



Constituency Committee - Birkenhead

Date:	Wednesday, 13 June 2018
Time:	6.15 p.m.
Venue:	Beechwood Little Centre, 5th Avenue, Prenton CH43 9LB

Contact Officer: Mark Hardman
Tel: 0151 691 8546
e-mail: markhardman@wirral.gov.uk
Website: www.wirral.gov.uk

There will be an opportunity for informal networking with food and refreshments from 6pm

AGENDA

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Appointment of Chair of the Birkenhead Constituency Committee, 2018-19 Municipal Year

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Appointment of Vice Chair of the Birkenhead Constituency Committee, 2018-19 Municipal Year

3. 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.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

5. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 12)

The Committee is requested to approve the accuracy of minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2018.

6. BEECHWOOD LITTLE CENTRE, BIG LOCAL, PLAY AREA AND SKATE PARK - PRESENTATION

Presentation from the George Thomas Beechwood Community Trust about the Beechwood Little Centre, Big Local, play area and skate park.

7. BIRKENHEAD BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT - PRESENTATION

Presentation from Gemma Nichols and Mark Clemson, Wirral Chamber, about the Business Improvement District.

8. BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE (Pages 13 - 28)

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

To receive notice of pre-raised questions.

CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - BIRKENHEAD

Thursday, 1 March 2018

Present:

Councillor M McLaughlin (in the Chair)

Councillors	M McLaughlin	D Realey
	A Brighouse	J Stapleton
	P Davies	P Cleary
	S Foulkes	A Davies
	C Meaden	G Wood
	T Norbury	J McManus

23 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Foulkes declared a personal interest in all matters contained within the agenda by virtue of any reference made to Magenta Housing of which he is a Board member.

Councillor Steve Foulkes and Councillor Denise Realey advised that as members of the Planning Committee they would not participate in any matter referring to the proposed Hoylake golf course development and would give due consideration to any planning application that may come forward in the future.

24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been submitted by Councillors George Davies, Paul Doughty, Stuart Kelly and Brian Kenny.

25 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Birkenhead Constituency Committee held on 5 October 2018 be approved as a correct record.

26 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS - VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised that, with the agreement of the Committee, agenda item 8 (Public Questions and Answers) would be considered immediately following agenda item 4 (Wirral Deen Centre – Presentation), and an issue to be notified to the Committee from the Wirral Society of Arts that would otherwise have been heard within agenda item 8 would be considered immediately prior to consideration of agenda item 7 (Birkenhead Constituency Committee).

27 **WIRRAL DEEN CENTRE - PRESENTATION**

Mohammed Mustafizur and Ibrahim Syed welcomed the Committee to the Deen Centre and addressed the meeting on the origins of, and work undertaken at, the Wirral Deen Centre.

The Committee was advised that the Deen Centre had been set up in the local community to promote community cohesion, acting as an outreach project to bring communities together. As people who had grown up locally, it had become clear that people generally had not been aware of the other communities they were living alongside and the need to set something up to address this had been identified. As Muslims, there was a requirement to learn about the communities around them. The vision for the Deen Centre was for it to act as a community hub for all – the Council, and particularly the local Councillors who had nominated the Deen Centre for a Wirral Award 2017 for its work in bringing communities together and acting as a role model, were thanked for their support.

The Deen Centre operated as a social centre and a functioning mosque located on the same premises. Social projects included provision of meals for homeless people every Sunday in association with Fans Supporting Foodbanks and noting the support of Tranmere Rovers Football Club, Birkenhead Scouts meeting at the Centre, and Community Connectors being based there. The Centre also ran Islamic events, such as providing opportunities where people could learn about Islam, at Eid, and on other occasions. The Committee was advised that evening prayers had been held within the Mosque in the period prior to the meeting. Work with local churches, the Diocese of Chester and local schools, and solidarity meetings following the Manchester bombing, was also reported. The Centre had also recently secured training workshops and would shortly be providing IT classes.

The Committee was thanked for their support and welcomed in their use of the Centre for holding the Constituency Committee meeting. All present were reminded that the Centre was a community resource available for meetings and events.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Deen Centre for their hospitality in hosting the meeting and welcomed their increasing part in the community.

RESOLVED:

That the Wirral Deen Centre be thanked for their informative presentation and for their work in the local community.

28 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

In introducing this item, the Chair advised that those submitted questions relating to the Wirral Growth Company, Hoylake Golf Resort and council tax Band H houses would, so far as possible, be grouped together and would be responded to verbally by Councillor Phil Davies. Copies of the submitted questions and written responses, where indicated below, were circulated at the meeting.

Submitted **question** from Mr P Simpson, in attendance and who read his following question -

“What due diligence has the council done on Muse Developments and Morgan Sindall Construction Company, In the wake of both companies being involved previously in boroughs where, social cleansing has taken place. What guarantees will the council give, that, any homes demolished, will be replaced with like for like properties. Especially, in our deprived areas, such as Moreton, Seacombe, Birkenhead and New Ferry. As per the labour party policy on the houses crises.”

Submitted **question** from Mr T Watson, not in attendance and whose question was read by the Chair -

“Has the Council sought to engage smaller local firms by breaking up the Wirral Growth Company project into smaller parts to allow such local firms to bid? This would surely help local businesses and benefit Wirral more. Under the present agreement no matter how many local firms are engaged, 50% of the profit goes to Muse developments or Morgan Sindall, a national construction company and therefore leaves Wirral.”

Submitted **question** from Ms S Miller, not in attendance and whose question was read by the Chair -

“The Government has to bail out the now defunct Carrillion Company. Who will bail out the people of the Wirral should the Wirral Growth company collapse under a mountain of debt?”

In **response**, Councillor Phil Davies advised that as part of the OJEU procurement process, a lot of due diligence had been done of the preferred partner Muse Developments. This due diligence had been rigorous and done by independent legal advisors; as such he was confident in what had been done. He considered it wrong to suggest that Muse Developments and Morgan Sindall Construction Company had been involved in social cleansing having not seen any evidence of such, but the joint venture partnership with Muse was on a 50/50 basis and so the Council would have a veto on any deal. The Wirral Growth Company proposal was not predominantly a housing project but an extensive regeneration scheme involving commercial, retail and

some housing elements. If comparing the project to Haringey, any housing built would be new housing and as such the projects were not comparable.

Submitted **question** from Ms A Underwood, not in attendance and whose question was read by the Chair -

“The Labour manifesto pledges "to ensure housing is about homes for the many, not investment opportunities for the few. So why is Wirral Council lending a developer £26 million to build 160 Band H (worth at least £320,000) homes in Wirral West when that money would be more beneficially spent on affordable houses in this constituency?”

Submitted **question** from Mr G Turner, not in attendance and whose question was read by the Chair -

“The golfing fraternity in Wirral is well catered for as the borough has golf courses dotted all around the area. Given that the sport generally is in decline, why do Wirral Council think that it is a good idea to proceed with the Hoylake Golf Resort? How will it benefit the area? Don't we have more important things to spend money on?”

Submitted **question** from Mr P Simpson, in attendance and who read his following question -

"With due diligence now carried out on the Niklause Joint Venture Group. Will the leader Phil Davies guarantee the Wirral tax payers that, the Niklause Joint Venture Group, will not dissolve or go into liquidation? Furthermore, will he advise the tax payers of Wirral, How much interest will be charged against the loan of £26m to the group which he intends to borrow, then loan to the Niklause Group.”

Submitted **question** from Mr K Barnes, in attendance and who read his following question -

“The recent collapse of Carrillion has left the new Royal Liverpool hospital in disarray. The Labour NEC has recently voted to call on Haringey Council to pause its controversial 50-50 joint venture vehicle which has been criticised for “social cleansing” Despite a Europe wide search, the only Developer that could be found to take on the Hoylake Golf Resort Project was a developer with a history of bankruptcy and a zero credit limit. The Golf Resort is to be funded by building Band H houses and not social housing. Labour Party policy now prohibits the transfer of public land to private developers and flawed joint venture vehicles. How much of publically owned land will be transferred to the private partners of the Wirral Growth Company and do the Councillors believe that the Hoylake Golf Resort and the Wirral Growth Company plans won't end up in the same mess as the Royal Hospital and Haringey?”

In **response**, Councillor Phil Davies advised that the golf resort proposal was a completely different scheme to that in Haringey. No public asset would be transferred to a private company and all public assets would remain owned by the Council. In this regard he was confident this was not the same position as Haringey. Looking at all the deals raised at the meeting, Councillor Davies noted that the government had slashed the Council's income by £170M since 2010, with a further £130M by 2021. By 2021 the Revenue Support Grant from government would be removed and if the Council did not identify new income streams it would become bankrupt; reference was made to Northamptonshire County Council that had not made such provision and had used reserves that were available once only.

With regard to the golf resort, this had not been agreed, and feasibility studies and environmental and traffic impacts still required consideration. The Council would be failing in its duties not to consider such a scheme that could bring in £1M in business and residential taxes to fund local services and provide 175 direct jobs with further jobs in the construction phase. It was sensible to consider the project and to await the outcome of the studies. With regard to the question concerning due diligence, if Hoylake was to proceed, it would be proposed to charge a 5% interest rate on £2.5M to help fund public services.

With regard to Band H properties, Councillor Davies noted that the local government funding system was unfair as it penalised Councils such as Wirral that had mostly Band A and B properties; for example, a 1% council tax increase in Wirral brought in significantly less revenue than in wealthy Westminster which had predominantly Band H properties. There was therefore a need to encourage higher banded council tax properties as they brought increased revenue to the Council.

Submitted **question** from Ms K O'Rourke, in attendance and who read her following question –

"A recent World Health Organisation Study found that the Air Pollution in Birkenhead exceeds safety levels. In a recent high court ruling a judge branded the current government policy "unlawful" and has ordered local authorities to do more, and to take action as soon as possible. Air pollution kills thousands every year. What steps will the Council take to improve air pollution levels in Birkenhead and do the Councillors think that the Council's plan to spend £millions on new roads for a golf resort, just a few miles downwind of Birkenhead, should now be scrapped?"

Details of the following **response** prepared by the Environmental Health Department had been circulated and was taken as read -

"The World Health Organisation report relates to tiny airborne particles which can be inhaled, called PM_{2.5}. Measured levels within Wirral meet the current

European / UK statutory levels of 25 microgrammes per cubic metre. The World Health Organisation has set a lower standard of 10 microgrammes per cubic metre. In 2013 the measured level in Wirral was 11. Since 2013 it has been below the World Health Organisation Level.

However, we are continuing to review measured and modelled data in order to assess levels of this and other pollutants (both in Birkenhead and across the Borough). Officers from a number of Council teams meet regularly to scrutinise and share air quality data from the Council and identify what further action can be undertaken. The Council also participates in a Regional air quality group which is looking at air quality across the region.

The Council monitors air pollution at 31 points throughout the Borough and there are two Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) monitoring stations in Birkenhead. DEFRA publish this data on their website.

Wirral Council publishes the results of its air quality monitoring , together with an annual summary of action it is taking to improve Air Quality, on the Council website in an “Annual Status Review” document. This can be found by searching for Air Quality on the website.

Environmental matters are considered during the planning process.

Any questions or feedback would be most welcome and maybe made to Environmentalhealth@wirral.gov.uk “

Councillor Phil Davies further **responded** with regard to the golf resort, noting that an Environmental Impact Assessment was a key study and would cover issues of air pollution. These studies would be available to the public for scrutiny.

Submitted **question** from Ms L Clough, in attendance and who read her following question -

“The closure of M&S is another blow for Birkenhead and a further indictment of Wirral Council's failure to support Wirral's main town centre over several decades, notwithstanding the very recent announcement of the "Wirral Growth Company". There has been a chronic need for serious investment in Birkenhead for many years. In the light of this why in recent years has Wirral Council ploughed over £1 million into the deeply unpopular golf resort / executive housing development proposal for Hoylake, especially as the leader of the council has recently said that "there is a national downturn in the amount of people playing golf". This is leading to a huge shortfall in fees collected at public golf courses in Wirral. Does the council accept that the chronic need for investment in Birkenhead means that further waste of resources to promote the Hoylake Golf Resort is totally unacceptable to the vast majority of people in Birkenhead and throughout Wirral.”

In **response**, Councillor Phil Davies advised that the challenge of investing in Birkenhead was why the Wirral Growth Company had been set up. Birkenhead town centre was a key area and it was planned to invest huge resources into improving the offer there, including a new market and new facilities. The challenge was the need to spend significant amounts of money on the project which the Council did not have. With regard to the golf resort, this would not just comprise golf but would act as a destination in its own right, for example in the hosting of conferences, which would bring in increased income. The Council needed to identify new income streams and did not want to end up in a similar position to Northamptonshire County Council.

The Wirral Growth Company was a mechanism to deliver investment. If the Council did not do this, it was questioned what alternative answer there was. The Wirral Growth Company presented the opportunity of a lifetime that needed to be grasped.

The following question from Mr T Watson, not in attendance at the meeting, and a written response, details of both being circulated at the meeting, were taken as read –

Question – “At the cabinet meeting on the 18th December 2017 George Davies said 'there is a massive shortage of top band houses (in Wirral)'. Whilst I recognise having more band H houses would bring in more Council tax revenue to Wirral, how do you conclude that there is a massive shortage of such houses? For there to be a shortage there must be an identified need. For there to be a shortage you would imagine that we have fewer than other boroughs? In fact we have the highest number of band H houses in Merseyside. In the Northwest there are only four boroughs that have more. What evidence do you have to support your statement?”

Response – “Cllr George Davies statement was made in relation to the fact that as a Council, we do not have as many Council Tax Band H homes as those in other bands. This is a fact and the report speaks for itself in that Wirral has the largest percentage of homes in Council Tax Bands A-C. There was no comparison on the need for this against other Local Authorities and the report does not state this.”

29 **LOCAL POLICING INITIATIVES - PRESENTATION**

Katie Wilkinson introduced herself to the meeting as the local policing sergeant. The objectives of the local policing team were reported as being to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), address issues of drug and alcohol abuse, tackle youth related ASB and unreported hate crime, and assist in bringing together the number of communities in the locality who had little interaction with each other.

With regard to drug and alcohol abuse, work in Birkenhead town centre sought to address street drinking, and work with the Council on a community impact assessment approach sought to prevent additional licensed premises opening in areas of concern. To address drug dealing, reports from the local community were needed; it was acknowledged that people should not have to walk past these activities, but the police needed information if they were to address dealing. Regarding youth and ASB issues, the area around Woodlands Primary School where different communities lived alongside each other was being addressed. Relationships in school appeared fine, but different messages came forward out of school, possibly due to peer pressure.

The police, with partner agencies, sought to manage offenders responsible for ASB and hate crimes. As police awareness of unreported hate crime had grown, representatives of different communities had been brought together to try and solve the issue. Work was also being undertaken with registered social landlords to identify housing related issues. The Committee was reminded that the police service provided policing by consent, in that if crime was reported it could be addressed but that if the police were not informed it could not. Comment was made that improved community cohesion led to improved standards of living, and the work of the Deen Centre to break down barriers was noted.

Forthcoming activities included those geared towards making the Woodlands Park an area where all felt ownership, Stop Hate UK working in the area to explain why hate crime needed to be reported, and a variety of community activities and school visits.

A member of the public supported comments made in the presentation but, in referring to instances of ASB in other areas, expressed the opinion that local and community policing was vital but lacking. It was acknowledged that the community team had reduced following reductions in police and support staff numbers due to funding, but the point that the police needed to be made aware of issues to address hotspots was re-iterated.

A Member asked about action being taken to reduce rough sleeping. In response, it was advised that the police were working with other agencies to address issues linked to homelessness, but that issues such as drugs, alcohol and mental health, factors in many but not all instances, needed to be addressed making this a complex area.

A member of the public noted and supported the police efforts in trying to bring communities together and referred to other activities by other groups in this regard.

The Chair and the Committee thanked Sgt Wilkinson for her presentation to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That Sgt Wilkinson be thanked for her presentation to the meeting and the work of local policing team be supported.

30 FUTURE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING - PRESENTATION

Councillor Matthew Patrick, Cabinet Member for Localism and Engagement, and Rachael Musgrave, Consultant in Public Health, addressed the Committee on matters relating to the future of neighbourhood working.

Councillor Patrick advised of a review considering the effectiveness of current neighbourhood working arrangements. The Constituency Committees are part of the current approach, the Committees being formed several years ago to replace Area Forums to provide an opportunity for residents to hear updates on local services and to raise issues. Reference was made to a study indicating that 97% of people felt that local communities would improve if people had an input, but that around 50% of Wirral residents felt they had no influence; this suggested that things had to change if the Council wished to increase participation. This was important as 75% of the actions related to the 2020 Vision and Pledges needed better work in communities.

The review into Constituency Committee effectiveness had considered what other models there were for neighbourhood working in use elsewhere; what value could be placed on investment to date; and what were the views of partners, residents and councillors.

Rachael Musgrave advised that a review of approaches elsewhere revealed a variety of approaches but none that had been formally evaluated. While there were some success factors, such as in differing ways of engagement and in ensuring ownership and transparency, there was no particular answer but to find the best way forward for Wirral. Looking at social value and return on the Committees' budget expenditure since 2013, while acknowledging that individual Committee's adopted their own priorities and approaches the review had shown an average £2.68 return for every £1 Committee grant. This Committee's focus on ASB and clean-ups had, in some instances, produced an equivalent £6.21 return. In seeking the views of others, there was a consensus that work with partners and the community had both to be done and be valued, and that community action made a difference.

Following the above, it was concluded that one size would not fit all, and that existing networks should be used to engage with agencies and with communities, as opposed to expecting them to come to the Council. It was felt that a Committee meeting was not necessarily the best way to approach this. Other considerations from consultation were that small grants and seed funding was really useful; that people valued the asking for help and advice;

that the dedicated officer support benefits the process in tackling issues and making connections; there was a need for a community builder; and there was a feeling of apathy with the political system.

In concluding, Councillor Patrick advised that there was no proposed model at this stage of the review. However, it was recognised that differing ways of working were in operation and there was no intention to stop the good things that were already happening.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

31 **WIRRAL LIBRARIES TROLL TRAIL**

Susan Brown, Chair of the Wirral Society of Arts, advised the Committee of a piece of work undertaken with the objective of increasing usage of the Borough's libraries. The need for an increase in income was acknowledged, and an increase in usage of and footfall at libraries was needed. Their researches had suggested that many people did not know their library opening times and that, in an area where many people did not have computers, many did not know that they could access IT at libraries.

The Society had devised a 'Troll Trail' whereby young people would be encouraged to make their own troll with salt dough and take it to their local library up to 1 June 2018; the trolls would be judged and small prizes awarded. The Troll Trail was supported by leaflets providing links to library opening times and details of facilities available, and samples of leaflets and the salt dough were circulated at the meeting. The approach had been supported by and would be promoted through the Wirral Festival of Firsts.

RESOLVED:

That the Libraries 'Troll Trail' project be noted.

32 **BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE**

The Birkenhead Constituency Manager presented her report providing an update on progress in relation to agreed schemes of work from the budget devolved to the Constituency Committee to date and other Birkenhead Constituency Committee projects in progress.

The report considered and reported on progress of projects and schemes under the following areas –

- Keeping Birkenhead Clean
 - The launch of 'love where you live' litterpick kits;

- 2018 'In Bloom' proposed projects and In Bloom projects that had delivered positive outcomes, the Committee receiving a further verbal update from Mr John Booth, Oxton Secret Gardens, in respect of Oxton in Bloom and related activities;
 - Skip Fund Community Partnership days and clean-ups;
 - Clean-up dates in the past 12 months; and
 - Work of the 'Community Payback Team'.
- Feeding Birkenhead
 - St James Centre – North Birkenhead Development Trust, including appendices to the submitted report detailing St James holiday food and activities provision in the half term week commencing 19 February 2018;
 - Beechwood Update;
 - Rock Ferry Food Hub – Neo Café at The Beaconsfield Centre, the Committee receiving a further verbal update from Ms Emma Wilkes, Neo Community Café, concerning provision at the Food Hub;
 - Gautby Road Community Centre; and
 - Livingstone Street Centre – BEE Wirral Council.
- Improving Life Chances
 - Update for Improving Life Chances Community Pilots; and
 - Improving Life Chances Actions for 2017-18.
- Community Connectors Project, including presentation slides appended to the submitted report advising on the role and activities of the Community Connectors.
- Birkenhead First Activity Update 2017
 - Work of the Birkenhead Improvement District (BID) Team.
- Birkenhead Assets Update
 - The Beechwood Centre; and
 - Beaconsfield Centre, Rock Ferry

An appendix to the submitted report provided details of the Good Neighbour Champions Scheme, an initiative aimed at harnessing the principals of Asset Based Community Development by seeking to identify and work with people who would wish to volunteer to be a Good Neighbour in their street, road, cul-de-sac or neighbourhood, and reporting on the progress of the Scheme to date.

The Committee expressed their thanks for the work undertaken by the Constituency Manager and the Constituency Team.

RESOLVED: That -

- (1) the partnership work undertaken and future clean-up days funded by the skip fund be noted;**
- (2) the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean-ups be noted;**
- (3) the 2018 Birkenhead in Bloom schemes be noted;**
- (4) the updates from food hubs and holiday food projects be noted;**
- (5) the updates regarding the Improving Life Chances community pilots be noted;**
- (6) the updates for the Birkenhead Improvement District (BID) Team, Community Connectors and those related to assets be noted.**



**Constituency Committee - Birkenhead
Wednesday, 13 June 2018**

REPORT TITLE:	Birkenhead Constituency Committee
REPORT OF:	Assistant Director: Health & Outcomes

REPORT SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the partnership work undertaken and future clean-up days funded by the skip fund**
- **Note the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean-ups**
- **Note the 2018 Birkenhead in Bloom proposed projects and note £1K allocation to each ward to support projects**
- **Note the updates from the food hubs and holiday food projects**
- **Note the updates regarding the Improving Life Chances community pilots**
- **Note the updates from BID team, Connectors, Pathfinder and Assets update**

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

The launch of the Love where you Live litterpick kits

Birkenhead Constituency now has 5 Love Where You Live hubs. This means any members of the public can book at the numbers below and use the litter pick kits for clean-ups this Summer. We will organise bag collection.

- Beaconsfield Centre: 07447 913888
- Gautby Road Centre: 652 5645
- St James Centre: 670 9974
- Beechwood Trust: 677 8008
- Livingstone Street Centre: 653 5223

£1K has been allocated to each ward in 2018 for 'In Bloom' projects which will include:

1. Birkenhead YMCA – planters and hanging baskets in Borough Road
2. Beechwood in Bloom – partnership work transformed Beechwood
3. Ballantyne in Bloom - hanging baskets improve Ballantyne
4. The Beechwood Little Centre in bloom
5. Bidston Village in Bloom – hanging baskets improve Bidston Village
6. Gautby in Bloom – youth club, play scheme and staff flower up Gautby Road
7. Livingstone Street in Bloom – centre users grown vegetables and flowers
8. Bidston Rise in Bloom – residents and Magenta worked to have hanging baskets and planters.
9. Bluewood in Bloom – Magenta and residents planted up wild flower Areas
- 10 Oxtan in Bloom – secret gardens, Williamson and hanging baskets
- 11.Rock Ferry in Bloom – Neo Community Café and volunteers have worked to improve one stop shop area
- 12.Beaconsfield in Bloom – developing community garden next to the centre
- 13.Prenton in Bloom x 2– continued improvements on Woodchurch Road and Prenton Dell Road
- 14.Claughton in Bloom – working with retailers and the 6th Form College to have an Oxtan style hanging baskets.
- 15.The Lauries Centre – tenants improve the town centre landscaping
- 16.The Hive – development of a community garden
- 17.Alleyways behind Claughton Road – residents transform into an oasis of Flowers
- 18.Alleyways behind Water Street – residents and Wirral Methodist Housing Association transform into an oasis of flowers
- 19.Birkenhead Park in Bloom (HYPE)
- 20.The Woodlands in Bloom

The projects will be great examples of agencies putting in time and funds, working with schools and residents to improve their areas. Big Local, Probation, Magenta and Tesco are making valuable contributions to projects with their time and funds, along with residents, agencies, schools, the Environmental Team and constituency team.

In Bloom projects have a number of positive outcomes:

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

Skip Fund, Community Partnership days and Clean-ups

In total the Birkenhead Constituency Committee has provided and planned 105 skips and given officer support at more than 40 Community Clear Ups and Action Days at the cost of circa **£13,000** 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 120 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.

Historical Clean-up dates 2017-18

The following community partnership days have taken place 2017-8:

- Rock Park clean up - 4th March 2017
- St Anne's Street clean up - BID team, constituency team and Magenta - 15th March 2017
- YMCA, BID and McDonalds co-ordinate - clean up 5th April 2017
- Bentinck Street area - 8th April 2017
- Union Street Beaconsfield Centre clean up - 19th May 2017
- Magenta Bidston Rise clean up – 18th May 2017
- Rock Ferry police action days – 9th June 2017
- Jamesbrook Close and Patten Street - 20th July 2017
- Beaconsfield clean up 1st and 3rd August 2017
- Noctorum clean up 22nd August 2017
- North end clean up 26th August 2017
- Northend 19th September 2017
- Rock Ferry 21st September 2017
- Westborne Ave – 7th January 2018
- Rodney Street Residents – 6th February 2018

The 'Community Pay Back' Team

The 'Community Pay Back' team have delivered a programme of alleyway weed clearing and cleansing for Birkenhead. They have supported 'In Bloom' projects by doing clean ups and a range of other cleansing in each area. They have completed over 60 jobs for the Birkenhead Constituency Committee.

They have completed the following jobs also last year:

- Larch Road - March 2017
- Strip of land by B and M - March 2017
- Bhead library pocket park - March 2017
- Castle Street/Water Street - March 2017
- Holly Grove - March 2017
- Holborn Road - March 2017
- Central Hotel - April 2017
- Elm Road and Woodchurch Rd – April 2017
- Allcot Avenue April 2017
- Arno Rd April 2017
- Patton St Clean-up day April 2017

- Flaybrick Cemetery - June 2017
- 266 Claughton Rd - May2017
- Oxtan Village Old bank site April 2017
- Sisters Way May 2017
- Larch Grove May 2017
- Chistleton Close May 2017
- Byrne Ave and Bedford road - June 2017
- Pocket Park behind Birkenhead library 20th June 2017
- Little Centre Beechwood 19th June 2017
- Liberty Centre 30th June 2017
- Hardcourt Street May 2018

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- Note the partnership work for clean-up days for the skip fund
- Note the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean ups
- Note the 2018 Birkenhead in Bloom proposed projects and note the £1K allocation to each ward

3.2 Feeding Birkenhead

a) Beechwood Update

Skateboard Park

The official opening of the Skateboard Park in Beechwood took place on Tuesday 8th May 2018. Cllr George Davies, together with ex Councillor Harry Smith, started the discussions, many years ago, with funding from Section 106, when the new properties were built, on the estate, and current Councillor Brian Kenny, has continued their good work.

Big Local and Onward Housing, have worked with young people, and in partnership with members of Wirral Council and Joint Management Committee (made up from members from CA, BCT, Chapel) made it a reality.

Lady Mayor, Ann McLaughlin, with Harry and Brian, were delighted to officially open the park, and the brilliant company, Extreme Wheels, gave an outstanding performance of how it's done!

Everyone was invited back to The Little Centre for refreshments.



The Little Centre Beechwood

The Little Centre, has now been open for 6 months, and is going from strength to strength with the following activities already taking place.

- Community Café
- Food Pantry
- CA office
- Playscheme
- Softplay
- Bingo groups
- Room hire for meetings and parties

A new Manager has recently been recruited, who is looking forward to working with the Management Board to make it bigger and better, for the Community of Beechwood. Big Local is also funding a position of a Little Centre Apprenticeship role, to support the Manager in developing the activities for the centre.

A new playground, is to be built at the rear of the centre, with plans well underway, hopefully, all new equipment will be in for school summer holidays.

Volunteers

It has been proving difficult to recruit volunteers for the centre, and a new project funded by Big Local. The Volunteer Brokerage project is being organised with Community Action Wirral and Community Connectors.

Big Local

Big Local have launched years Bright Ideas Fund, inviting community to apply for funding up to £1000.

In Bloom

The environmental sub group, made up of partners to support environmental issues across Beechwood, Ballantyne and Bidston are delighted to be entering 4 projects.

- Beechwood Community Village
- The Little Centre Beechwood
- Ballantyne
- Bidston Village

The sub group is made up of members from Community, Onward Housing, Council, Councillors.

Ballantyne Community Centre

The have been several meetings, to look at a new community partnership to take over the running of the Ballantyne Centre. Ownership of the land is still being established. Meanwhile, 18 raised beds have been built in the grounds and with support from Onward Housing & Big Local and community is busy planting them up

Apprenticeships

Beechwood Community trust has successfully secured a Non Levy Apprenticeship contract from the Education Skills Funding Agency to the value of £257,000, being the only prime provider for such a contract on the Wirral.

Providing apprenticeships in Childcare, Sport, Hairdressing and Barbering. This demonstrates a bright future for Beechwood Community Trust who are now eligible to tender for further contracts and the young people and employers of Wirral.

Digital Plan/Twenty Pledges

Beechwood is eager to develop Wirral's Digital Strategy, Big Local funding Free Wi-Fi in Beechwood Community Trust and the Little Centre Beechwood. Coupled with Free Wi-Fi in Beechwood Recreation Centre and Beechwood Library the Beechwood Digital Hub is now a reality and not a dream.

b) Gautby Road Community Centre

Gautby Road Community Centre has been offering a discounted supermarket weekly to local residents since January 2016. The Centre subscribes to Fareshare, His Church and get surplus food from Tesco's through the icloud app. Gautby is ordering pallets from His Church and has negotiated a good price from Fareshare for surplus food and received pallets.

The Centre has refurbished the kitchen in order to offer holiday food to local children and a food offer as part of the ASB youth project. They are working with local children to grow and cook their own vegetables as part of Gautby in Bloom 2018, building on the 'Thriving' award they received last year.

Gautby Road is working with St James, the police, YIP and the sports development team to provide food and activities across the North end for young people including a Thursday night and Saturday night session. As part of the project Gautby has taken on two ILM work placements and updated its CCTV. Gautby has extended the ILM placements until July 2018. The Centre will be delivering youth activity and holiday food provision throughout the Summer.

Luke O'Dowd: luke@gautbyroad.co.uk

c) Livingstone Street Centre – BEE Wirral Council

BeeWirral continues to deliver a full timetable of activities, from Monday to Saturday, for all ages. On Mondays, Tea and Memories, our oral history group, now runs in the morning at The Livvy, and in the afternoons at Tomorrow's Women Wirral.

Baby dance is a 5 week course which encourages bonding with your baby with easy to do dance moves. This is a popular course so booking is essential!

BeeKids is our after school club for 6+, but younger children are welcome if carers stay. It's free during term time.

Our social food co-op operates all week and is a great way to make your money go further. Bring a carrier bag along and fill it for a small donation (Max £3)

We have become an Open Awards accredited centre, so in the near future many of our activities will allow those taking part to gain an accredited qualification. Future developments include working in partnership with Magenta Living and the community connectors to transform four derelict planters on Beckwith Street into wildlife havens as part of our It's Your Neighbourhood scheme.

Alongside these activities we have a continuing programme of building improvements to ensure that The Livvy has a long life as a community hub. For further information, please contact Kath Shaughnessy:
kathshaughnessy@gmail.com

3.3 Improving Life Chances

Update for Improving Life Chances Community Pilots

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

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

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

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

The aims of the partnership are:

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

Already some good outputs have been completed thus:

- Christmas holiday food hamper project across Birkenhead and in each community pilot, working together in partnership.
- Delivered over 2500 hampers across the Birkenhead area. The food hampers are an opportunity to promote services through an info pack inside each hamper. The project has galvanised partnership working. Information in food hampers includes reporting ASB/Crimestoppers, energy advice, Magenta,

Fairforyou, credit unions, school uniform swaps etc. supplementary sheets has been developed which is tailored to each area and particular themes which can be distributed at the food hubs, in hampers regarding, Christmas events etc.

- Beechwood and the North End have jointly bussed young people to the River of Light festival on bonfire night as part of Operation Banger
- St James has successfully secured funding for a joint Warm Home awareness event
- Annual Christmas grotto in Gautby Road in December and in Beechwood
- Annual Christmas table decorations taken place in each pilot area delivered by Life Long Learning.
- Beechwood has developed St Paul's School community hub and will offer a breakfast food club, possibly in partnership with Fareshare
- North end ASB project set up and delivered across North end
- Addressing Fuel Poverty event in Beechwood

ILC Actions for 2017-18:

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

The impact of the ILCs are being evaluated by public health and an update will be reported to the next committee.

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

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

3.4 Community Connectors Project

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

are all in post and have been working hard in their areas during the last quarter.

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

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

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

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

3.5 Birkenhead First Activity Update: 2017

The Business Improvement District Team are continuing their diverse town centre activity to support the retail area in Birkenhead and will be delivering the following programme of events this quarter:

1. Clean Air Day- 21st June 2018

This is a council led event, Mark Clemson from the BID team who is hosting a pre-meet to hopefully develop more of an understanding about what shape the event should take, who needs to be involved. BID are principally involved to help businesses within the BID area.

Further details on Clean Air Day are here:
<https://www.cleanairday.org.uk/Default.aspx>

2. Be in Birkenhead Festival- 26th July 2018

This is the 3rd year for the Be in Birkenhead festival and it's going to be bigger and better than in previous years. The aim is to showcase the businesses and charities within Birkenhead and be as inclusive as possible.

The BID team are looking for choirs and acts to perform on the stage, for businesses to donate raffle prizes and to promote the event as widely as possible in advance. Wirral Transport Museum will be running shuttle buses throughout the day to ensure that all areas of Birkenhead can benefit from the increased footfall.

3.6 Birkenhead Assets update

The Beechwood Centre

The Beechwood Centre signed the lease to take on the former Beechwood Community Centre, as an asset transfer, on 9th December 2016. The Directors of the Beechwood Centre formerly, members of the Joint Management Committee, have worked relentlessly for the past few years to develop a business plan, secure funds and run the building as a community interest company.

The building has been refurbished and will soon provide an expanded food hub, community café, soft play area, sports hall, community room, play scheme and much more for the local community. The group appointed a Centre Manager and cook and assistant in May 2018. The centre hosted the successful Improving Life Chances annual event in October 2017. A full update of their activities can be found in 3.2 a).

Beaconsfield Centre, Rock Ferry

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

3.7 Pathfinder Project

Pathfinder Project

The Pathfinder Project is a partnership between the Police, Council, YOT, local schools, CELLS project, Army and Leisure Services. The project has received £7K funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's fund. The pilot project has engaged with 5 schools so far years 9 and 10: EMA, Kilgarth, Woodchurch High School, Prenton High School for Girls and Birkenhead Park School. Over 140 young people who have offended or are at risk of offending have been engaged into the project.

The project offers 4 or 5 days of intervention activities to deter offending including, CELLS project which outlines the consequences of a range of offending, army assault course which promotes problem solving, confidence building and team

work, orienteering, mountain biking, foot golf, gym induction day and an awards ceremony. Successful young people have received a certificate and a 6 weekly gym pass. The project encourages involvement of credible role models in the support team who have been involved in ASB in the past but who have turned their lives around and are currently involved in youth work. The project applicant is Gautby Road Play and Community Centre which is the centre of the North end of Birkenhead where ASB rates have been historically high. Research shows that projects embedded in a community setting show the best chance of success.

Evaluation of the project has shown that the project is improving young people's confidence, skills, attitude to the Police and Council as well as acting as a deterrent from reoffending. It is demonstrating a high impact on changing young peoples' attitudes to committing ASB in the future.

- *46% Changed their attitudes towards the police in a more positive way*
- *73% were deterred from committing crime by understanding consequences*
- *91% reported increased confidence*
- *60% reported increased knowledge about crime and consequences*

Some quotes taken directly from the participants about the police:

- *'They are actually sound'*
- *'I realise they are just normal people doing a job'*
- *'Yes cause they're sound'.*
- *'They are actually quite sound'*
- *'I respect them a bit more'*

The project is currently looking for additional funds for the next phase of the project – Pathfinder 2.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are no staffing implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

There are no relevant risks.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Please see appendix 1 for details.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no equality implications.

REPORT AUTHOR: *Jo Burrell Constituency Manager*

0151 666 3897

email: joannaburrell@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Community Engagement Update

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

Birkenhead Constituency Team Neighbourhood Engagement Update

June 2018

Birkenhead In Bloom

Work is currently underway on the preparations for the Birkenhead In Bloom competition. There will be entries from each of the wards within the Birkenhead Constituency area with organisations such as the Birkenhead 6th Form College, Birkenhead YMCA, Williamson Art Gallery and Merseytravel all getting involved.

After the success of all the entrants in last years In Bloom Competition and the effect they had in their own areas this year will see even more positive impact on the communities within the Birkenhead area.

Community Action Days

The Community Action Days have successfully brought together the community and partners to tackle issues in various areas.

A recent action day was organised in Westbourne Avenue between the Westbourne Avenue Resident Association, Connect Us Project and Wirral Council. Organised as a 'Good Neighbour Day' the agencies that attended the event ranged from Connect Us, The Wezzy Gardens, Connect Us, ReachOut, Energy Projects Plus, The Fire Service, Merseyside Police, Liverpool Housing Trust, Jigsaw Project, Kontactabus as well as well as representation from the 'Love Where You Live' campaign.

These community action days are excellent ways of bringing the community and statutory organisations together with future events being organised for Harcourt Street and the Old Rock Ferry High School Site.

Good Neighbour Scheme

Since the launch of the Good Neighbour Scheme over 1400 stickers have been requested and displayed in windows throughout Wirral.

The Good Neighbour Champions Scheme is an initiative aimed at harnessing the principals of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) by attempting to identify and work with people who would identify themselves as a **Good Neighbour** in their street, road, cul-de-sac or neighbourhood.

This could be as a friendly face to say hello to or someone who could signpost fellow residents to services available in the area. The concept for the scheme evolved through discussions between the Birkenhead Constituency Team, Connect Us and Public Health.

Some roads have saw a high percentage of stickers displayed with one road in particular seeing over 50% of households displaying stickers. With the amount of take up roads and communities are already seeing the benefits of the scheme.

Below is a geographically breakdown of where the stickers have been displayed.

Ward	Number of stickers	% of all stickers	Households	Rate per 1,000 households
Bebington	3	0.2%	6,645	0.45
Bidston and St James	284	20.1%	6,889	41.23
Birkenhead and Tranmere	152	10.8%	7,747	19.62
Bromborough	28	2.0%	6,690	4.19
Clatterbridge	5	0.4%	5,924	0.84
Cloughton	81	5.7%	6,285	12.89
Eastham	33	2.3%	5,955	5.54
Leasowe and Moreton East	136	9.6%	6,390	21.28
Liscard	47	3.3%	6,891	6.82
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	47	3.3%	6,176	7.61
New Brighton	14	1.0%	6,784	2.06
Oxton	76	5.4%	6,592	11.53
Pensby and Thingwall	2	0.1%	5,803	0.34
Prenton	70	5.0%	6,051	11.57
Rock Ferry	66	4.7%	6,465	10.21
Seacombe	40	2.8%	6,871	5.82
Upton	306	21.7%	7,127	42.94
Wallasey	20	1.4%	6,313	3.17
Wirral	1,410	100%	117,598	11.99

Source:

Household data taken from Census 2011, via Office for National Statistics
 Good Neighbour Scheme data provided by Involve North West

Notes

This table does not include the following wards: Greasby, Frank & Irby, Heswall, Hoylake & Meols, and West Kirby & Thurstaston
 This is due to these wards being outside the remit of the Community Connectors from Involve North West
 Household data for these wards has also not been included in the total number for Wirral to give a more accurate rate
 The % of all leaflets reflects the % proportion of leaflets displayed per ward
 The rate has been calculated for the number of leaflets displayed per 1,000 households in each ward

Arson Awareness Campaign

The Birkenhead Constituency Team has recently supported a number of arson awareness days organised by the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service. The events are targeted in the areas with higher reported incidents and are organised to raise awareness of the dangers of secondary fires, allow Merseyside Fire Service to carry out home safety checks and for partners such as Wirral Council and the ASB Team to liaise with residents over any other issues.

Recent events the Birkenhead Constituency Team have supported have taken place in North Birkenhead, the Noctorum Estate and Birkenhead Park.

For information on any of these projects please contact.

Andy Brannan, Birkenhead Neighbourhood Engagement Officer.
Email: andrewbrannan@wirral.gov.uk Phone: 0515 691 8391

This page is intentionally left blank