



Constituency Committee - Wirral South

Date:	Wednesday, 21 June 2017
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	The Eastham Centre, Eastham Rake, Eastham, Wirral. CH62 9AN

Contact Officer: Shirley Hudspeth, Committee and Civic Services Manager
Tel: 0151 691 8559
e-mail: shirleyhudspeth@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

To elect the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

2. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 12)

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee held on 26 April 2017 as a correct record. **(Attached)**

5. UPDATE PROVIDED BY MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

To receive an oral report from the Constituency Manager on behalf of Ritchie Clarke - Station Manager.

6. UPDATE FROM MERSEYSIDE POLICE

To receive an oral report from Neighbourhood Inspector Georgina Minnery.

7. WIRRAL'S STRATEGIC REGENERATION FRAMEWORK

To receive an oral report from Wirral Council's Lead Commissioner – Place and Investment (Sally Shah).

8. GROT SPOT CAMPAIGN 2017-18

To receive an oral report from Wirral Council's Lead Commissioner – Environment (Mike Cockburn).

9. WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITY UPDATE (Pages 13 - 20)

Report of the Constituency Manager is **attached**.

10. WIRRAL SOUTH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT (Pages 21 - 28)

To consider a report detailing issues experienced by communities throughout Wirral South on a ward by ward basis. These issues have been collated by the Wirral South Community Representatives and compiled by the Engagement Officer into the **attached** report. This report is a standing item on the Committee's agenda.

11. WIRRAL PLAN OVERVIEW UPDATE 2016-17 QUARTER FOUR

To receive an oral report from the Constituency Manager.

12. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER (APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES) INCLUDING RESPONSES ASKED AT THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

Although it is possible to forward pre-notified questions to the Constituency Manager in advance of this meeting, questions can also be asked on the night, via the Chair. All questions will be collated and dealt with in turn by the Chair.

13. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR

14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held at 6pm on Wednesday, 4 October 2017 in a venue to be arranged.

CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - WIRRAL SOUTH

Thursday, 20 April 2017

Present:

Councillors

P Gilchrist
D Mitchell
C Muspratt
T Pilgrim

A Sykes
W Ward
I Williams
KJ Williams

Community Reps

M Craig
K Sutton
P Wright

M Wright
R Squire

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

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests in connection with any items on the agenda and to state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

42 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from :

Councillors: C Carubia
A Hodson
K Hodson
C Povall
W Smith
J Walsh

Inspector Georgina Minnery – Merseyside Police

43 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Assistant Director for Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 February 2017.

Councillor C Muspratt requested that the minutes be amended to include a resolution that had been made at the previous meeting that the Committee make arrangements for a delegation be sent to speak to Government Ministers re: funding.

Kevin Sutton – Community Representative requested that the following amendments be made to the minutes:

Minute 35 – Recommendation Two

Mr K Sutton, Community Representative raised concerns regarding the Social Isolation Contract and in particular 3 points:

- 1) Why were members of the committee not informed that the provider of the contract had changed with effect from 1st October, 2016 and what were the reasons for the change of provider.
- 2) It had been brought to K Suttons attention earlier in the day that the GIFT were operating a small grant scheme of up to £200 for organisations in Wirral South as part of the contract and the first round had closed in mid January. No Members of the committee knew anything of the existence of this scheme.
- 3) The facts and figures in the Constituency Managers report on the progress and performance of the GIFT provider to date were now in a different format from previous reports and were misleading.

David Armstrong informed the meeting that the organisation in question had approached the Council to inform officers that they could no longer continue as an organisation and have since gone into liquidation and as a result a new provider was sought. He informed the meeting that it was not the intention of council officers to be misleading in the way it presented progress or information of the contract.

As no other members were aware of the above information or concerns which were mirrored by Councillor J Walsh he requested that the Constituency Manager prepare a full report on the Social Isolation contract to include details on the issues raised by the Community Representative and circulate the report to all members of the committee within 3 weeks.

The motion was recommended and approved.

Minute 35

The following to be included:

Question 8

Mr K Sutton raised the following query

With regard to the proposal to introduce car parking charges in Eastham Country Park Mr Sutton informed the Committee that Eastham Community Forum and local businesses and residents were against the introduction of any car parking charges in Eastham Country Park. The impact of this

displacement of traffic onto other roads and Levers car park had not been assessed by the Council as well as the impact on local traders and home owners adjacent to the Country Park. Many local residents use the Park on a daily basis for leisure and recreational activities and need to use their cars to access these facilities as it is not easily accessible by foot.

Councillor D Mitchell reported that he had raised the same concerns already with council officers.

Resolved – That subject to the above amendments the minutes be approved.

44 **UPDATE PROVIDED BY MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

In the absence of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, the Constituency Manager provided the Committee with an update.

Members heard how, In relation to the major incident on 25 March 17, in New Ferry, MFRS provided an operational response and assisted Merseyside Police and other agencies with the investigation

Members were then informed that rubbish set alight at the rear of Henthorne Road had extensively damaged sheds, garages and residential properties

It was reported that In March and April there have been 3 incidents of bins being set on fire in and around New Ferry Park but there is no particular pattern re. day and time.

Resolved – That Members note the update from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

45 **UPDATE FROM MERSEYSIDE POLICE**

It was noted that the Committee would not be receiving an update from Merseyside Police as the Neighbourhood Inspector could not be in attendance at the meeting.

46 **NEW FERRY INCIDENT UPDATE**

Following a major incident in New Ferry on Saturday 25 March whereby a building had collapsed due to a gas explosion, resulting in many casualties, two of which were seriously hurt, Bromborough Ward Councillors provided the Committee with an update.

Councillor Warren Ward spoke of the severity of the explosion and the impact on the Community. He commended the emergency services, volunteers and local residents who had worked tirelessly to assist and support the community. He explained how efforts needed to be continued to help rebuild the community. Thoughts were passed to the families that had been severely affected by the explosion, in particular those who remained in hospital.

Councillor Irene Williams also addressed the Committee to explain how the residents support had been phenomenal. She thanked all involved for all their hard work and support and wished the families affected best wishes.

David Armstrong, Director for Business Services informed the Committee that the Assistant Director for Environmental Services had been responsible for facilitating weekly meetings. The next would be at 5:30pm on Monday 24 April, St Mark's Church Hall, New Ferry and meetings would continue for at least another month.

Mark Craig, Community Representative extended his thanks to the Council and explained how residents were all very appreciative.

Councillor Christina Muspratt reinforced appreciation to the emergency services and asked if all Ambulances came from Wirral. In response, she was informed that some had come from Liverpool.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist expressed his thanks to Councillor Warren Ward who had been instrumental in introducing him and other Councillors to residents of New Ferry. He also extended his thanks to Council Officers who had been instrumental in assisting the Community.

Councillor Tracey Pilgrim informed the Committee that she would be meeting, with residents of New Ferry On Friday 21 April. She also expressed her thanks to Council Officers who had been proactive in assisting residents.

The Director for Business Services commended additional resources such as individuals from the Life Church, Aldi and New Ferry Village Hall for their fulsome response in providing food and shelter to those affected. He then acknowledged North West Construction for their efforts in instructing the clean up process. He also explained that the Council would reimburse any local organisations as appropriate.

Resolved – That Members note the update from Ward Councillors and the Director from Business Services.

47 **WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITY UPDATE**

The Constituency Manager introduced a report to update Members on the Constituency Committee's priorities and their associated spend for 2016/17. The report also sought decisions from Members in relation to priority driven spend. Members were reminded that the work of Wirral South Constituency Committee contributes to a range of Wirral plan 2020 pledges and neighbourhood working is key to delivery of the plan.

The Constituency Manager drew attention to para 3.1.4 of the report that explained to Members how the WSCC currently holds £15,267 within its social isolation budget and it is proposed that this remaining amount should be used to provide the Wirral South Social Isolation Fund. Members heard how this fund would be open in the summer of 2017 and monies allocated by the end of September 2017 in the form of a small grants programme; maximum 2k per application.

Members were then informed how the Wirral South Engagement Officer had worked tirelessly on the "2016 Christmas Together Project" and the project is directly aimed at combating social isolation over the 2016 Christmas period in Wirral South.

The Constituency Manager then reported that following the recommendation from the previous committee, the Wirral South Youth Counselling Service Evaluation Panel met on Thursday 9 March and the incumbent contractor was given the opportunity to present their progress to date. During this meeting the Panel had agreed to extend the service for another 12 months from 1 June 2017.

The recommendations were set out and explained clearly within the report. The committee voted separately on each recommendation as follows:

Recommendation one

On a motion by Councillor Pilgrim and duly seconded it was:

Resolved (8:0) That:

The committee note that the current Social Isolation Contract will cease on 31st May 2017

Recommendation two

On a motion by Councillor Pilgrim and duly seconded it was:

Resolved (8:0) That:

The Committee agree to the provision of the Wirral South Social Isolation Grants Fund with the remaining funds for 2017/18 (£15, 267.28) allocated. Specific administrative details to be presented at the next committee, prior to launch.

Recommendation three

On a motion by Councillor Pilgrim and duly seconded it was:

Resolved (8:0) That:

The Committee mote the progress made in providing the Wirral South National Citizenship Service Bursary.

Recommendation four

On a motion by Councillor Pilgrim and duly seconded it was:

Resolved (8:0) That:

The Committee note the progress made in providing the Wirral South National Citizenship Bursary

Recommendation five

Councillor P Gilchrist led a discussion regarding the allocation of £18,281 funding to either New Ferry or Torr Park. The Committee heard how the total amount would be best spent on Torr Park as linked to the section 106 allocated funds.

Councillor W Ward then expressed his contention of how the full amount would be best spent in New Ferry Park especially in light of the major incident affecting residents of New Ferry.

David Armstrong informed the Committee that it would be unusual to spend funding linked to a planning application elsewhere and committed to making enquiries as to how the council might meet the gap in the expected park priority budget. A decision in relation to identifying the shortfall of £11,719 will be communicated to the constituency manager.

A discussion was had regarding the option to split the funding equally between the two parks.

On a motion by Councillor Pilgrim and duly seconded it was:

Resolved (8:0) That

The Committee agree to split funding equally, allocating £9140.5 each to Torr and New Ferry Park

48 **WIRRAL SOUTH BUDGET SUMMARY**

A report by the Director for Health and Wellbeing provided an update on the Constituency Committee's end of year budget position and associated spend for 2016/17.

Paragraph 3.1. of the report outlined the projections for carry forward into 2017/18 under individual priorities.

The recommendations were set out and explained clearly within the report. The committee voted separately on each recommendation as follows:

Recommendation one

On a motion by Councillor Pilgrim and duly seconded it was:

Resolved (8:0) That:

The committee note the projected budget position for 2017/18 (outlined in table one of the report)

Recommendation two

A discussion was had led by Councillor P Gilchrist regarding the need for Councillors and Community Reps to gain information on funding available so that resources can be best utilised.

Councillor C Muspratt reiterated concerns with regards to Bebington Ward road safety concerns and the difficulty to gain information on road safety. The Constituency Manager agreed to gain answers to this.

On a motion by Councillor Pilgrim and duly seconded it was:

Resolved (8:0) That:

Those wards that have remaining monies (e.g. ITB/ Road Safety monies, Clean Up, Love Wirral) allotted to them meet with the Constituency Manager to agree a programme of spend in time to report back specific details to the next committee (21 June 2017)

WIRRAL SOUTH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

A Report by the Wirral South Community Representatives set out progress to date following the co-opting of the five Community Representatives (Com Reps) to the Wirral South Constituency Committee (WSCC) ON 15 October 2015. The report highlighted particular issues being experienced by the communities within the five wards and sought to bring them formally to the attention of the committee.

Kevin Sutton, Com Rep for Eastham addressed the committee to raise concerns over resolutions set by the WSCC in previous Committees having not been met. He reported that Officers had not met with Com Reps despite resolving to do so. He questioned the role of the Com Rep and queried if they were being taken seriously. He made reference to the Eastham Social Isolation Contract and Christmas Together Project and informed the Committee about the hard work involved. Mr Sutton then informed the Committee that he had been informed that a small grant scheme was available for local communities linked to the Gift Network, this was not something that he had been made aware of before and would have proved useful in his endeavours.

The Chair assured Com Reps that their work had proved to be invaluable and resolved to ensure that a meeting would be organised to address any concerns.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist requested, in light of the recent announcement of the forthcoming general election, that resolution two be amended to ask that each ward and local action team has the best endeavours to meet within 6 weeks of this Committee. This was duly agreed by the Committee.

Resolved That –

- 1) the Chair and Vice – Chair meet with Com Reps within 4 weeks of this Committee.**
- 2) each Ward Local Action Team endeavours to meet within 6 weeks of this Committee; and**
- 3) all issues raised are noted by the Committee and subsequently discussed within the Local Action Teams.**

WIRRAL PLAN OVERVIEW REPORT 2016-17 QUARTER THREE

A report of the Director for Health and Wellbeing provided the 2016/17 Quarter 3 (October – December 2016) Wirral Plan Overview for the Committee to review performance against the Wirral Plan. The report set out the available data for a series of high level indicators which align the Wirral

Plan Pledges. A summary narrative was also provided to describe progress in Quarter 3.

Resolved That:

progress made in delivering the 2020 plan be noted.

51 **PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER (APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES)
INCLUDING RESPONSES ASKED AT THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE
MEETING**

The Committee and members of the public in attendance at the meeting raised the following questions, issues, concerns and requests as appended to the minutes.

52 **URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair thanked Members of the Committee for all their hard work during the municipal year.

53 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee has been advertised as taking place at 6pm, 21 June, Venue TBC

This page is intentionally left blank

Wirral South Constituency Committee Questions Answered 20 April 2017

	Question	Answer
Question 1	A member of the public asked why the community connectors (employed by Involve North West) were not in operation within Bebington?	A response was sought post committee from the Lead Commissioner in Public Health: The funding received by the Council for action to tackle health related worklessness was linked to employment support allowance recipients and has been used to target those areas in the borough with high rates of worklessness through ill-health. The following link takes you to the Cabinet paper where approval was sought (item 14) to develop this service with the rationale for the areas targeted: http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/g5481/Public%20reports%20pack%2021st-Mar-2016%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10
Question 2	A member of the public came to raise the issue of proposals to develop greenbelt in Thornton Hough	The general point was noted but it was explained that all objections would be dealt with via the formal planning process
Question 3	A member of the public came to raise the issue of proposals to develop greenbelt in Storeton Village	This particular location is subject to an active planning application. It was explained that all objections would be dealt with via the formal planning process.
Question 4	A member of the public raised concern that individuals displaced by the New Ferry blast were not being prioritised for social housing allocation	The Constituency Manager took the individual's details and contacted them asking for specific details of the individual in question

	Question	Answer
Question 5	A member of the public asked for more resources for volunteers in New Ferry (e.g. clothes rails and tables etc.)	David Armstrong committed to investigating this further
Question 6	A member of the public raised concerns that counselling provisions for those affected by the New Ferry blast were not adequate	The Constituency Manager has been working with David Ball and Inclusion Matters to provide further counselling opportunities.



Constituency Committee - Wirral South

Wednesday, 21 June 2017

REPORT TITLE:	WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITY UPDATE
REPORT OF:	Director for Health and Wellbeing

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Constituency Committee's priorities for 2017/18, outlining some of the successes of the previous year and highlighting some projects of note for the next 10 months.

The work of Wirral South Constituency Committee contributes to a range of Wirral Plan 2020 pledges and neighbourhood working is key to delivery of the Plan.

This report affects all Wards within the Wirral South Constituency (Bebington, Bromborough, Clatterbridge, Eastham and Heswall).

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

RECOMMENDATION 1: A task and finish group (comprising of one elected member per ward) be established to agree the format, terms and conditions of the Wirral South Isolation fund. One volunteer per ward to be established as part of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 2: An opportunity is sought to present the Wirral South One to One Youth Counselling Service and its associated benefits to the relevant Cabinet Members and internal commissioners.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To enable the work of the Wirral South Constituency Committee to be focussed upon the agreed priorities and spend to be distributed accordingly.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Learning has been taken from this committee's spend throughout its operation.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Neighbourhoods Review

Work is currently underway to understand the opportunities for delivering the Wirral Plan in partnership with communities. This will include reviewing the current neighbourhood working model. Members of the Constituency Committee and community stakeholders will be fully involved in the process.

Two workshop dates have been scheduled for engagement with Elected Members, **Thursday 13th July** and **Tuesday 25th July**, both at **Wallasey Town Hall**.

- 3.2 Achievements in 2017/18

- 3.2.1 Improved Open Spaces

It was agreed at the last Wirral South Constituency Committee that the remaining allocated budget of £18,281 would be split evenly between Torr Park and New Ferry Park.

Work has been ongoing to develop and support the communities in both locations to produce a list of improvements on which to spend the allocated budget. Extensive consultation has taken place throughout the year ensuring that any money spent (including the £50,000 of section 106 monies secured for Torr Park) are allocated to projects that the community welcome and see real value in.

There is a high level of probability (based upon ongoing engagement) that a both locations will have a constituted friends group by the end of 2017/18 (see 3.2.4 below for more detail).

Research carried out by the Research and Development Manager in Public Health has identified that investment made by the Wirral South Constituency against this priority has a projected social return on investment of £8.30 per £1 spent.

3.2.2 Social Isolation

As the committee are aware the previous GIFT contract (aimed at identifying and reducing social isolation) has now come to an end and will not be extended.

At the previous committee members approved the provision of the Wirral South Social Isolation Grants Fund with the remaining funds for 2017/18 (£15,267.28). It is recommended (see recommendation one) that a task and finish group (comprising of one elected member per ward) be established to agree the format, terms and conditions and the subsequent administration of the new fund. Volunteers for the aforementioned task and finish group are sought as part of recommendation, to ensure detail can be agreed and the fund can be advertised as quickly as possible.

3.2.3 Gaps in Youth Provision

Since its commencement in 2016 the Wirral South One to One Youth Counselling Service has engaged directly with over 100 young people aged 13-19:

- In its first year 126 therapeutic counselling sessions have been delivered to 20 unique young people (17 females and 3 males). All of the aforementioned sessions have been delivered at a venue local to the young person, thus negating the need travel to central Birkenhead.
- In its first year over 80 young people have engaged (many on repeat occasions) via drop in sessions held at youth clubs in New Ferry and Eastham. This less formalised contact not only allows young people to

seek immediate support in an environment they know but also allows for referral into formal therapeutic counselling where necessary.

- The Service was also able to deliver reactive responses to 2 x local incidents, namely a fatal road traffic incident involving a young person and the New Ferry explosion.
- At the last Wirral South Constituency Committee (April 20th 2017) members resolved to extend the contract for a further 12 months.

Research carried out by the Research and Development Manager in Public Health has identified that the investment made by the Wirral South Constituency against this priority has a projected social return on investment of £7.20 per £1 spent.

3.2.4 Community Engagement

- New Ferry Town Team

With the support of elected members and Wirral South's engagement officer the New Ferry Town Team is now a fully constituted organisation. The focus of the organisation has understandably shifted in the wake of the explosion that occurred in March this year. The Town Team are currently devising a fair and transparent approach to allocating the funding they received via various online initiatives. The Town Team has been an integral part of the weekly update meetings in New Ferry (aimed at keeping residents and traders fully informed) and works closely with Wirral Council to consult on the potential approach to the regeneration of the area.

- Friends of Bromborough Library

The Friends of Bromborough Library is now a fully constituted organisation with over 80 members. The group was established following a request from Wirral's Library Service to the Wirral South Constituency Team to help engage with those communities in which the local library did not have an active friends group. As a result of this request the Wirral South engagement officer held a coffee morning in

November 2016 and it was at this event some of the founding members first met and shared their aspirations to form a group.

- Friends of Heswall Dales
The Wirral South Constituency Team was contacted by a committed group that regularly volunteered at the dales. They communicated their aspiration to form a friends group but required support to make this aspiration a reality. With support and guidance from the Wirral South engagement officer they are now fully constituted, holding their inaugural AGM in May 2017.
- Torr Park Advisory Board/Steering Group
Following an initial, local communications campaign a group of local residents and stakeholders were brought together to form the Torr Park Advisory Board. This led to the formation of a smaller Steering Group which has made good progress and allocated, in principle, a large amount of their budget (subject to a site visit and final discussions with the advisory board). A final advisory board meeting will be held, and then both the advisory board and steering group will be dissolved and the engagement officer will support volunteers to form a friends group.
- New Ferry Park Advisory Board
The Advisory Board have currently allocated approximately half of their budget, Items include: signage, bins and heritage boards. Over the Summer, the engagement officer will work with the group to form a Friends group to build upon the good work of the advisory Board.

3.3 Work to note for 2017/18

3.3.1 Continued Support for New Ferry

The Wirral South Constituency Team will continue to work with the community in New Ferry to offer support throughout the remainder of 2017/18. This will take the form of established projects (e.g. The Town Team previously outlined in 3.2.4 above) and reactive support being offered when necessary.

3.3.2 National Citizenship Service (NCS)

The Wirral South Constituency Committee has offered financial support to eight young people to ensure they are able to engage in the NCS over the summer of 2017. Further support will be offered by the constituency team to ensure connection between the NCS and the local communities it operates within are as strong as possible. In previous years the community element of the NCS programme (i.e. where groups of young people support existing voluntary organisations with action) has not been as localised as it could be. It is fair to say that support in previous years has often gone to the larger, more visible organisations and it is the aim of both the constituency team and the NCS providers to address this in 2017/18.

3.3.3 Social Isolation Grants Fund

At the previous committee, members approved the provision of the Wirral South Social Isolation Grants Fund with the remaining funds for 2017/18 (£15,267.28). It is recommended that a task and finish group (comprising of one elected member per ward) be established to agree the format, terms and conditions and the subsequent administration of the new fund (see recommendation one).

3.3.4 Gaps in Youth Provision

The achievements (to date) of the Wirral South One to One Youth Counselling Service have been previously outlined in section 3.2.3 of this report. Through the successful extension of this service it is believed these achievements can be built upon. Throughout the review process (prior to extension) it was identified that there was an appetite from elected members to showcase this approach to both the relevant Cabinet member and those that commission the current Wirralwide service. The Wirral South approach has allowed flexibility, reactivity and localised delivery, it is believed that the expansion of this approach should be explored leading to the possible reengineering of the current mainstream service (see recommendation two).

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South Constituency Committee.
- 4.2 Regular budget monitoring with Business Services takes place to ensure that the expenditure incurred is accurate and complies with what has been agreed by the Committee.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Funding available may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Failure to agree the distribution of funding limits the Committee's ability to effectively tackle its priorities and may result in a loss of funding allocation.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Elected members, community representatives and members of the public have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees.
- 8.2 The neighbourhood working model strengthens the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2010-14/chief>

REPORT AUTHOR:

Fergus Adams
Constituency Manager Wirral South
telephone: (0151) 666 3074
email: fergusadams@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Wirral South Constituency Committee	20 Apr 2017



Constituency Committee - Wirral South

REPORT TITLE:	WIRRAL SOUTH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT
REPORT OF:	Director for Health and Wellbeing

REPORT SUMMARY

This report details progress to date following the co-opting of five Community Representatives (Com Reps) to the Wirral South Constituency Committee (WSCC) on 15 October 2015 and since the previous committee on 20th April 2017. This report also highlights particular issues being experienced by the communities within the five wards and seeks to bring them formally to the attention of the committee.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

Recommendation 1: All issues raised are noted by the Committee and subsequently discussed within the Local Action Teams.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Recruitment of community representatives (com reps) was agreed by committee

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 BEBINGTON

- 3.1.1 Nothing to report.

3.2 BROMBOROUGH

3.2.1 NEW FERRY

The relief effort following the explosion continues. Some businesses have been able to move into vacant shops elsewhere in the area to continue trading. Others have not been so fortunate, and for a handful without insurance, the future is looking very bleak indeed. Wirral Chamber of Commerce has been helping local businesses to advertise that New Ferry is back in business, whilst the Co-op has provided funding for the repairs of the building they continue to lease although they mothballed it last year (and are still locked into a long lease with) for it to be used by a collection of local charity shops displaced by the explosion.

Affected residents have been supported by both the Council and several individuals and groups including the New Ferry Town Team who have been receiving donations from several larger local and national companies.

Within days of the blast, a group of residents set up "New Beginnings" to help find items vitally needed by residents displaced from their homes. People from across Wirral and beyond wanted to help by donating clothing, food and other essential items that residents would need, especially in the first few days and weeks whilst they were found temporary accommodation and waited for assistance from their insurance companies. The group started off in the Village Hall and then quickly moved to the church hall in Port Sunlight where they were swamped with donations. When the financial burden that displaced residents were facing whilst in limbo waiting for official help became clear, the New Beginnings organisers decided to convert the donations to cash to help those affected start again, for example paying deposits on new

rented accommodation and significantly those who had been on low incomes and unable to afford insurance. As part of their fundraising efforts they held an event at the Lyceum club on 26th May 2017 and successfully raised over £3,513, making their total since moving into the old Co-op building to £7,500. The group is now a fully constituted organisation and on its way to seeking charitable status.

New Ferry Residents Association organised an event for elderly people and those with dementia and dementia care responsibilities on 19th April at St Marks Church Hall. Funded by the Heswall Round Table, and with the assistance of AgeUK Wirral, several community volunteers cooked and served lunch to 9 residents who turned up on the day and were also treated to a magic show and a visit by some exotic animals from a local sanctuary. With AgeUK Wirral, this was followed with a series of 6 weekly events at the Park Lodge Tea Rooms which attracted around 5 participants to each session. Refreshments and the food for all the sessions was kindly donated by Bebington Co-op. 6 of the organisers received dementia awareness training before the first event (provided by the Wirral South Engagement Officer).

New Ferry Residents Association has decided to continue to organise the New Ferry Festival which it had been planning before the explosion to raise funds to pay for New Ferry's Christmas lights this year. With funding now coming in from Asda, Tesco and Unilever, the event - to be held in New Ferry Shopping Precinct and New Ferry Park on 15th and 16th July will feature vintage buses from the Wirral Transport Museum, classic cars, a full scale replica Spitfire, fun fair, musical entertainment from several groups including Insanity Beach, stalls, dog show and much more.

3.2.2 BROMBOROUGH Village (supplied by Lin Longshaw-Parr of Bromborough Village Community Association)

Bromborough Village Community Association (BVCA) are having a Summer Fair on the 10th June in partnership with St Barnabas Church and using their grounds to hold it this year instead of closing the road down. It will include the usual craft and food stalls, fairground, Bouncy castle. Local Schools are involved with a painting competition which will be displayed and judged on the day. Church has a brass band coming on the evening of the 10th June and also on Sunday day time to celebrate the Saints birthday.

Friends of Bromborough Library are doing well, and held their second coffee morning. They are in the process of arranging a flower display outside the Library and have also completed training to start doing the Health Walks from the Library/Civic Centre at the end of June – Mondays at 10.30 (start date yet to be agreed). They have also started Story Time in the library on a weekly basis which appears to be doing well.

The BVCA have arranged to plant the church troughs for the summer and Bromborough Village are in the process of clearing and planting the troughs in the village. The main Cross flower bed has already been completed.

There has been some vandalism with the flowers which has been reported to the police.

The district centre has lost one of its cafes - Taste from in the precinct and the fruit and veg shop opposite the civic centre will be closing in June. However, some new shops are also due to move in (to be confirmed).

3.3 CLATTERBRIDGE

At the time of writing, the Clatterbridge Local Action Team (LAT) are planning to meet following the general election.

3.4 EASTHAM

The Eastham LAT have met and it was very productive. There was a general consensus to develop a strategy to address social isolation in the ward of Eastham. It was agreed that any such strategy should build upon some of the existing work carried by social sector partners.

Clear aspirations for said strategy were explored, elements of which included:

- Setting up the Delamere Centre as a bank for volunteering in the area
- An annual social sector open morning in the Delamere Centre (the first of which would help establish a database of existing partners and their projects)

3.5 HESWALL

Concern relating to the level of police support for the town, when judged against the level of anti-social behaviour and burglary, continues to rise. As recently as the 24th May a serious break-in occurred at the Premier Convenience Store in the Lower Village. Four "identically" dressed males all wearing balaclavas used an angle grinder to cut through the heavy metal shutters to gain entrance and then crow bars to open the cash till and take the entire contents of the indoor cash machine. Police report that they are expecting an "outcome". At the time of this report our new Neighbourhood Police Inspector Georgina Minnery advises Homewatch of a further 11 crimes of burglary and car theft in Heswall and neighbouring Bebington. Cautionary emails have been sent to the 400+ household members of the consolidated Heswall Homewatch Schemes.

News that key individuals have stepped back from Connecting Heswall is of concern and goes some way to explain Dr Dick Atkinson's request for more volunteers. An update from Connecting Heswall for this report has not been received and further clarification as to the current status of the new organisation is needed, especially if it puts in doubt the preparation of a detailed proposal for a Residents Forum/hub.

The Heswall Society continues to be integrated into Heswall in Bloom and maintains responsibility for the flower beds at Castle Buildings and is just about to set up a bed in the area opposite, having commissioned Dale Farm

to construct a raised bed. They report that they are very grateful for Wirral South in Bloom providing them with a grant to cover the construction cost and for planting out. To ensure the proper co-ordination of the interests currently involved in the initiative the Chair of the Heswall Society, Dr Steve Anderson, has formed a Steering Group. He expects the group to grow as more organisations become involved. Current members include the Friends of Dawstone Park, Dr. Dick Atkinson (who has done a great job in getting individual businesses involved in the project), Dale Farm, Bill and Margaret Milner, Heswall and District Business Association, and Council Officers.

Bill and Margaret Milner have been working tirelessly on a Heswall Community Wildlife Project. Margaret has attended training at Chester Zoo and is now a Community Wildlife Champion. The location of the project is the land adjacent to Heswall Hall and behind the library. The project aims to make the whole area more wildlife friendly and begins with a volunteering day to clear the area on Sunday 11th June.

The Heswall Society still wishes to adopt the telephone kiosk in the lower village as it is an important contribution to the street scene, but the process is proving difficult as the kiosk is on private property. A final decision will be taken once initial costs and possible future costs have been evaluated.

The Society advises of a growing concern re pressure to build on Green Belt land and enforcement of conditions in granted planning applications. Action will be taken to ensure neighbours are informed of conditions and encouraged to contact the Society and or the Council if they believe they are not being satisfied. Separately the society will be discussing with the Council Planning department their ability to enforce conditions.

The inaugural meeting of the Heswall LAT is scheduled for after the general election for which preliminary discussions have been taking place with key participants.

3.6 COLLABORATIVE NOTE FROM COM REPS - SUMMARY OF 2016/17

3.6.1 Peter Wright and Kevin Sutton have met with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the WSCC since the last meeting (as recommended) and a very constructive meeting was held. The discussion focused on the com reps' suggestions for tackling social isolation and their associated draft plan, a number of worthwhile suggestions were made and agreed by the meeting. Some amendments to improve the aforementioned plan were also agreed. The Chair and Vice-Chair expressed their continuing support for the Com Reps and the Com Reps expressed their desire to work together with all members of the WSCC team in finding better and improved ways of furthering the aims of the Wirral's neighbourhood working model.

In principle the Chair and Vice-Chair were supportive of the focus and aims of the plan. The Com Reps agreed to consult and take guidance from the Chair and Vice Chair at each and every stage and to keep the Chair and Vice Chair fully informed of progress.

- 3.6.2 To ensure that Com Reps are all taking the same approach to LAT activities, and pan-WSCC projects, they have agreed to establish a set of principles for LAT working, effectively a common framework/structure, one that can be developed and adapted for all wards/communities. It was also agreed that the Com Rep Chair should attend all LAT meetings and when that was not possible, a deputy. Having an overall picture will provide an extra stimulus to the Com Rep Collective and to LAT working ensuring that suggestions and ideas are brought forward across all communities and wards. It will also ensure that occasional absence is covered so that momentum is maintained.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Effective engagement will maximise social return on any constituency Investment

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Increased engagement may result in better use of community assets

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Failure to engage at a local level may limit the Committee's ability to effectively tackle its priorities.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Elected members, community representatives and members of the public have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees.
- 8.2 The neighbourhood working model strengthens the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impactassessments/>

REPORT AUTHOR: *Shannon Kennedy*
Engagement Officer
telephone: (0151) 666 3076
email: shannonkennedy@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Wirral South Constituency Committee	15 October 2015

This page is intentionally left blank