

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

3RD JULY 2014

SUBJECT:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	WARDS WITHIN THE WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ GREASBY, FRANKBY AND IRBY▪ HOYLAKE AND MEOLS▪ PENSBY AND THINGWALL▪ WEST KIRBY AND THURSTASTON▪ UPTON AND WOODCHURCH
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL WEST)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CABINET MEMBER – NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress in relation to the ongoing work programme being undertaken in support of the Wirral West Constituency Committee. This is set out in the 'action tracker' attached at **Appendix 1**. Particular items for noting are highlighted below in the main body of the report.

2.0 CONSTITUENCY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

- 2.1 The Constituency Manager has worked with partners to develop a joined up approach to engagement in the constituency. The first partner 'have your say' marketplace event took place on the 17th April in Hoylake and had representatives from a number of organisations who were on hand to answer questions from members of the public and give updates on services and activities in the area. Approximately 30 members of the public dropped in to the event and feedback was generally positive during the evening, with people welcoming the opportunity to have face to face informal conversations and discuss issues. Both Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service have commented positively on the approach.
- 2.2 The approach to these events will be further developed and publicised to ensure that people are aware of the purpose of these events and how these link with the Constituency Committee as this is the major concern that has been fed back. The dates for future marketplace engagement events are as follows:
- Thursday 18th September 2014, 7 p.m., Upton Ward (venue to be confirmed);
 - Thursday 11th December 2014, 7 p.m., Greasby, Frankby and Irby Ward (venue to be confirmed);
 - Thursday 26th March 2015, 7 p.m., West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward (venue to be confirmed);
 - Thursday 18th June 2015, 7 p.m., Pensby and Thingwall Ward (venue to be confirmed).

3.0 WIRRAL WEST COMMUNITY FUND / PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECTS

- 3.1 All projects funded as an outcome of this report need to be completed by December 2014 and the constituency team are working proactively with groups to support project activity. As part of this, an opportunity has been provided to groups to provide an update on their projects to feedback to the Committee. A number of groups have fed back that their projects are in the early stages of development and that there is therefore little to report at this stage. However, several projects have been able to provide a summary of progress and the highlights are as follows:

Woodchurch Methodist Centre was awarded £472 to hold a 'Making Connections' event. The purpose of the event, held in May, was to find ways to reduce isolation and loneliness by introducing older people to new possibilities and connections where they live and beyond. The planning included close working with a wide range of partner agencies. Activities at the event included painting, card making, hand massage, measuring up (focusing on weight management), introducing bread making, board games and knitting. All of these activities were designed to trigger ideas to encourage older people to either take up an activity at home, or attend and get involved in something new. Members of the church alongside professional workers were on hand to offer advice and guidance. Refreshments were available throughout the event, with emphasis on healthy eating. 'All our Yesterdays' helped people consider the positive stories from their memories as a healing process. 63 people participated on the day with a number of successful outcomes. One example is a lady who is wheelchair bound, who attended the card making session and has now been enrolled onto a regular course that meets on Monday evenings. She has also signed up for Chair Based Exercises and the IT course. A monthly bread making session is seeing increased numbers attending. All participants were invited to complete an evaluation and provide their telephone number so that further contact could be maintained. A number of encouraging comments were made about the event including, a suggestion by many to make it an annual event.

St Hildeburgh's Lunch Club was awarded just over £1,400 to expand their regular lunches for isolated older members of the community. The club is now well established and meets monthly. The project currently caters for a range of older members of the community, many who are socially isolated and/or living in care homes. Clients have a range of health needs including being wheelchair users and living with dementia. Between 40 and 50 clients attend each lunch. With improvements to our kitchen facilities the church may be able to increase the number attending and plans are in place to make this happen. Members of the church prepare the meal and talk/interact with the clients and support staff from care homes are also on hand.

The **Friends of Hilbre Parents and Teachers Association** was awarded £1,000 for their community Clean Up project being delivered in conjunction with Wirral Eco Schools. The project is on-going and is proving very enjoyable and successful for the people involved. The aim was to focus on litter and waste in the local area, the impact it has on local residents and the students of this school. The funding has been spent on litter picking equipment (pickers, bag rings, gloves etc) and work has involved a team of very enthusiastic pupils who have carried out litter picking sessions around the school site and the local area. Questionnaires have been issued to local residents and church groups to ask them what they think of litter issues. The project spent a morning at West Kirby beach with 50 pupils and collected bags and bags of litter and also recyclable products, drift wood, ropes,

netting, shells etc which are now being used to continue the project. A film is being made with additional funding from Eco Schools a local artist is helping to make a sculpture of the local beach bird life connected to the theme of golf and The Open. The sculpture will be displayed at the tournament and is being made entirely from recyclable products. The grant is being used to help fund the artist's time and for some arts equipment.

Happy Times was been awarded £3,000 to deliver fun 'musical movement' sessions for older people living in sheltered accommodation in Pensby and Woodchurch. Sessions are underway at Brackendale and Kylemore and progress is being measured through programme evaluations, but below are some of the regular comments that people have made about the sessions:

- "We love this, it makes us feel better"
- "A great way to start the day, it gives us energy and gets us going"
- "I love coming to this, I feel young again!"
- "I haven't been able to move my ankle much for ages but now it's much looser"
- "I feel steadier on my feet after practising our balance exercises"
- "My fingers are less stiff because I've been practising my exercises at home (We all do them in the adverts of Coronation St!)"

3.2 These project updates will be published on the Wirral West web pages at www.wirral.gov.uk/wirralwest, alongside the photographs that groups have sent. Groups will again be encouraged to provide updates in advance of the Committee meeting in October and the constituency team will continue to support projects as required and to ensure that groups have other opportunities to share their successes.

4.0 RISKS

4.1 A detailed risk assessment has been developed to support the constituency working approach.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 This report sets out activities undertaken in relation to actions agreed by the Committee, all of which have been progressed with due consideration to a range of options.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation is undertaken with the members of the Constituency Committee as to the development and operation of the Committee. Ongoing consultation with the local community as to issues for the area is an ongoing focus of the constituency working approach.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 The constituency working approach has positive implications for voluntary, community and faith groups in Wirral West.

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

8.1 The activities set out in this report will be delivered via existing resources.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no legal implications relating to the activities set out in this report.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 An impact review relating to neighbourhood working can be found at the link below:

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

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct carbon reduction implications relating to this report.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no direct planning and community safety implications relating to this report. The Wirral West Constituency Plan may however influence these areas of activity.

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 Members of the Wirral West Constituency Committee are requested to note progress in relation to the work being undertaken in support of the Committee and in respect of the constituency working approach.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 In order to ensure that actions requested by the Committee are being progressed as required.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral West Constituency Committee – Areas of Activity / Action Tracker

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Update	12th December 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Update	6th March 2014

APPENDIX 1: WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE – AREAS OF ACTIVITY / ACTION TRACKER (JULY 2014)

Activity	RAG Rating	Status	Consultation with Councillors and Community Representatives
1. Committee Handbook	Amber	Work on the Handbook is dependent on a number of decisions and considerations, including those of the Committee as to its budget and the development of key engagement principles. A draft will be circulated following the Committee meeting.	Comments from Councillors and Community Representatives will be consulted on the Handbook prior to publication.
2. Community Asset Audit	Green	An organisation has now been commissioned by Public Health to stimulate asset based community development in Wirral across the four constituencies, which included mapping and auditing of assets. The Constituency Manager has also begun to undertake asset mapping with partners through the Public Service Board in line with key areas of work.	Councillors and Community Representatives will be kept updated on progress.
3. Wirral West Constituency Plan	Amber	Previous reports to the Committee have set out the initial considerations which have been given to developing a Constituency Plan. It was proposed that workshops would be held in advance of this meeting initially to priorities based on the evidence and the feedback from local communities gathered through the Community Fund voting process and agreeing any additional targeted consultation and research required.	Planned workshops with councillors and community representatives to discuss the development of the Constituency Plan did not go ahead but will be rescheduled.
4. Love Wirral Initiative	Green	Love Wirral projects are now underway and will be complete by 25 th July 2014.	A report on the outcomes of the Love Wirral initiative will be made widely available.
5. Constituency Engagement	Green	An update on this activity is presented as part the main body of the report.	Councillors and Community Representatives are updated on engagement activities as these are developed and implemented.
6. Wirral West Community Fund / Public Health	Green	An update on projects funded by the Committee is presented as part the main body of the report.	Councillors and Community Representatives will be updated on the progress of projects on an ongoing

Activity	RAG Rating	Status	Consultation with Councillors and Community Representatives
Projects			basis.
7. Other Activities	Green	<p>The constituency team is involved in a wide range of other activities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Open 2014 – community engagement and general support; ▪ Supporting the implementation of the dog fouling campaign planned for Summer 2014; ▪ Responding to issues raised by ward councillors and community members and working with Council departments and partners to resolve issues; ▪ Supporting town centre action planning and other regeneration initiatives. 	Councillors and Community Representatives are consulted on the work of the constituency team collectively or on a ward basis in respect of involvement in local issues.