



Constituency Committee - Birkenhead Special Meeting

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| Date: | Thursday, 3 November 2016 |
| Time: | 6.00 pm |
| Venue: | Council Chamber, 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. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 14)

The Committee be requested to approve the accuracy of minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2016.

4. PRESENTATION - FLOOD INVESTIGATION REPORT

To receive a presentation from Neil Thomas, Highways Assets, Wirral Council

5. PRESENTATION - BIRKENHEAD STREET DRINKERS PROJECT

To receive a presentation from Gary Rickwood, Public Health, Wirral Council.

6. CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S REPORT (Pages 15 - 50)

To receive an update in relation to:

Keeping Birkenhead Clean

- Environmental task group update
- Birkenhead in Bloom 2016
- Clean-up programme for 2016

Feeding Birkenhead

- Food task group update
- Food Hub update
- Christmas hampers
- Holiday food

Road Safety update

- Birkenhead Road Safety Task Group update

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - BIRKENHEAD

Thursday, 28 July 2016

Present:

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| Councillors | A Brighthouse | B Kenny |
| | P Cleary | AR McLachlan |
| | A Davies | M McLaughlin |
| | G Davies | C Meaden |
| | P Davies | D Realey |
| | WJ Davies | D Roberts |
| | S Foulkes | J Stapleton |

Apologies

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Councillors | P Doughty | J McManus |
| | S Kelly | T Norbury |

1 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016-17**

The Legal Advisor to the Committee invited nominations for the appointment of the Chair.

On a motion by Councillor P Davies, seconded by Councillor A Davies, it was –

Resolved – That Councillor George Davies be appointed Chair of the Birkenhead Constituency Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

The Legal Advisor to the Committee then requested nominations for appointment of Vice-Chair.

On a motion by Councillor P Davies and seconded by Councillor J Stapleton, it was –

Resolved – That Councillor Moira McLaughlin be appointed Vice-Chair of the Birkenhead Constituency Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

The Chair thanked Frank Field MP for the work he had done in respect of this Committee and also the work he would continue to do for the constituency.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor P Doughty

Councillor S Kelly

Councillor J McManus

Councillor T Norbury

Mr J Blott, Strategic Director, Transformation and Resources

3 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Steve Foulkes, declared a prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 4 - Minutes and item 9 – Public Questions and Answers - by virtue of reference being made to Magenta Living, of which he is a Board Member.

Councillor Jean Stapleton declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 6 – Birkenhead Business Improvement District – by virtue of being a Member of the Steering Group who had submitted a bid.

4 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2016 be agreed as a correct record subject to the amendment of the attendance list to reflect the presence of Councillor Angela Davies.

5 **PRESENTATION - WIRRAL AREA COMMANDER**

The Committee considered a presentation by Chief Superintendent Ian Hassall.

He provided an outline of the current position in the Birkenhead constituency, the work being done and changes that would be undertaken.

Chief Superintendent Hassall reported that there had been a downward trend in respect of the number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour which included a 28% decrease within Wirral and a 30% decrease within the 7 beats area.

He advised that there had been a reduction in crime from April 2015 to March 2016 and that the current figures could be used to identify hotspots where resources could be placed. He further advised that there was a high footfall of social media crime in Birkenhead and Wallasey.

Members were informed that a collaborative approach would be taken as it was recognised that it was effective to use a multi-agency approach to target ASB, volume crime and serious organised crime, particularly through intelligence sharing. A Wirral ASB team was co-located at Wallasey Police Station and a detective constable had been appointed to the Wirral Priority Team to establish and develop partnerships with other agencies. Multi agency days utilised partners including enforcement officers, Licensing, Trading Standards, Social Services, HMRC, RSPCA, DVLA/VOSA, Immigration, WASB Team, Catch 22, Barnardo's, Utilities and Illegal Money Lending Team.

Chief Superintendent Hassall explained that there were a number of initiatives underway in respect of controlled drinking environments and advised that a lot of work, including the Reducing the Strength campaign, had been undertaken. He referred to the myriad of partnership working on The Beechwood Estate.

It was reported that there had been positive feedback in respect of the Collaborative Events which included the Birkenhead Summer Festival, ASB Play, Litter Picks, Town Centre PSG and Pride in your alley.

In respect of moving forward, it was reported that a number of old buildings had been closed down some of which had been sold and that there would be community Police Stations, to be close to other partners and to provide drop in surgeries. Work would also be undertaken with Birkenhead First and The Hive. During this transition it was also hoped that staffing shifts would be provided to meet demands.

In response to questions from Members, Chief Superintendent Hassall advised that Merseyside had not seen the same replication as other areas in respect of incidents of hate crime and that this seemed to have levelled off nationally. He also reported that there would be more resources in place and there would be an increase in the numbers of staff in the response portfolio for emergency calls. He stressed that sharing information was key in making sure that correct areas were targeted and to enable discussions to take place in respect of what activity each agency could put in place.

The Chair reiterated the importance of a collaborative approach and agreed that this approach would be the way forward.

Resolved – That Chief Superintendent Hassall be thanked for his presentation.

6 PRESENTATION - BIRKENHEAD BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Mr K Adderley gave a presentation in respect of Birkenhead First.

He reported that further to consultation taking place, local businesses had voted in favour of introducing a Business Improvement District where a levy of 1.5% would be applied to business rates.

Mr Adderley advised that the Chamber of Commerce had worked together with the Council and that the key priorities were for a safer, more secure, cleaner, more attractive Birkenhead; better marketing and promotion of Birkenhead and better support for businesses. Members were informed that a steering group had been set up and an outline of the area where the BID would be operating was provided. It was believed that it was important to have a voice for the business community and that Birkenhead First would bring businesses together by creating one voice for the business community, which would allow lobbying local authorities on the issues that matter most to the businesses in Birkenhead. Quarterly meetings had been held and town hosts had been introduced which had proven to be a huge asset for Birkenhead. Town hosts would act as ambassadors for Birkenhead providing visitor information and work together with the local authorities and police to discourage anti-social behaviour and provide a uniformed presence in the town. It was reported that the town hosts had already been involved with the anti-social behaviour team and that 31 reports had been made with two people having been banned from the town centre as a result. They also identified a number of issues in respect of the environment and as a result planters had been moved to Woodside and filled with flowers.

A programme of events was underway, the first of which had been held on Tuesday 26 July where over 6,000 people had visited Hamilton Square. This had also demonstrated a positive effect on surrounding businesses.

The business support service would offer practical advice and information to businesses and the programme of events planned for 2016 and into 2017, would raise the profile of Birkenhead within the wider Wirral community and to tourists, generate interest and knowledge of the area, increase footfall for retailers and create a positive image of Birkenhead as a safe and secure child and family-friendly town.

It was reported that over the next five years Birkenhead First would continue to demonstrate commitment to the town and its people and would also continue to listen to, and work for, the benefit of businesses in the BID area.

In response to questions from Members, Mr Adderley advised that the monies spent would be available for the public to access. He also reported that works could not be carried out that were the responsibility of the public sector,

however work would be undertaken with the Council in respect of signage and lighting.

Members expressed their support for the Birkenhead Business Improvement District.

Resolved – That Mr Adderley be thanked for his presentation.

7 **PRESENTATION - HEALTH AND WORKLESSNESS PROJECT**

Ms J Webster gave a presentation in respect of the Health and Worklessness Project.

Members were advised that work in this field had been ongoing since 2014 and Ms Webster referred to the fact that Public Health had moved under the responsibility of the Council in 2013. It was reported that being in work was good for mental health and wellbeing. Statistics were provided in relation to percentages of worklessness and it was also reported that 50% of all claims made were mental health related. Members were advised that health, employment and community organisations had been invited to practitioner workshops to share professional insight/experience and a number of questions had been identified.

Ms Webster informed Members that work had been undertaken with local businesses and a workshop hosted by Wirral Chamber had highlighted the fact that physical problems are 'easier' to deal with than mental health. She referred to research undertaken by ESRO to understand the demands and challenges to be fit for work and advised that more than twenty stakeholder interviews had taken place and that 150 people had been spoken to who were providers of services eg Job Centre, Arch Initiatives. A bleak picture had been found of people feeling a deep sense of isolation and loneliness. Social networks had got smaller and smaller which had led to mental health issues being exacerbated. A danger of creating dependency and negative views had led to demotivation. A negative feedback loop was demonstrated with many respondents existing in the grey area which contained unrealistic goals, overly basic support and confusing service provision landscape.

It was reported that funding had been identified to commission a network of community connectors to engage and support local people to get them back to where they needed to be.

Resolved – That Ms Webster be thanked for her presentation.

8 **BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Constituency Manager provided an update on progress of projects funded by budgets devolved to the Birkenhead Constituency Committee. A finance summary sheet for the Birkenhead Constituency Committee budget and expenditure was attached to the report as an appendix.

Also attached to the report were appendices which the Constituency Manager presented to the Committee in relation to updates on Clean-ups, the Birkenhead Food hub and the Birkenhead Library Health, Wellbeing and Reading Park.

The Constituency Manager provided further information to the Committee on the following:

Birkenhead in Bloom

The Constituency Manager reported that this had been a very successful day which had brought £15,000 from different sources and confirmed that it was a really positive way of getting the community together to improve the environment. She advised Members that almost £5,000 had been used to hire 44 skips for clean ups in a number of areas throughout Birkenhead and that an estimated 33,000 tonnes of rubbish had been removed as a result of the clean-up days.

The Constituency Manager advised that the 'Community Pay Back' team had done a lot of work involving cleaning, weeding and painting and that this work would continue in the future.

Resolved –

- (1) That the successful completion of Birkenhead in Bloom areas; Involve North West contract and community clean ups, work by probation and the related spend on skips be noted.**
- (2) That an invitation to tender for a further grotspots project be put out on the chest, allocation amount to be agreed, to be overseen by the Environment Task Group.**
- (3) That £5,000 be allocated to the 2016-17 skip fund.**
- (4) That £20,000 be allocated for environment works for 2016-17.**

Food Hubs

The Constituency Manager reported that £15,000 had been invested into three food hubs: Rock Ferry, Beechwood and Bidston and St James.

A representative from the Bidston and St James food hub addressed the meeting and advised that a weekly programme of activities had been run which included after school clubs where children and parents could eat. She advised that 110 meals had been provided during that week and that they were working closely with the Local Authority and Children's Centres to encourage families to attend. She informed Members that together with Lifelong Learning they were hoping to provide adult cookery classes with an optional qualification in Food Hygiene, Nutrition and Allergy Awareness. She believed that partnership was key and advised that they were working closely with Beechwood and Gautby Road Community Centres.

A representative from the Rock Ferry food hub was also in attendance. She advised that the venue had now changed to Beaconsfield Community House and a lot more support could be offered. She reported that 1637 meals and snacks had been delivered throughout the year of running the programme. Members were informed that Rock Ferry food hub ran a weekly large social supermarket and allowed people to pay what they could in money, skills or time. She reported that 1235 kilos of food had been intercepted and redistributed and that 345 k had been given to other projects. This had all been done by the commitment of volunteers.

The Chair congratulated the representatives on the work that had been done.

The Constituency Manager referred to the Wirral Fare Share which had been launched before Christmas and was located in Wallasey Wheatland Road Business units. She advised Members that they intercepted food from suppliers and outlets and distributed to charities at lower costs for redistribution to people as part of luncheon clubs, social food hubs and food banks. It was reported that Fare Share now had a number of Birkenhead Members.

The Constituency Manager reported that food hubs were working together and had decided to increase their order and delivery from His Church from August 2016 and expressed her thanks to the volunteers.

Resolved –

- (1) That the progress of the Birkenhead food hubs be noted.**
- (2) That £40,000 of the 2016-17 committee funding be allocated to the Feeding Birkenhead Task Group for expanding food related projects.**

Your Wirral Birkenhead

The Constituency Manager reported that since the last committee meeting a final round of Birkenhead Your Wirral Funding took place and a total of £22,560 was awarded to 10 organisations to carry out projects to address food poverty and provide provision to children and young people during the school holidays. It was reported that after all the projects were awarded, an underspend of £69,049 remained and that this could be used as matchfunding for a community shop project located in the Pyramids, subject to securing lottery funds for the project.

Resolved –

- (1) That the progress in relation to Your Wirral spend 2015-16 be noted.**
- (2) That it be noted there remained £69,049 to match fund the community shop project.**

Road Safety

The Constituency Manager advised that the Road Safety Task Group had met on 11 December 2015 and considered nine road safety proposals. Members were advised that funds had been allocated to Circular Road, Hinderton Road and Bidston Village and that the projects were currently being delivered by the Highways and Road Safety Section.

It was reported that a further £32,500 had been allocated to the Constituency Committees for 2016-17.

Resolved –

- (1) That the update from the Road Safety projects 2015-16 be noted.**
- (2) That the allocation of £32,500 for 2016-17 road safety projects be delegated to the Road Safety Task Group.**

Tackling ASB

The Constituency Manager reported that in 2015-16 the Committee had £54,000 to allocate to ASB projects and that the total spent was £23,999. It has been agreed by the ASB task group and committee that the remaining £30,034 go to the Integrated Approach where it would be allocated through the Police and the ASB team.

Resolved – That the Constituency Committee note that the integrated team had allocated the funds to the following projects:

- **Child Sexual Exploitation Project - £1,000**
- **Sports Development Project at the tennis centre until ‘The Hive’ opens in February 2017 - £2,136.**

9 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Chair referred to the pre-raised questions that had been received by the Committee and invited those present to address the Committee in respect of the questions raised.

Question 2 Patrick Dowling

Mr Dowling requested a report from Mr Field in respect of averting the closure of the Woodside Ferry. He also queried whether there had been a separate ceremony for Armed Forces Day other than the one held in Hamilton Square.

Mr Dowling had received a response advising that Frank Field would be meeting with Liam Robinson (Chair of Merseytravel) and Councillor Paul Doughty to discuss the options for securing the long term future of the Ferry Terminal.

Councillor Foulkes expanded upon this at the meeting and advised that a meeting had been held at Merseytravel earlier that day and that Frank Field had engaged with Merseytravel to discuss the development of the Birkenhead Plan. Councillor Foulkes also advised that a sum of money would be spent on the landing stage and that Councillor Doughty had also taken part in the discussions.

A written response was also provided stating that the Armed Forces Day had been organised by a third party. While the Council had given permission for the event to take place on Council land the third sector group had taken responsibility for the organising and running of it.

Members of the Committee also advised that Councillors had been present at different locations where events had been held in respect of the Armed Forces Day.

Question 3 Alan Dollery

Mr Dollery raised the following query:

The Prenton Tenants and Residents Association has been running for over 15 years and over those years we have had the normal amount of complaints over street parking, we have approached the Wirral Council over this matter 2

years ago, and we were told of the complexity of preventing pavement parking due to various situations in and around the areas involved. We have also informed the police because they are the only ones that can prosecute the offender/s again nothing has been done.

Recently we the PTRA went around the estate due to having quite a few complaints coming in to our shop from residents. We found no fewer than 22 cars fully parked on the pavements, this surely is against the law. I need to inform the residents effected by this alarming increase to pavement parking in our area what action if any can be done.

I therefore would like to ask the meeting if they can they look at our situation again, and although money is tight, I feel that more lay-byes could be introduced to alleviate some of the problem areas we have. The areas most effected are Prenton Dell Road, Garrick Road, Boswell Road. Prenton Dell Road being the route taken by Mums with prams going to the local Doctors surgery have to walk on the roads to get past a car parked on the pavement. Please advise on what action can be applied legally.

Mr Dollery received a response from the Department for Regeneration and Environment advising that pavement parking where it causes obstruction to pedestrians can also increase potential danger for them if they have to walk in busy roads. In comparatively quiet residential roads (and indeed in many new housing estate areas where roads are designed with no footways) it can be less of a problem in practice. The provision of parking laybys is normally comparatively expensive to undertake with rough costs approximating to £24,000 for a 50m length of layby. This indicative cost is also potentially subject to additional costs for relocating underground services such as gas, water, telecoms etc.

Generally when providing laybys we need to ensure that in addition to accommodating the width of a vehicle, we also need to have sufficient footway remaining to cater for pedestrians. Reviewing the roads highlighted in this request there are a number of additional factors to be taken into account including the cost of relocating street lighting columns along with a requirement to accommodate many driveways.

Pavement parking is a particularly complex issue, and unless there is a specific traffic regulation order (either a yellow line in operation or a separate verge/pavement parking TRO), the Council doesn't have any specific powers to take action against drivers.

The current initiative on pavement parking aims to make drivers more aware of the problems that it can cause, particularly relating to obstructive pavement parking. In these instances we may issue a warning notice to the vehicle and keep details of the registration number, time, location etc. Where we find

repeated problems we may pass this information to the police to see if they wish to undertake enforcement (prosecutions).

In dealing with such issues, it is important that we operate correctly and within the law. The legislations available to take action are somewhat complex but in essence relate to:

- Wirral Council can take action where we have a traffic regulation order relating to waiting or specifically around footway & verge parking.
- Wirral Council could take action where we can identify and prove (to a legal standard) that a specific driver (not vehicle) has caused damage to our property.
- Merseyside Police can take action where they can prove unnecessary obstruction.
- Merseyside Police can take action where they can prove driving on the footway.

Officers have visited this area and whilst some parking on footways was observed this was not obstructive and pedestrians would still be able to pass. It is suggested that residents raise any concerns over obstructive parking with the police who have powers to prosecute if needed.

The Chair advised that this would be referred to the Highways Department for consideration. Councillor Foulkes advised that the Committee would liaise with the other Constituency Committees in respect of this.

Question 10 Sue Hughes

A trustee of Shaftesbury Youth Club addressed the Committee and advised that discussions had been ongoing for over 5 years about the possible Asset Transfer of Council owned football pitches to Shaftesbury Youth club (Registered Charity). The pitches are adjacent to the club. A Transfer would ensure an improved use of this facility and provide a better maintenance regime than currently exists.

He asked whether the Area Constituency Committee were aware of these discussions and whether it supported such a proposal, as Shaftesbury are very keen to take on this project.

Also, since April 2016 Shaftesbury's annual grant from Wirral Council had been reduced by £10K, therefore the income from these fields would help towards much needed revenue for the club.

A response had been provided from the Department for Parks and Countryside who advised that the information had been forwarded to the relevant department who would provide the answer to Shaftesbury Youth Club via the Constituency Team when it had been completed.

The Constituency Manager advised that she would follow this up with the Asset Team and provide feedback at the next meeting of the Committee.

Question 13 John Brace

Mr Brace asked what was happening to combat fly tipping in Hoblyn Road, Collin Road, Naylor Road and Flaybrick Cemetery.

A response had been provided from the Department for Regeneration and Environment who advised that Hoblyn Road, Collin Road and Naylor Road were subject to street cleansing on a 4 weekly schedule and that over the past months several deposits of fly tipping had emerged at the very top of these areas. The Council's Enforcement Team and Kingdom had been investigating the fly tipping and had had positive feedback.

Work had also been undertaken with Magenta Living regarding the development of the existing houses with additional street cleansing. This work would continue when the new development was completed, working with housing officers tackling waste and recycling, street cleansing and fly tipping.

Councillor McLachlan advised that extra resources had been provided as the area had been treated as a Grotspot due to the number of empty properties.

Question 14 Leonora Brace

Councillor S Foulkes declared a prejudicial interest in this matter and left the room during its consideration (minute 3 refers).

Mr Brace addressed the Committee and asked what was happening to all the houses in and around Hoblyn Road, Collin Road, Naylor Road and some in Hoylake Road as a lot of people have to live rough and these houses are vacant.

A response had been provided from Magenta who reported that the Crossways Estate in North Birkenhead comprises of 200 three bed houses including Hoblyn, Collin and Naylor Road along with 13 properties on Hoylake Road. Mr Brace was advised that very limited demand began to be experienced and Magenta Living took the decision not to allocate any of the properties on Crossways until a longer term, sustainable solution could be found.

Magenta Living had carried out survey work and been working with residents to identify improvement options. One of the principle issues raised by residents was the unpopular 'gilbury' units, ground floor extensions that house the bathroom facilities. Two demonstration properties were made available to residents to view in May 2016, one had the bathroom relocated upstairs and

made into a 2 bed house, the other was retained as a 3 bed again with the bathroom upstairs.

Feedback from residents was largely very positive and work has subsequently commenced, on a phased basis in order to ensure demand still existed, improving the empty properties in Hoblyn Road, including the demolition the gilbury units, before the occupied properties are then improved.

Other works identified included:

- Demolition of some properties towards Flaybrick Memorial Gardens
- Improved physical security measures
- Improving the external appearance of properties
- Exploring the option of a low cost home ownership scheme

The Chair advised that during the public meetings that had taken place the residents had favoured the properties being made into 2 bedroom properties where bedroom tax would not be applied.

Question 15 Alan Dollery

Mr Dollery had raised the following query:

The PTRA team have been in touch with the Wirral Council Environmental team with concerns over the amount of weeds that are growing in the gutters in and around the shopping area in Prenton Hall Road. The main reason we have named Prenton Hall Road in particular is because it runs through the shopping area in which people do their shopping, people pass by on buses or drive past in their cars far more times than the other roads within the area which also have similar problems.

However, our concern is the presentation of our area to those who pass us by on a daily basis, not to mention our community who have to look at the problem day night.

After talks with Lisa Blackwell from the Council the PTRA proposed we try weed picking ourselves, thus after being successful with the Litter picking around the same area. After the collection of over 5 bags of weeds from the area in question we found that the reason the weeds are growing so regular is that the road does not fit.

What I mean by the road does not fit is because it does not reach the kerbs should this be the case? Build a road and if it's not big enough fill the two inch gap that's left with soil?

I'm sure this is not right because we will never get rid of the weeds ever, they will just grow, and grow, and grow, and grow. Spraying the weeds does not

work, our problem proves this, as all our weeds in and around the estate were sprayed a few months ago but the weeds they are still growing.

I have taken photographs of before and after and hopefully I will present them on the night of the meeting.

I must add that not all roads affected in the Prenton Dell area are 2" short either side, but the ones in Prenton Hall Road are, and they need addressing. not just with weed killer these gaps must be filled in with concrete, otherwise we are going to be overgrown with weeds constantly, and we as the PTRA will not be weeding again in this area because of the regularity of the weeds over - growing.

We the PTRA need to ask the meeting if they would look at our situation with urgency and rectify the problem as soon as possible. We also feel that the situation is not a natural / nature problem, we believe it's a bad workmanship problem and one that needs urgent attention

A response had been provided by the Department for Regeneration and Environment who advised that the carriageway in question had been constructed decades ago with the gap being installed intentionally as part of the construction process to allow for sideways expansion of the concrete slab. Without this gap the kerbs would be pushed out of place or the surface of the slab would break up when there was no room for expansion in the warmer weather.

The Council's Ground Maintenance Team would visit the shopping area around Prenton Hall Road to provide additional weed spraying to try and address the issue raised.

The Chair suggested that this be raised at the Environmental Task and Finish Group.

The Chair thanked all those who attended the meeting.



Constituency Committee - Birkenhead Thursday, 3 November 2016

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| REPORT TITLE: | Constituency Manager's Report |
| REPORT OF: | Strategic Director: Families and Wellbeing |

REPORT SUMMARY

UPDATE ON BUDGET FOR BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

Section 3 and 4 of this report provides an update on progress in relation to agreed schemes of work from the budget devolved to the Constituency Committee to date. A finance summary sheet for Constituency Committee budget and expenditure can be found in Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the North West in Bloom awards that have been won by Birkenhead in Bloom projects**
- **Note the partnership work undertaken for clean-up days funded by the skip fund**
- **Note the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean-ups**
- **Note the updates from the food hubs**
- **Note the Christmas hamper project update**
- **Note the updates regarding the Improving Life Chances community pilots**
- **Note the updates regarding tackling ASB**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

Please see section 3.0 background information for details

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Please see section 3.0 background information for details

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Keeping Birkenhead Clean

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

- £5K allocated to skip funds
- £7K allocated to 'In Bloom' 2016-17
- £8K to a grotspot improvement/fly tipping project

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

North West In Bloom

Birkenhead in Bloom was extremely successful this year. The following areas have been invited to receive an award at the North West in Bloom ceremony in Southport on 27th October 2016:

- All things Bright and Beautiful – planters and hanging baskets in Borough Road and YMCA garden
- Beechwood in Bloom
- Bidston Village
- Gautby in Bloom
- Livingstone Street in Bloom
- Bidston Rise in Bloom/Blue wood/Jamesbrook Close
- Oxton in Bloom
- Williamson in Bloom
- Rock Ferry in Bloom

- Beaconsfield in Bloom
- Prenton in Bloom
- Claughton in bloom
- Epworth Grange in bloom

42 community members, partners and Councillors will be attending the ceremony and will start planning delivering next year's Birkenhead in Bloom projects. The projects were a great example of agencies putting in time and funds, working with schools and residents to improve their areas. Big Local, Magenta and Tesco's made valuable contribution with time and funds. Schools, Environmental Team, Involve North West and probation and residents allocated time and resources to the projects.

Skip Funds

£6K was been allocated for skips in 2015-16 and further £5K was allocated in 2016-17. The 67 skips have been used for the following clean ups:

2015

- Rodney Street 15th October – 4 skips
- Rock Park – 2 skips
- Beaconsfield Court 15th November – 2 skips

2016

- Harrowby Street 16th January -2 skips
- Police action day North End 16th February – 6 skips
- Clifton residents 17th February – 2 skips
- Rock Park- 20th March – 1 skip
- Seymour Street clean up 16th February - 2 skip
- Elmswood 16th February – 2 skip
- Beechwood 2nd March - 5 skips
- Beechwood 27th April - 3 skips
- Ribble Street 13th May - 2 skips
- Raffles Road 26th May – 2 skips
- Patterson Street 14th June – 3 skips
- Woodlands 16th June - 3 skips
- Beechwood 22nd June – 3 skips
- Birkenhead Town Centre - 13th July – 4 skips
- Victoria Road – 15th September – 1 skips
- Beaconsfield Community Centre – 3rd October -1 skip
- Harrowby Road 18th November – 5 skips ordered
- Crossways, Avenues 26th October and 4th November - 12 skips ordered

Over £8000 has been used to hire 67 skips in Birkenhead so far and at least 70 tonnes of rubbish has been removed as a result of the clean-up days. The Police, Fire Service, Biffa, Involve North West, residents, Councillors and the Environmental Team have worked together to achieve the clean-ups above.

The 'Community Pay Back' team have delivered a programme of alleyway weed clearing for Birkenhead 'In Bloom' for clean ups and a range of other cleansing too, as outlined below.

- 63 Woodlands clean up
- Weeds in entries in Claughton
- Oxtan Road painting the railings
- Gautby Road painting the front of the community centre and the railings
- Beechwood hub – painting the shutters on the shops
- 268 Claughton Road lady trapped in the house because alley way was tipped so cleared alleyway
- Hoylake Road entry removed flytipping
- Woodchurch Road entry removed flytipping
- Inglemore/Fieldway Rock Ferry cleared alleyways
- Bedford Place fly tipping removal
- Bedford Road/Byrne Ave flytipping removal
- Rock Ferry underpass flytipping removal
- Conway Street fence lanes flytipping removal
- Borough Road hoardings flytipping removal and cleanse
- Rendle Street off Cleveland Street flytipping removal and cleanse
- Devaney Medical Centre Oxtan Road painting the railings
- Rear Chestnut Grove flytipping removal and cleanse
- Underbridge Chamberlain Street flytipping removal and cleanse

Birkenhead in Bloom 2016-17

Preparations are already being made to improve areas and involve partners throughout Birkenhead as part of next years in Bloom competition. We are hoping to increase entrants and lever in further funds to build on the work carried out this Summer.

Please see Appendix 2 for further details of the Birkenhead Constituency's environmental works to date and planned for November 2016.

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the awards that have been won for Birkenhead in Bloom**
- **Note the partnership work for clean-up days for the skip fund**
- **Note the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean ups**

3.2 Feeding Birkenhead

The Food Task group met on 14th September in order to allocate funds £35K to food projects in the area.

So far the task group has allocated:

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

There is £28K remaining. The group are meeting on w/c 17th October to discuss allocating further funds. The task group is considering inviting applications from local groups to deliver holiday food for the next year. The approach will be confirmed at the next meeting.

Updates from the food hubs

Beechwood Food Hub

Beechwood Food Hub has a strong commitment to providing food to vulnerable people and families living on the estate either through its food bank supported by residents and members of Beechwood Chapel, it is not connected to the Trussell Trust.

Pallets purchased from HIS Church Christian charity are an integral part of food provision for Beechwood. At this point in time, supplies are being used to supplement the Food hub. Beechwood purchases 3 pallets every three weeks.

The asset transfer of Beechwood Play and Community Centre is underway with the exchange of contracts hopefully taking place in early November 2016. Once the refurbishment has taken place, cooked food will be available on a regular basis in early February 2017 with the use of food obtained from Fareshare and HIS Church.

Recruitment of volunteers is essential to ensure delivery. A new approach and management of volunteers with a possible rebranding of a title maybe 'Food Ambassadors' or 'Food Angels', we accept a new approach has to be adopted and we are receptive to this. The nature of volunteering is changing and we accept we have to do things differently if we are to attract local individuals who would like to volunteer and stay with us.

In the October 2016 half term we will provide meals (no charge) for 40 children at the Beechwood Play and Community Centre for three days per week. We work closely with the Neo Cafe at Beaconsfield Community House who will provide us with some food intercepted from supermarkets.

If you are interested in volunteering on the Beechwood please contact georgethomas@beechwoodtrust.org

Rock Ferry Food Hub – Neo at Beaconsfield Centre

Holiday provision went well and Neo worked with Birkenhead boys club. The Council have been making repairs to the Beaconsfield Centre building which is looking very good. The social supermarket is running throughout the week and crisis hampers are still going out every week.

Neo are delivering a community dinner every Monday and working with LIPA to give a community a voice on a Wednesday. Adult learning courses begin next week at the Beaconsfield Centre and half term provision, unfunded, will run for 3 days.

The Christmas hamper appeal is now live and going well and foot fall to the centre is increasing weekly. 'Wednesday advice day' has begun with environmental advice, money management, debt advice and cookery.

Early Years Trust has now moved into and lots of provision to begin for 0-5 year olds. Neo are doing well with fundraising for next year's building costs and have 50% for next year. Neo are very proud of welcoming Jeremy Corbyn to visit the centre and sample activities.

St James Food Hub

Activities where food has been provided have been very successful. Families have appreciated the offer of toast during the morning sessions and the opportunity for children to make their own lunch and sit to eat it as a community.

The family cooking has been an ongoing success. St James' run these sessions throughout the year and have welcomed 27 families since October 2015.

Since the last committee meeting St James has provided the following:

Summer Programme

- Total number of meals provided: 903
- Total number of sessions offered: 36 (excluding 5 days a week open access café for breakfast and lunch)
- Total number of participants: 387 (children only)*
- please note: this excludes the 6 excursions provided. Over 250 individuals engaged accessing 325 places visiting Knowsley Safari Park, Gulliver's World, Monkey World, Apple Jack's Farm, The Story Barn (Reader Org) and Blackpool.
- Sessions offered:
- 4 library craft & breakfast
- 5 Monday play schemes and lunch (pasta, hot dogs, soup with homemade bread, wraps wedges, sandwiches)
- 5 Youth clubs and hot tea (pasta, homemade KFC chicken, pizza, wraps & wedges ,homemade burgers and wedges)
- 5 Park play and cold tea (sandwiches)
- Glitz and Glam party
- 5 family cooking sessions (various meals made with a 'food from around the world theme' including burgers, pasta, curry, fajitas and a pudding)
- 5 junior chef school sessions (fish cakes, spaghetti bolognese, burgers, curry, popcorn chicken and puddings including muffins, crumble, cold deserts)
- 4 sessions with Can Cook Studios
- 2 autism friendly library sessions with snack
- Glitz and Glam party (organised by Youth Volunteers for children aged 8 and under, disco, face painting, nail painting and party food)

- 145 hot and cold breakfasts provided by the Open Door Café (cereal, toast, sausage, egg or beans on toast)
- 50 lunches provided by the Open Door Café (toasties, sandwiches, pasta dishes)

St James provides these activities on an on-going basis along with their discounted supermarket, food bank, Reach Out advice, cookery workshops and accredited food training. They will be providing half term holiday provision, Christmas hampers and Christmas food.

Gautby Road Community Centre

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

Gautby is ordering pallets from His Church and negotiated a good price from Fareshare for pallets for the Christmas hamper project. They are working in partnership with St James to deliver 1000 hampers. They are including a wide range of promotional material in the hampers and will offer other services to families in need Eg. winter warm pack, fire service smoke alarm fitting. The hamper project has levered in £500 from Magenta and £400 from local businesses. Park Group has contributed 1000 boxes and cellophane worth over £300. The police, ASB team, fire service and others will promote their work and help deliver the hampers.

The centre has recently refurbished the kitchen in order to offer holiday food to local children. They have ordered His Church rice krispies and corn flakes and contacted every primary school to offer breakfast cereals at discounted prices. They are working with local children to grow and cook their own vegetables as part of Gautby in Bloom 2017.

Every year Gautby has a Halloween and Christmas grotto that attracts over 300 people. Gautby is using events such as these to promote the food hub and other services. Gautby Road has close links with Holy Cross School and works together on a number of initiatives.

Christmas Hamper project

The Birkenhead Food Hubs are all providing Christmas hampers this year. Each hub has secured funding and food from donations, businesses, housing providers and Big Local. Families in need will be referred to the food hubs and up to 3000 families will receive food, toys, cleansing products, winter warm packs and information about services available as part of the project. Fareshare and His church are providing the food, Park group are providing boxes and cellophane. If you are aware of any families in need, please let the constituency team know and we will forward it on to the appropriate food hub.

Please see Appendix 3 for further details of the work of the Food Hubs.

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the updates on the food hubs**
- **Note the Christmas hamper update**

3.3 Road Safety

The Road Safety task group met on 17th August, 11 proposals were submitted to the Road Safety Task group. The Road Safety team are currently costing out the proposals that the task group identified as the most achievable. The task group will meet again in week commencing 24th October to agree which of the proposals will be funded this financial year.

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the update regarding the Road Safety Task group**

3.4 Improving Life Chances

Update for Improving Life Chances Community Pilots

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

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

Task groups in two wards have been set up to target specific areas experiencing high child poverty: Bidston and St James ward, and Seacombe ward. The areas have had their initial meetings and are now developing their respective action plans for the next year. Please see Appendix 4 for Improving Life Chances (ILC) strategy.

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

Some generic aims have been established across the areas:

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

Already some good outputs have been planned:

- Christmas holiday food hamper project across Birkenhead and in each community pilot, working together in partnership. We hope to deliver over 2000 hampers across the Birkenhead area. £8K has been levered in already throughout the areas and Gautby Road Community centre has negotiated a good deal with Fareshare for surplus food. The food hampers are an opportunity to promote services through an info pack inside each hamper.
- The project is galvanising partnership working. Information in food hampers will include reporting ASB/Crimestoppers, energy advice, magenta news, Fairforyou, credit unions, school uniform swaps etc.

- An info pack is being developed which will be tailored to each area and particular themes which can be distributed at the food hubs, in hampers, Halloween events etc.
- Beechwood has identified a need for a handyman service for the elderly – this is being explored through ‘unltd’ funding
- St James is doing a joint application to Warm Homes for an awareness raising event across the pilots
- Halloween and Christmas grotto in Beechwood and St James is being looked at as an opportunity for exploring promoting volunteering, promoting other services, befriending
- October and Christmas holiday food will be co-ordinated across Birkenhead and the pilot areas
- An action plan of events and activities over the year is being developed
- A volunteering/befriending project is being explored in Beechwood which has the potential to be replicated across other areas (hopefully with a portfolio for the volunteer that will lead to training or jobs)
- Beechwood will look at developing St Paul’s School community hub and offering a breakfast food club, possibly in partnership with Fareshare
- Beechwood and the North End are jointly bussing young people to the River of Light festival on bonfire night as part of Operation Banger
- Invite agencies like Job Centre Plus/Remploy/Reach Out/Health Connectors to discounted supermarkets to promote services
- Joint training and e-learning will be offered eg. child poverty e-learning, Energy Projects Plus training, Food Hygiene training
- Sharing of initiatives and learning across the areas

As the project develops, we will report back to the constituency committee with what the project is achieving.

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

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

3.5 Tackling ASB

This 2015-16 the Constituency Committee had in total £54,000 to allocate to ASB projects. Details of this 2015-16 allocations are set out in the finance summary sheet in Appendix 1.

- £3,779 YMCA to deliver their Summer activities
- £7,064 The LADS project which will be delivered by the Youth Services.
- £1700 Boxing project
- £7956 Sports development
- £2000 Youth sports
- £1500 Ridgeway bonfire night

• **Total spent: £23,999**

£30,034 remaining was agreed by the ASB task group and committee to go to the Integrated Approach where it would be allocated through the Police and the ASB team, who have allocated funds as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| • Youth Sport nights until March 2017 | £4,850 |
| • Youth outreach in North end around Bonfire Night | £500 |
| • Child Sexual Exploitation Training | £1000 |
| Total | £6,350 |

The Police and the ASB team have £17,649 to allocate.

Bonfire Night and Halloween activities to tackle ASB

Two Coaches to the River of Light festival have been arranged from Beechwood and St James and Gautby Road Community Centre. Tesco are providing goody bags for young people on the trip. The Police have funded additional PCSO shifts over Halloween period. The skip initiative is providing 12 skips in all, over Birkenhead, Tranmere and the North End on 26th October and 4th November. The project is in partnership with the Environmental Team, probation and the Fire Service. The aim is to pick up as much combustible material before bonfire night.

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

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

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are no staffing implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

There are no relevant risks.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The community engagement update can be found in Appendix 5.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no equality implications.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Finance Table

Appendix 2: Environmental Update

Appendix 3: Updates from Food Hubs

Appendix 4: Improving Life Chances Strategy Community Pilots

Appendix 5: Engagement Update

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

| Council Meeting | Date |
|------------------------|-------------|
| | |

APPENDIX 1 2016-2017- Birkenhead Constituency financial allocations

| Areas of funding | Budget 2016/17 | Spend 2016/17 | Funding available in 2017/18 | Source | Funding available in 2017-2018 Committed against | Carried forward to 2017/2018 | Committed value | Balance unallocated | % Allocated from original resource (£268,083) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Core budget 2016/17 Previously allocated in 2014-15, but not used: TK Limited Data analysis Community researchers Merseyside fire-football project Rodney Street Parking Parking Scheme maintenance | £50,000 | | £60,000 | Funding within Wirral Council reserves | Core budget carry forward Rodney St parking (TBC) skip fund in bloom 2017 grotspots/flytipping TCP food provision Christmas hampers holiday food provision (task group to confirm) | £60,000 | £5,000 £5,000 £7,000 £8,000 £1,000 £6,000 £28,000 | TBC | £0 |
| Core Budget Sub-total | £64,000 | £4,000 | £60,000 | | Core Budget Sub-total | £60,000 | £60,000 | £0 | 100% |
| Integrated transport block capital programme (16/17): | £32,500 | | £32,500 | Capital funding still available to be utilised | Integrated transport block capital programme carry forward | £32,500 | | £32,500 | |
| Improving Road Safety Sub-total | £32,500 | £0 | £32,500 | | Improving Road Safety Sub-total | £32,500 | £0 | £32,500 | 0% |
| Your Wirral: b/f from 15/16 Social Supermarket Scheme* <i>*nb: proposed by Frank Field, agreed by Magenta on the condition the additional funding required can be raised.</i> | £0 £69,450 | | £0 | | Your Wirral carry forward | £0 | | £0 | |
| Your Wirral Sub-total | £69,450 | £69,450 | £0 | | Your Wirral Sub-total | £0 | £0 | £0 | 100% |
| Birkenhead ASB 2016/17 b/f from 15/16 Transfer to ASB integrated approach team | £0 £30,034 | | £0 | | Core budget Carry forward | £0 | | £0 | |
| Birkenhead ASB sub-total | £30,034 | £30,034 | £0 | | | £0 | £0 | £0 | 100% |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Total | £195,984 | £103,484 | £92,500 |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Total | £92,500 | £60,000 | £32,500 | 17% |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|

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Community Clear Ups

Rodney Street

- Date 15th October
- Household waste removed: 4 skips = 2 tonnes

-Partner Involvement:

The environmental day was organised by the Rodney Street Resident Association with the support of the Birkenhead Constituency Committee, Involve Northwest and Wirral Council Apprentices.

The resident association also involved the children who lived in the road by organising a litter picking competition.



Beaconsfield Court

- Date 15th November
- Household waste removed: 2 skips = 1 tonne

-Partner Involvement:

Cllr Chris Meaden ordered the skips with the Birkenhead Constituency Committee and liaised with the residents herself.

Harrowby Road

- Date January 16
- Household waste removed: 2 skips = 1 tonne

-Partner Involvement:

Cllr Pat Cleary ordered the skips with the Birkenhead Constituency Committee and liaised with the residents himself.

Police Action Day (North End)

- Date February 16

-Household waste removed: 6 skips = 3 tonnes
9 x 7.5 Biffa Lorries = 9 tonnes

-Partner Involvement:

On the 1st February 2016 the police organised a day of action around the North End and Harrowby Road, Tranmere.

The purpose of the community action day was to allow vulnerable residents to dispose of household waste while giving the police the opportunity to engage with the residents at the same time.

The police requested support from the Birkenhead Constituency Committee, both in terms of proving the skips and by organising additional support from Biffa and Involve Northwest.

Skips were placed at:

- Harrowby Road, Tranmere
- Hurrell Road, North End
- Norman Street, North End
- Connaught Close, North End



Hurrell Road required extra support from Involve Northwest and Biffa due to the amount of household waste placed at the site of the skips. Biffa assisted and 9 extra lorry loads was needed to remove the waste.

It is always difficult to estimate how much waste will be deposited at the location of the skips and in the case of Hurrell Road the amount of waste was far too much for the capacity of the skips.

Without the additional support of Biffa and Involve Northwest it would have been extremely difficult to remove the waste that couldn't fit into the skips.

Seymour Street

-Date February 16

-Household waste removed: 2 skips = 1 tonne

-Partner Involvement:

Cllr Pat Cleary ordered the skips with the Birkenhead Constituency Committee and liaised with the residents himself.

Elmswood Road

-Date February 16
-Household waste removed: 2 skips = 1 tonne

-Partner Involvement:

Cllr Pat Cleary ordered the skips with the Birkenhead Constituency Committee and liaised with the residents himself.

Clifton Park

-Date: February 2016
-Household waste removed: 2 skips – 1 tonne

-Partner Involvement:

Even though Clifton Park only had 2 skips on the Community Clear Up Day itself a lot of work was undertaken previously to identify issues the area was facing.

A walk about of the area was conducted by officers from the councils ASB Team, Waste and Recycling, ward councillors, Merseyside Police and representatives from Registered Social Landlords.

Below are the actions that were identified and actioned following the walk about.

1. Hollybank, gate 663 – serious fly tipping – Lisa to action - put on CRM and let the enforcement team know alley gate fly tipping dumped bath/sofa cushions/black bags.
2. Street light permanently on 46 Hollybank Road column 10
3. 37A The Woodlands bins - x3 green contaminated bins on footpath possible abandoned multiple bin bags have been left out - send enforcement letter out Front 37a
4. 45 The woodlands – Ian Gordon/Alan Lipscombe will investigate to see if it is an empty property and report back.
5. 47 The Woodlands - front driveway contaminated with over 30 black bin bags/x3 wheelie bins contaminated/x1 burnt out bin.
6. Street light out in Brookland Road
7. Borough Road opposite Pyramids – 3 bin bags to be shifted –Lisa to action with the neighbourhood.
8. Borough Road opposite TJ Hughes – alleyway to be cleansed and also grotspot outside of alleyway
9. 14 Circular Road- alley gate 677, wall is falling down
10. 12 Circular Road – A number of household items in the front garden
11. Side 22 Circular Road Birkenhead entry between the houses full of weeds
12. Rear 3 Lowwood Road Birkenhead Barn's estate agents Grange Road West landlord burning rubbish at rear

13. Dog fouling in the play area reported to Dog Fouling and Wirral Anti-social Behaviour Team.
14. 3 x Wheelie bin fires on The Woodlands to MFRS and Wirral Anti-social Behaviour Team
15. 5 The Woodlands reported to MFRS to assess any fire risk.
16. Cllr Jean Stapleton requested Mike from Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team contacted Environmental Health regarding fly tipping on Oxton Estate, Halcyon Road.

Police Action Day (Beechwood)

- Date 2nd March
- Household waste removed: 5 skips = 2.5 tonnes
- Partner Involvement:

Led by Merseyside Police, a day of action was organised on the Beechwood Estate on the 2nd March. The day consisted of a few elements including

- 5 skips situated around the estate to allow residents to dispose of household waste.
- Unused garages were searched for signs of illegal activity.
- Removal of graffiti
- Removal of a pole outside the shops on Fender Way for safety reasons.

A number of different organisations supported the day with Merseyside Police, Birkenhead Constituency Committee, Jigsaw (Liverpool Housing Trusts internal waste removal team) and the Councils Waste and Recycling and ASB Teams

Police Action Day (Beechwood)

- Date: 27th April
- Household waste removed: 3 skips = 3 tonnes
- Partner Involvement:

Designed as a follow up engagement day from the event on the 2nd March the Police requested 3 skips be placed at various locations on the estate for residents to dispose of household items.

The day also included litter picking with the local primary school, engagement with local residents around anti-social behaviour and promoting the police presence on the estate.

A number of different organisations supported the day with Merseyside Police, Birkenhead Constituency Committee, Jigsaw (Liverpool Housing Trusts internal waste removal team) and the Councils Waste and Recycling and ASB Teams

Ribble Street

- Date: 13th May
- Household waste removed: 2 skips = 1 tonne
- Partner Involvement:

The Birkenhead Constituency Team liaised directly with local residents and Cllr Brian Kenny to organise for 2 skips to be placed on Ribble Street which allowed elderly residents in the road to dispose of household items.

Clear up of Rock Ferry Shore and Esplanade.



- Date: 20th May
- Household waste removed: 1 skip = 1/2 tonne
- Partner Involvement:

The Birkenhead Constituency Team has extensively worked with the Rock Park Proprietors on the maintenance of Rock Ferry Shore and Esplanade.

This has included assisting the group with skips, litter picks and liaising with Biffa on the groups behalf to arrange a regular time the group can leave waste for Biffa to collect. The local residents and Councillors have done a great job of frequent beach clean-ups, with support from the Refreshment Rooms too. A regular collection by Biffa of waste has also been established.

Raffles Road

- Date: 26th May
- Household waste removed: 2 skips = 1 tonne
- Partner Involvement:

Cllr Pat Cleary ordered the skips with the Birkenhead Constituency Committee and liaised with the residents himself.

Patterson Street

-Date: 14th June

-Household waste removed: 3 skips = 1 ½ tonne

-Partner Involvement:

The Birkenhead Constituency Team worked in partnership with the Councils Waste and Recycling Department on the Patterson Street Action Day. This allowed residents in the street to discard household items and unwanted goods.

The Woodlands

-Date: 16th June

-Household waste removed: 3 skips = 1 ½ tonne

-Partner Involvement:

Following on from the successful community clear up day in February 3 skips were placed around the Woodlands and Clifton Park estate for residents to dispose of any unwanted household items. It is hoped that this will lead to a reduction in fly tipping and litter on the estate as well as allowing residents who may not have access to a vehicle to take items to waste recycling centre to dispose of any goods they want to dispose.

Police Action Day (Beechwood)

-Date: 22nd June

-Household waste removed: 3 skips = 1 1/2 tonnes

-Partner Involvement:

Police requested 3 skips be placed at various locations on the estate for residents to dispose of household items.

The day also included litter picking with the local primary school, engagement with local residents around anti-social behaviour and promoting the police's presence on the estate.

A number of different organisations supported the day with Merseyside Police, Birkenhead Constituency Committee, Jigsaw (Liverpool Housing Trusts internal waste removal team) and the Councils Waste and Recycling and ASB Teams

Birkenhead Town Centre

-Date: 13th July
-Household waste removed: 4 skips = 2 tonnes

-Partner Involvement:

The Constituency Committee Team worked with colleagues from Birkenhead First and Merseyside Police on an environmental day for Eastbourne Road, Oxtan Road North, Tetbury Street and Quarrybank.

The day allowed for resident in these streets and surrounding areas to discard of any unwanted items which will hopefully reduce fly tipping in the future.

Victoria Road

-Date: 15th Sep
-Household waste removed: 1 skip = 1/2 tonne

-Partner Involvement:

Cllr Pat Cleary ordered the skips with the Birkenhead Constituency Committee and liaised with the residents himself.

Beaconsfield Community Centre

-Date: 3rd Oct
-Household waste removed: 1 skip = 1/2 tonne

-Partner Involvement:

The community clear up was arranged by Neo Café and took place around the Beaconsfield Community Centre, full estate clean up including litter picks, garden clearance of fly tipping and a clear up of the ally along with some other bits from the community house.

Total Waste Removed

In total the Birkenhead Constituency Committee has provided and planned (see next section) 67 skips and given officer support at various Community Clear Ups and Action Days at the cost of circa **£8000** from the skip fund budget.

While it is difficult to calculate exactly how much waste the constituency team has removed, a rough estimate based on information from the skip hire company and Biffa, **We estimate that it equates to at least 70 tonnes removed.**

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

Rock Park Proprietors

The Birkenhead Constituency Team has been working closely with the Councils Waste and Recycling Team to support the Rock Park Proprietors with their on-going efforts to clean the Rock Ferry Esplanade area.

A special arrangement was made with Biffa one Monday every month to pick up litter collected by the group the Sunday before. This arrangement is working well with Biffa supplying the refuse bags needed for the clear up.

Taking this approach the volunteers from the proprietors have found it easier to maintain the esplanade and the area itself stays cleaner by doing a little bit every month.

Since the last Constituency Committee the group have removed approximately 60/70 black bags of rubbish from the esplanade and beach. The Constituency Committee have also donated litter pickers to the group in appreciation of the work they do and to further support them wherever possible.

Forth Coming Events

The Birkenhead Constituency Team has been working in with a number of partners on a number of forth coming community aimed all aimed at improving Birkenhead's environment.

-On **November 18th** there is a **multi-agency community event at Harrowby Road in Tranmere**. The day will offer the opportunity for the council and partners to engage with local residents and will be attended by council teams such as Waste and Recycling, Environment Services and the Healthy Homes Team as well as partners such as Merseyside Fire Service, the Police, Biffa and Wirral Change.

With the support of the Birkenhead Constituency Team residents will be able to ask questions to all the organisations who attend, receive home safety assessments from the Fire Service and discard of any unwanted household items.

-**Bonfire Night** is always a busy time for Wirral Council and emergency services such as Merseyside Fire Service and the Police. Because of this the Birkenhead Constituency Team will be supporting the work by strategically placing skips in the Borough on the 26th October and 4th November.

Using the intelligence from Merseyside Fire Service the skips will allow residents to discard of any unwanted items from their homes and gardens which in previous years could have been taken to start deliberate fires. It is hoped that this partnership approach will reduce the negative impact of bonfire night.

Feeding Birkenhead up-date report: North Birkenhead Development Trust

1. School holiday activities

Food and fun activities were delivered over the following school holidays:

February – total of 39 children attended @ cost of £4.44 per child.

April – total of 64 individual children attended (111 meals provided) @ cost of 84p per child

May – total of 31 individual children attended @ cost of £2.03 per child

Food was sourced from Aldi, Tesco and Fareshare for all half terms.

Sessions delivered included free breakfast club (generally low take up), art and craft in the library, story-telling picnic, rocket making, drop in playscheme and lunch, family cookery, create a town, youth club, meal share, football and the café has offered buy and adult meal kids eat free.

Activities where food has been provided have been very successful. Families have appreciated the offer of toast during the morning sessions and the opportunity for children to make their own lunch and sit to eat it as a community.

The family cooking has been an ongoing success. We run these sessions throughout the year and have welcomed 27 families since October 2015.

St James Centre Summer Programme Feedback

Total number of meals provided: 903

Total number of sessions offered: 36 (excluding 5 days a week open access café for breakfast and lunch)

Total number of participants: 387 (children only)*

* please note: this excludes the 6 excursions provided. Over 250 individuals engaged accessing 325 places visiting Knowsley Safari Park, Gulliver's World, Monkey World, Apple Jack's Farm, The Story Barn (Reader Org) and Blackpool.

Sessions offered:

4 library craft & breakfast

5 Monday playschemes and lunch (pasta, hot dogs, soup with homemade bread, wraps wedges, sandwiches)

5 Youth clubs and hot tea (pasta, home made KFC chicken, pizza, wraps & wedges ,homemade burgers and wedges)

5 Park play and cold tea (sandwiches)

Glitz and Glam party

5 family cooking sessions (various meals made with a 'food from around the world theme' including burgers, pasta, curry, fajitas and a pudding)

5 junior chef school sessions (fish cakes, spag bol, burgers, curry, popcorn chicken and puddings including muffins, crumble, cold deserts)

4 sessions with Can Cook Studios

2 autism friendly library sessions with snack

Glitz and Glam party (organised by Youth Volunteers for children aged 8 and under, disco, face painting, nail painting and party food)

145 hot and cold breakfasts provided by the Open Door Café (cereal, toast, sausage, egg or beans on toast)

50 lunches provided by the Open Door Café (toasties, sandwiches, pasta dishes)

Some highlights of feedback collected this summer:

"lots of activities for children and families; cooking club and summer trips are fantastic"

"When there's too much month before pay day and no money I rely on the cheap activities that include a meal for my kids. The staff who run this centre are truly dedicated to making our area a little better for our kids and our community. It would be a tremendous loss if these activities and the library weren't available."

"It's a brilliant centre full of useful resources, information and a brilliant café".

"free breakfast for the kids has been a god send through the summer"

"the trips have been amazing"

"They area always offering cheap activities that are great."

"Great because it's very convenient and not expensive".

Funding for the trips this summer was received from Prince of Wales Charitable Trust (£1000) and Youth Trips from Community Foundation for Merseyside. We fund raise all year round too.

We have a full programme of activities planned for October half term, including freaky family cooking, spooky stories, Halloween parties for under 3s, under 9s and over 10s, youth trip to a scare fest and providing support to My Child Can Halloween Event in Birkenhead Park.

We will be celebrating the festive season with a Christmas market and family grotto on Saturday 19th November.

2. His Church

We have now ordered and received 7 beauty and household supplies from HIS Church. We have distributed these through our library coffee morning, Summer finale event, Macmillan coffee morning and at our Community Celebrations (bingo & Queen's birthday lunch) and Community Market days and using the St James Opp Shop as an outlet.

The delivery of His Church pallets has been coordinated by George from Beechwood Development trust and Luke from Gautby Road. This co-ordination of deliveries has worked very well. Pallets have cost on average £180 each (last delivery slightly higher @ £200) and we have generated a small surplus from each one.

3. Food poverty and welfare

We continue to be a part of the Wirral Foodbank (Trussel Trust) as a distribution point on a Monday evening. We welcome the support of Involve NorthWest benefit advisors at these sessions and together we have been able to address individual and family challenges around welfare blockages and budgeting. We have supported 4 families accessing foodbank with whitegoods through the Birkenhead Relief in Sickness Grant.

We work closely with Wirral Ways to Recovery and the Secondary to provide a hot meal once a month to those in need. These include rough sleepers, sofa surfers and hostel sleepers. To date we

have provided 8 hot food hubs, providing an average of 40 2 course, hot, nutritious meals per session (320 meals). The ingredients for this have been provided by Fareshare and donated by Tesco Bidston Moss with some additional purchases from Aldi.

We are working with MDI insurance, Money for your Motors and CPL to provide Christmas hampers for the homeless as well as Gautby Road to provide hampers for our local community. We will be distributing hampers for the homeless at our hot food hub on 23rd December.

We are working alongside Gautby Road to support the ILC initiative in North Birkenhead, sharing resources and information as well as planning a number of initiatives to add value to our existing to

Education & training

Working with Lifelong Learning, from September we are utilising the teaching kitchen for adult cookery classes with an optional qualification in Food Hygiene (L2), Nutrition and Allergy Awareness (at L1). This programme will enrol in January and April. This will be featured in the new Wirral Council publication due in October.

Anna Barnish

Trust Manager

North Birkenhead Development Trust

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Background: Improving Life Chances (ILC) Community Pilots

At the Improving Life Chances (ILC) steering group meeting of 2nd June 2016, a draft action plan was tabled and agreed which set out actions that would take forward the ILC strategy, which is underpinned by the Wirral Plan 2020.

The ILC strategy and action plan strongly supports the Wirral Plan's People Priorities: Reducing child and family poverty, making sure children are ready for school, ensuring young people are ready for work and adulthood and ensuring vulnerable children reach their full potential.

Priority Areas of the ILC action plan and community pilots

One element of the ILC steering action plan that was tabled and agreed at the meeting on 2nd June 2016, proposed that two community pilot projects be established in two areas in Wirral.

The aim of the pilots would be to target, over an 18 month period, the engagement of 500 families into services and initiatives that promote ILC.

The themes that the pilots will focus on include:

- Priority 1 Supporting parents into sustainable employment
- Priority 2 Improve Life Chances
- Priority 3 Support families to become financially resilient
- Priority 4 Tackle the immediate effects of poverty
- Cross cutting theme - Deliver annual child poverty conference
- Cross cutting theme - Provide e-learning training
- Cross cutting theme - Collate performance data and evaluate.

Where will the community pilots take place?

After much discussion at the ILC steering group, it was agreed that the pilot areas would be set up in Seacombe and Bidston and St James wards. The two wards experience high levels of deprivation according to the English Indices of Deprivation 2015 and therefore would benefit from a more intensive approach to improving life chances than other areas in Wirral.

Bidston and St James ward

Bidston and St James ward is part of the Birkenhead constituency. Life expectancy in Birkenhead is the lowest of the four Constituencies in Wirral. Child poverty is highest in Birkenhead compared to the other three Constituencies and particularly acute in Bidston and St. James ward. The number of young people 'Not in Employment Education or Training' (NEET) is one in five in Bidston & St James, the highest level in Birkenhead. The rate of looked after children in Birkenhead is double that found in the other three Constituencies. The rate of teenage conceptions in Birkenhead constituency is more than double the rate in West and South Wirral constituencies. The rate of mothers smoking in pregnancy is double the Wirral average. Less than half of all new mothers initiate breastfeeding in Birkenhead 47% compared to 74% in England. These factors have been shown to have a disadvantaging effect on people's life chances.

In the areas of Beechwood and St James, it has been reported in the ESRO study findings, which was supported by public health workshop December 2015, that there are many services and supportive initiatives available in the area. However anecdotally there are challenges in engaging people into the services particularly in Beechwood and also in St James area.

There is a strong infrastructure of community groups who would welcome the opportunity to shape their offer and explore ways to engage more people. The groups already collate data around evidencing improving life chances and they meet together as a Beechwood Big Local partnership. The ILC steering group felt that working with the existing partnership would be a good way of implementing and evaluating a community pilot. There are many local events hosted by the community groups and services and they will provide a useful vehicle for promoting the goals of the ILC community pilot.

Beechwood has a range of organisations which include:

- Beechwood Community Trust – advice and guidance, training, nursery and computer suite
- Beechwood Community Association - food hub
- Currently transferring Beechwood Community Centre and Beechwood playscheme
- St Paul’s Roman Catholic Primary School community hub – support to parents and children
- Big Local partnership in place for a further 8 years has £100K to allocate to Beechwood projects per year
- Beechwood chapel- youth groups, isolation groups
- Jigsaw/Liverpool Housing Trust- environmental and community projects
- Council Community Worker from Assets team
- Beechwood Library
- Beechwood Recreation Centre

The St James area is similar to Beechwood in that there is a strong community infrastructure that works closely with the Beechwood community. They have similar issues and are currently working together on food and child poverty projects. The community pilots will include the following key groups:

- Gautby Road play and community centre food hub and playscheme, Womens enterprising breakthrough
- St James Centre
- Livingstone Street family support centre and Utopia alternative curriculum
- Magenta Living
- Brassey Gardens Children’s Centre
- Wirral change/WMO

Seacombe ward

After further discussion, the ILC steering group agreed the other community pilot area should be Seacombe. Seacombe experiences similar levels of deprivation in terms of child and food poverty to Bidston and St James.

Life expectancy in Wallasey constituency is 78.4 years. The gap between the ward with the highest Wallasey and the lowest life expectancy Seacombe is 5.3 years. Over a quarter (26.4%) of all children in Wallasey Constituency live in poverty, slightly higher than the Wirral average with 23.8%. Children

achieving level 4 or above at Key Stage 2 is slightly below the Wirral average. One in every ten 16-18 year olds are not in education, employment or training (NEET), slightly higher than the Wirral average. The rate of Looked after Children in the constituency is 90.6 per 10,000 children, slightly less than the Wirral average with 101.3 per 10,000 children. Seacombe ward has almost half the number of Looked After Children in the constituency, with a rate of 174 per 10,000 children. The under 18 teenage conception rate for Wallasey constituency is 43 per 1000 girls aged 15-17 years. This is a fifth more than the Wirral average. Immunisation uptake for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) in Seacombe ward is 91%, below the target uptake of 95% needed to prevent outbreaks.

There are some great community groups who are working hard to engage the community and the community pilot is hoping to work with the groups and support Seacombe residents into appropriate services.

The Community groups that we will be working with in Seacombe include:

- Seacombe Community Centre and food hub
- Allandale Centre
- St Paul's Road Children's Centre
- St Paul's Church Hall
- Serpentine Road Family Church
- Seacombe Library

The contrast between Seacombe and Beechwood and St James will be a useful in terms of looking at the most effective approaches to improving life chances in areas with diverse provision and needs. There could also be opportunities of sharing learning between the two wards.

Implementation of the community pilots

The local task group, which will be made up of key representatives in the area, will convene and develop their action plans following the key stages below. We will aim to complete the planning process by August and start the implementation stage of the projects in Autumn 2016.

Community Pilot Action plan

1. Take a paper to respective Constituency Committee outlining the community pilot projects
2. Form a small task group on a local level which includes the key people for each priority area
3. The task group will develop an action plan to go back to Constituency Committee around September/October 2016
4. Map local provision
5. Agree priority areas for improvement
6. Identify barriers and make recommendations for reshaping offer for better engagement
7. Understand what are people's concerns and observations in the area
8. Understand better specific issues identified like why people aren't using services like eg. credit unions, what can we do to address issues?
9. Establish what information and resources are needed what complete the project in terms of support eg. funds for engagement events or in kind time for evaluation and marketing
10. Are there other potential members of the task group needed to work with them on their priority area eg. improving take up of credit unions – agree who to invite
11. Is our intervention enough currently or is there anything needed over and above

12. What interventions do we need to support
13. How does it fit into ABCD
14. How do we build communities
15. Agree key measures of success and milestones for the priority areas
16. What are the key activities that will take place
17. How will it link with other project eg. health and worklessness project £2M with community connectors
18. Looking at different and practical ways of bringing people into services eg. induction pack when you move into Beechwood, up to date inventory of services available, ABCD
19. Agree what data should be collated and who will collate data
20. Evaluate outputs/outcomes
21. 12 months to implement the project so we will need to include a series of events and an annual event to promote community pilot activities
22. Take project updates to next constituency committees
23. Evaluation of collated data and case studies by Public Health
24. Sharing of learning and possible replication in other areas

Community Pilot and ILC Priority Leads

The ILC steering group also agreed at the meeting on 2nd June 2016 who the priority area leads would be and they are set out as follows:

- Priority 1: Supporting parents into sustainable employment - Debbie Veevers – Job Centre Plus
- Priority 2: Improving Life Chances - Julia Hassall or Sue Talbot CYPD
- Priority 3: Support families to become financially resilient - Carol Johnson Eyre - CAB
- Priority 4: Tackle the immediate effects of poverty - Jo Burrell, Rose Boylan, Julie Graham – Wirral Council
- Child Poverty training - Bev Morgan - Homestart
- Intelligence and Performance - Public Health

The role of the leads is to ensure they are receiving information from each community pilot task group and that the action plan is being delivered as originally set out.

Birkenhead Constituency Team Neighbourhood Engagement Update
November 2016

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.

Rock Ferry Community Garden

When the Rock Ferry Community Garden was officially opened the council entered into a partnership agreement with a social enterprise called Grow Sow Well.

This lease has now been transferred to an organisation called the Utopia Project due to the director of Grow Sow Well immigrating to another country.

The Utopia Project is an organisation who worked with young people who have been excluded from school and will use the garden to teach alternative classes. They are also exploring the possibility of providing horticultural qualifications at the garden specifically for young people. If successful the garden will be one of the very few whom offer focused horticultural qualifications solely for young people in Wirral.

Birkenhead Library Health, Reading and Well Being Park

Since the launch of the health, reading and well-being park at the Birkenhead Library Site it has been used by numerous groups and residents who have taken advantage of the park the Birkenhead Constituency Team built in partnership with the library and Involve Northwest.

The funding agreement with the Department of Communities and Local Government requires the library to apply for a Community Green Flag Award. To gain the award the library will have to demonstrate how the park is managed, its sustainability and that it is a welcoming, safe and secure place for people to visit. If successful Birkenhead Library will be the only library in Wirral to have a Green Flag Award.

Make Birkenhead Brighter

The Birkenhead Constituency Team has been working with colleagues from the Councils Waste and Recycling Department to support a newly formed voluntary group called 'Make Birkenhead Brighter'.

The group have aspirations to improve Birkenhead's environment, especially the main gateways into Birkenhead Town Centre and outside Birkenhead Library.

Starting with a litter pick and community clear up around the front of Birkenhead Library the next steps for the partnership with the Constituency Team and the Make Birkenhead Brighter group is to seek funding to brighten up the appearance at the front of the library and bring some colour to the area.

Cloughton Village Irrigation System

Improving Wirral's Environment is one of the key pledges of Wirral Council and the Birkenhead Constituency Team is contributing to this in a number of ways.

As well as the number of clean ups the team has been involved in and working in partnership with groups such as Rock Park Proprietors and Make Birkenhead Brighter, the Constituency Team is also working on an environmental scheme with businesses in Cloughton Village.

The scheme would see the installation of an irrigation system and hanging baskets on every building in the village, dramatically improving the appearance and colour of the area, hopefully making it a more welcoming place for visitors.

Good Neighbour Scheme

The Birkenhead Constituency Team have been working with colleagues from the Public Health Department on developing a 'Good Neighbour Scheme'.

Even though the scheme is in its infancy the idea is to highlight residents in Birkenhead who are a good neighbour, encourage others to do the same and hopefully create a good neighbourly movement that could potentially increase community spirit, reduce isolation and promote what it means to be a good neighbour.

Merseytravel Artwork Project

A number of months ago the Birkenhead Constituency Team was approached by Merseytravel with a request for ideas on how to improve the appearance of Bidston and Upton Train Stations.

Following this request the team have been working in partnership with Ridgeway High School. Working with the art department the project will see glass artwork installed at Bidston and Wrexham Train Stations and the parapets painted at Upton Train Station.

The project is a great example of organisations coming together to work in partnership with the aim of improving a community facility.

For information on any of these projects please contact.

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