answered there and then, and shared her hopes of a natural home birth for her baby. J also gave feedback on the 'text buddy' service to say that she looks forward to receiving the weekly snippet of information.

Two weeks before J's due date J approached a FRW at the Home-Start Hub whilst attending an antenatal PEEP session to ask a specific question about expressing breastmilk when her baby arrives. The FRW answered J's questions, gave handouts and signposted to further information.

J was contacted three times after her due date but her baby came late, on the fourth contact J told us that she was in hospital as her baby had finally arrived, but she'd had a traumatic birth that resulted in an emergency C-section under general anaesthetic. J said that she'd followed all the information she had received and that her baby was feeding well.

Post-natally J's support continued via the Home-Start's postnatal breastfeeding support team. J received a mix of regular phone support, text messages, home visits and group sessions.

### **Outcome:**

J exclusively breastfed for 12 weeks and felt that the information she received whilst pregnant really helped her in her first few days, especially as she had experienced a traumatic birth.

## 7 Additional Information

### a) **Family Feedback**

"I cannot thank the volunteers at Home-Start enough for all their help and support. I could not have successfully fed my son without them. Breastfeeding is not always easy so it is good to use fantastic services like those offered by Home-Start for advice and support."

"Breastfeeding is so rewarding for a number of different reasons... My eldest wasn't breastfed but my middle child was... My eldest always picks up coughs and colds and anything going around but my other child never gets ill. I really believe this is because of the immune system I passed on through the breast milk. I am so grateful for the support I received from Home-Start to enable me to give my child a better start."

"Everyone has been fantastic, if it had not been for Home-Start's support I would not have been able to continue to breastfeed, thank you from us both."

### a) **Partnership Feedback**

'Solutions4health and the MeTime pregnancy group have been working in Partnership with Home-Start for the past 2 years. We deliver a specialist integrated model of smoking cessation in pregnancy whereby we also introduce other topics with the intention of increasing the overall health and wellbeing of both the baby and the mother. One of our topics we deliver is a brief introduction to Breastfeeding. From this we then refer any women interested in breastfeeding to the Home-Start antenatal team who contact them to arrange home visit or group support. The feedback we have received from our mums has been brilliant and we are now in discussions with Sam & Emma to come along to some of our groups to talk to the women about breastfeeding earlier on in their pregnancies after a visit to our group in the last few weeks proved very beneficial.'

**Completed by:** Michelle Walsh

**Date Completed:** 03/02/2015

THEME	ACTION	LEAD	COORDINATION DETAILS	PROGRESS
<b>Improving Awareness, Perceptions and Confidence;</b>	PSG linking to and updating Birkenhead constituency.	Mark Camborne	To provide Mr Fields MP, with an update on multi agency action	To be completed by December 19 <sup>th</sup> 2014
	Joint work to support Merseyside Police Operation Ampton and Seven Beats Project	Inspector Swan	<p>WASBT to coordinate monthly meetings with the dedicated Police Officers of Operation Ampton.</p> <p>The operation Ampton Team to request support from partners for ongoing work through existing mechanisms including; ASB Surgeries, ASBGG, PSG.</p>	<p>Implemented and ongoing.</p> <p>Implemented and Ongoing</p>
	Press, Media and providing public key information	Caroline Laing	<p>Council Comms Team to provide a media action plan for planned ops and events and liaise with partners PR Teams.</p> <p>LN to provide the information in regards to ops, events and key stories/information</p>	Ongoing.
Community Surgeries in ASB Hotspots	Duncan Swan	<p>Fortnightly Police meetings with residents of Birkenhead in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birkenhead Park Visitors Centre</li> <li>• Sainsbury's Woodchurch Road</li> <li>• Tesco Bidston</li> <li>• Prenton Residents Association</li> <li>• Asda Grange Road</li> <li>• B and Q Bidston</li> <li>• Rock Ferry One Stop Shop</li> <li>• St Catherine's Hospital</li> <li>• St James Centre</li> <li>• Woodward Estate</li> <li>• Pyramids</li> <li>• Wirral metropolitan College</li> <li>• MFRS (7BP)</li> <li>• Ridgeway Library (Noctorum)</li> <li>• Miriam medical Centre</li> </ul>	Implemented and Ongoing	

			<p>Residents meeting in alternative areas will also be coordinated to respond to emerging issues on a less regular basis and according to demand.</p> <p>3x Model Beat Operations including an attached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay- Safe Operation,</li> <li>• Test Purchase Operation.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>NB: Merseyside Police will coordinate Model Beat Operations as part of usual Neighbourhood Policing Operations.</i></b></p>	<p>To be completed By August 2015</p> <p>Operations scheduled for:</p> <p>February 2015 May 2015 July 2015</p> <p><b><u>NB: 2x Birkenhead Stay- Safes completed on 5<sup>th</sup> December (Noctorum) and 12<sup>th</sup> December (Birkenhead North)</u></b></p> <p>Discussions and initial action to start in Jan 15</p>
	Multi Agency Action Operations	Laura Newman/ Mike Lawrence/ Duncan Swan	To identify appropriate resources/ Teams from both Organisations to coordinate and deliver.	To be completed by March 30 <sup>th</sup> 2015
	Use all of the above to monitoring community satisfaction community perception	Mark Camborne/ BobLittle /Duncan Swan		
<b>Prevention and Diversion</b>	<p>The coordination of intelligence and performance analysis to identify and coordinate appropriate multi agency at all following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASBGG</li> <li>• PSG's</li> <li>• MAAG</li> </ul>	Mark Camborne/ Bob Little	<p>ICE Team to provide monthly reports of ASB Performance Indicators (PI) to illustrate ASB hotspots.</p> <p>To provide data/intelligence reports to existing PSG</p>	<p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>To be completed by March 30<sup>th</sup> 2015</p>

	<p>All partners to ensure attendance and provide information for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASBGG</li> <li>• PSG's</li> <li>• MAAG</li> </ul> <p>Monthly ASB/Information sharing meetings</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>Laura Newman/ Ducan Swan/ Steve Chan/ Clare Moore</p>	<p>Monthly information sharing meetings to be coordinated between Police, Council and Housing. Current and emerging targets will be raised and appropriate action will be discussed.</p> <p>Emerging locations will also be raised and fed into existing mechanisms including ASBGG.</p> <p><b>Please see appendix 1. 5: Additional youth provision.</b></p>	<p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p>
	<p>Provide additional youth resources</p>	<p>Steve Chan</p>	<p>To identify Wirral Council and Third Sector Youth activity available in Birkenhead.</p> <p>To liaise with YMCA to discuss joint work.</p> <p>A working protocol in regards to the deployment of CCTV will be produced.</p> <p><b>Please see appendix 1. 1: Mobile 4G CCTV camera</b></p> <p><b>Please see appendix 1. 4: Criminal Damage Reduction:</b></p>	<p>TBC; depends on funding.</p> <p>Completed <b>Please see appendix 2</b></p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p>
	<p>To deploy mobile CCTV</p>	<p>Mark Camborne</p>	<p><b>Please see appendix 1. 1: Mobile 4G CCTV camera</b></p> <p><b>Please see appendix 1. 4: Criminal Damage Reduction:</b></p>	<p>March 30<sup>th</sup> 2015</p> <p>TBC; depends on funding.</p>
	<p>Coordinating Criminal Damage Initiative</p>	<p>Steve Chan</p>		<p>TBC; depends on funding.</p>
<b>Enforcement;</b>	<p>Ensure the partnership is embedding Wirral's Multi Agency Protocol to Tackle Anti-Social</p>	<p>ALL</p>	<p>Wirral's Multi Agency Protocol to Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour to be circulated to ALL after it has been signed off.</p> <p>Managers to ensure the protocol</p>	<p>Completed</p>

	<p>Behaviour in order to identify the most appropriate powers and tools are being applied.</p> <p>Ensure Surveillance is being considered were appropriate</p> <p>Coordinate Truancy Sweeps</p>	<p>Laura Newman</p> <p>Mike Lawrence</p>	<p>is being followed and embedded in to their working operations.</p> <p>This will identified through weekly meeting with Enforcement Officers and Legal Services, where all existing ASB cases are discussed.</p> <p>To schedule Truancy Sweeps in each school term up to July 2015.</p> <p>WASBT to provide officers to assist</p>	<p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>To be planned by Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 2015.</p>
<p><b>Resettlement, rehabilitation and targeted youth support;</b></p>	<p>Ensuring referrals for under 18's into 'Gateway'</p> <p>Linking to School through Safer Schools Officers.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>Mike Lawrence</p>	<p>All Teams/organisation to complete GR1 referral forms.</p> <p>ML to be informed of all PSG's and Information sharing meetings.</p>	<p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p>
<p><b>Protecting &amp; Supporting Victims and Communities.</b></p>	<p>High- Vis patrols from Wirral Community Patrol</p> <p>Ensure ASB Victim Risk assessments are being raised through ASBGG</p> <p>Ensuring referrals are made into Neighbourhood Justice Scheme.</p>	<p>Ian Lowrie</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>	<p>To be requested by WASBT/ Police/ Housing and Youth Services through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct to Team Manager</li> <li>• Through PSG</li> <li>• Through ASBGG</li> </ul> <p>WASBT Police Officer to provide monthly checks, info on exsiting ASB risk victims</p> <p>LN to liaise with partners before ASBGG</p> <p>ML to revisit police neighbourhood to remind officers of scheme</p> <p>LN to discuss referrals with Heads of Service</p>	<p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing to be completed by Jan 30<sup>th</sup></p>

**1: Mobile 4G CCTV camera**

Birkenhead currently has 4 mobile CCTV cameras, located on Hoylake Road (Birkenhead North), The Woodlands, Grange Road West and Rodney Street (Central Birkenhead). The camera deployed to the Woodlands belongs to WASBT and is a Wirral wide resource. Its deployment in this location ends January 2015

**Details:****To Purchase:**

- Camera = £1,200 ex VAT
- Airtime per annual per camera = £300

*NB: The software comes with the package and the first installation of camera is included in cost of buying camera.*

**Installation to Street light:**

- Cherry Picker = £99.
- Commando socket =£30

**Installation to Column:**

- Column = £600 - £1500 (depending on spec)
- Moving, installing and connect pole/electricity supply = £350

**Removing and relocating:**

- Per move per camera = £165
- Costs of installation (depending on item the camera is attached) to as above

**Costing:**

Option 1: 1x 4G camera:		<b>£1200</b>
Option 2: 1x 4G camera with 12 months airtime:	<b>£1500</b>	
Option 3: 1x 4G camera including first installation onto streetlight:	<b>£1629</b>	
Option 4: 1x 4G camera including first installation onto column:	<b>£2199-£3099</b>	
Option 5: 1x relocation of a 4G camera and attach it to streetlight:	<b>£295</b>	
Option 6: 1x relocation of 4G camera with column:	<b>£479</b>	
Option 7: 1x airtime renewal cost per camera every 12 months:	<b>£300</b>	

**2: Stay Safe Operation**

There is currently no funding available for police lead multi agency Stay Safe Operations. This operation can still be coordinated however the number of officers involved has had to significantly decrease as it has to depend upon the officers on duty. Funding is needed cover costs for additional enforcement staff/officers so the operation does not rely on the capacity of the partners existing staffing resources already deployed to the targeted area.

**Details:**

Funding to cover costs of Enforcement Officers to work 6 additional hour in teams of 4 officers (2x Police, 2x Council ASB Enforcement).

- Council ASB Enforcement Officer: £15.59 per hr
- Police PCSO £ 16.69 per hr
- Police Cons £ 27.04 per hr
- Police Sgt £ 30.45 per hr\*

Option 1: 2x Enforcement Teams (8 staff):	<b>£1023.12</b>
Option 2: 3x Enforcement Teams (12 staff):	<b>£1534.68</b>
Option 3: 4x Enforcement Teams (16 staff):	<b>£2046.24</b>

All the above costing are worked out at the cost on a police cons

*NB: \* there is no additional funding needed for the costs for the Police Sgt who coordinates these Operations.*

**3: Multi Agency Action Week**

Additional costs have been identified for two resources needed for the coordination of a multi agency week of action in Birkenhead North, Central Birkenhead, Birkenhead North and Nocturum.

- Alcohol Test Purchase Operations @ £850 per operation.
- Publication of information leaflets @ £216 per 400 A5 double sided colour leaflets.

Option 1: 4x Alcohol Test Purchase Operations, one per week of action: **£3400**

Option 2: 8x Alcohol Test Purchase Operations, one per week of action and one per school holiday; Half term x2, Spring and Summer break: **£6800**

- Publication of information leaflets @ £216 per 400 A5 double sided colour leaflets.

**4: Criminal Damage Reduction:**

A criminal damage awareness resource pack for young people. This resource is an extension of the behaviour change campaign targeted at young people with a toolkit including marketing materials and resource packs for practitioners to deliver interventions with young people in Birkenhead Constituency.

Option 1: Estimated cost: **£1,500.**

**5: Additional youth provision**

Project 1: Birkenhead Youth Outreach Plus.

The service will work with young people aged 8-19 years targeting anti-social behaviour hot spots on Friday and Saturday evening between the hours of 6 – 10pm. A Youth Outreach Support Team will

work in partnership with Sports coaches co-ordinated by the Youth Support Team Leader to deliver an integrated model of delivery.

The Sports coaches will focus on diversionary sports activities whilst the Youth Outreach Team will engage with young people and deliver early help interventions. The Kontakta Bus will also provide a mobile safe haven to support engagement and facilitate appropriate interventions with young people. Birkenhead deployments will be targeted through information and requests from the ASB Governance Group and a needs assessment completed by the Birkenhead Outreach Youth Team.

Birkenhead Outreach Youth Team will engage and work with the individuals and groups of young people present and will offer preventative and educative programmes to ensure an early intervention approach to risk taking behaviour. These include, harm reduction advice, guidance education around alcohol, drugs, relationships and sexual health promoting citizenship, rights and responsibilities and opportunities to engage in the local communities they live.

Statistical data will be collected and used to evidence the numbers of participants and achievements gained. Qualitative data will also be collected from participants and the project workers to measure and evidence outcomes.

Expected outcomes will include:

- Engagement in programmes and activities that aid personal and social development and raise aspirations.
- The opportunity to address issues pertinent to them.
- Referrals via the Gateway process.
- The opportunity to make a positive contribution to their community.
- Expressions of satisfaction with provision.
- The achievement of an accredited outcome.

Costing:

Youth support workers x 2	(3 hr/session x 2 nights)	3265	
Sports Mobile inc. 2 staff	(£110/session)	2860	
Provision of Kontakta Bus			1200

**Total** **7325**

*NB: costing based on a six month deployment*

### **Project 2: LADS Project.**

This targeted youth project is aimed at young males aged between 13-19 years from the Birkenhead Locality.

The project has been designed to address a number of issues relevant to young males in today's society, including:

- Drug / alcohol misuse
- Harmful / exploitative relationships
- Criminal / anti-social behaviour
- Raising aspirations and developing resilience

The group has 28 places and will take part over eight weeks through an informal education programme aimed at developing awareness and an understanding of the above issues, aiming to support confidence, self-esteem and strengthen resilience.

Towards the end of the project, there will be a residential at the Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre to consolidate what young people have learnt throughout the course. There will also be a focus on building on skills, strategies and aspirations and the young men will work towards setting a personal action plan for the future.

**Costing:**

8 week educational course:	3842	
Residential*:		3222

***\*This cost is based on 1x residential for 28 youth and includes transport and food. YOUTH SERVICE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO COORDINATE MORE THEN 1 PER YEAR***

<b>Total</b>		<b>7064</b>
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**Project 3: GIRLS Project.**

G.I.R.L.S. is a developmental and innovative project targeting young females aged 13 – 19 years who are considered to be vulnerable and at risk. The G.I.R.L.S. project aims to offer participants the opportunity to:

- Reduce their risk taking behaviour
- Strengthen their resilience to peer pressure and abusive relationships
- Raise their aspirations in relation to healthy lifestyles and choices

Each programme will work with groups of young females and is facilitated by Youth Support Workers.

Subjects covered include; personal safety, social isolation, confidence and self esteem, managing conflict, raising aspirations and a taster course of the virtual baby.

Sessions will be delivered in a fun and interactive way using a range of methods including creative arts.

**Costs:**

12 week educational course	5763	Residential*:
	3222	

***\*This cost is based on 1x residential for 28 youth and includes transport and food. YOUTH SERVICE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO COORDINATE MORE THEN 1 PER YEAR***

<b>Total</b>		<b>8985</b>
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**Community Researchers Project Action Plan January 2015**

**Overview:**

Community Researchers are individuals who are given training to conduct voluntary research in their own community and neighbourhood.

Community Researchers can be used when researching a particular topic, sensitive issues specific to a certain social group and is a way of engaging with traditional hard to reach groups.

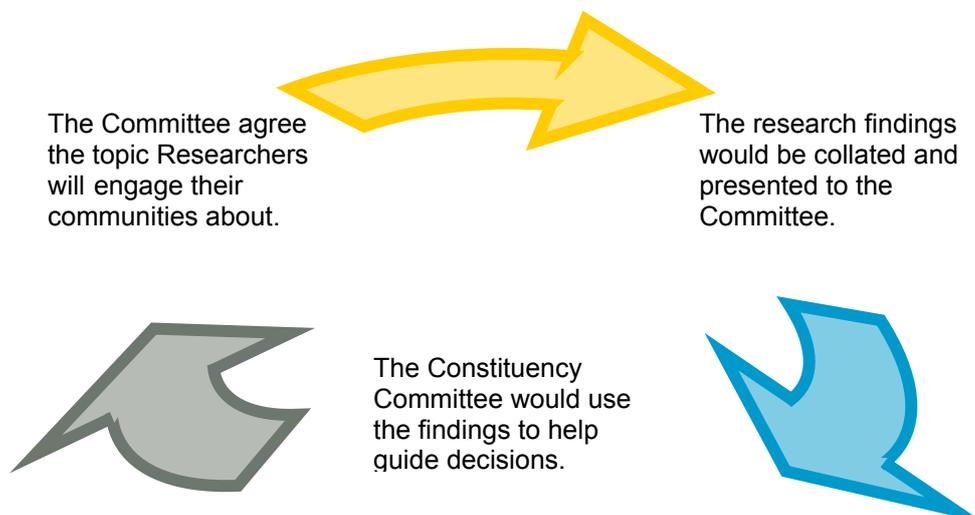
There are a number of benefits to engaging through Community Researchers:

- Working with a community also enables the research to be a two way process in which information can be given to the communities who participate.
- In-depth community engagement can provide important insights into attitudes, beliefs and behaviour in particular communities which quantitative data cannot explain.
- Working with Community Researchers develops relationships with hard to reach groups.
- A template is provided for the Community Researchers to write up their findings in the same format. This ensures that the data can be analysed and used effectively.

**Purpose of Community Researchers:**

The aim of the Birkenhead Constituency Committee is to develop a team of Community Researchers to gather research from groups and residents that may not have been engaged with before.

After initially recruiting residents who want to volunteer as Community Researchers and giving them the required training the scheme would work by:



**Research Topics:**

There is capacity for the Community Researchers project to focus on 4 main research topics within the year. These topics will be chosen by the Handbook Sub Group to help guide the constituency committee when it requires further information to make a decision or just wants additional evidence.

All of the information collated through the community researchers project will be presented to the constituency committee.

The 4 research topics for the financial year of 2014/15 are:

1. Engage with black and ethnic minority groups to enhance the understanding of groups in Birkenhead.
2. What are the most commonly linked issues facing residents suffering from multiply problems.
3. TBC BY THE HANDBOOK SUB GROUP.
4. TBC BY THE HANDBOOK SUB GROUP.

**Projected timetable for research to be completed:**

Once the research topic is launched the below time table sets out the time needed for each phase of the project.

Launch the research topic and circulate the information requesting volunteers to partners, social sector groups and general public ensuring widespread coverage	1 week.
Two day introductory training course into community research conducted by external tutor	2 days
The volunteer community researchers conduct 'listening surveys' in their own community, based on the particular topic	4 weeks.
The community researchers attend an evaluation event to discuss their findings and give feedback on the project	1 day
External tutor compiles the report based on the completed listening surveys to ensure an independent report.	1 week.

**Training:**

Given by an external tutor, the training the volunteer community researchers will receive is an introduction into community research and will cover topics such as:

1. The topic being researched
2. How to do a 'Listening survey'
3. Why we are collating the information and how it will be used
4. Confidence and communication skills

Each course could accommodate 10 Community Researchers with the benefits being:

- 1) Building the skills of residents :
- 2) Reveals the stories behind the statistics:
- 3) Uncovers issues unknown to external researchers:
- 4) Creates partnerships and communication channels:
- 5) Encourages communities to develop their own solutions

**Project Costs:**

A budget of £2,000 has been allocated to the project from the constituency committee.

The costs to deliver training are £300 per 2 day course (costs for tutor, paperwork and refreshments)

4 courses = £1,200. This would train 40 Community Researchers.

£600 will be used for travelling expenses of researchers.

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### Birkenhead Constituency Team Neighbourhood Engagement Update F

Neighbourhood engagement is a vital element of the Birkenhead Constituency Committee work.

There are a number of projects being developed in partnership with the local community, statutory organisations and community and voluntary groups that will benefit Birkenhead in the future.

Here is an update on how a number of these projects are progressing and the benefit they will bring to the community.

#### **Safe in Town Card**

The Safe In Town Card aims to make Birkenhead a safer place.

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

There are two main elements to the scheme. Firstly any vulnerable person can carry a card with their details and the details of a person to contact if they need assistance. Secondly there will be a number of 'Safe Areas' around the Town Centre for vulnerable people to go to receive help.

Working with statutory partners to identify the most suitable Safe Areas, the list of areas where vulnerable people can go to for help and assistance has now been confirmed. These are:

- Birkenhead Fire Station
- The Lauries
- The Pyramids Food Court
- Europa Pools
- Wirral Met College (Conway Park Campus)
- Conway Park Train Station
- Birkenhead Bus Station
- Community Police Station in the Town Centre
- Birkenhead Town Hall
- Police Station
- Woodside Ferry Terminal

The Safe In Town card is in the process of being designed and printed. Once completed the cards will be distributed to all the social sector groups who work with vulnerable.

## **Rock Ferry Community Garden**

The physical building of the community garden at Rock Ferry Library and One Stop Shop is complete and the Birkenhead Constituency team is working with the Library and One Stop Shop and a local Community Interest Company moving the project forward.

Providing a free community resource for local groups, schools and residents to use will always be the main purpose of the garden. However by working in partnership with the Community Interest Company ensures that the garden will be maintained, kept in use and offer more activities to the community.

Once the garden is officially complete there will be an official opening of the for all interested parties.

**For information on any of these projects please contact.**

**Andy Brannan, Birkenhead Neighbourhood Engagement Officer.  
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