

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

22 JANUARY 2015

SUBJECT:	WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITIES UPDATE 2014/15
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>BEBINGTON</u>▪ <u>BROMBOROUGH</u>▪ <u>CLATTERBRIDGE</u>▪ <u>EASTHAM</u>▪ <u>HESWALL</u>
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL SOUTH)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING & ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report details the progress relating to the resolved priorities for the Wirral South Constituency Committee for 2014/15 and beyond.

2.0 PRIORITY SETTING

2.1 At its meeting on 25 February 2014, Council agreed to fund the four Constituency Committees with £50k each. This was to “enable the new approach to Neighbourhood Working to be further developed.”

2.2 On Wednesday 9 April 2014 Wirral South’s Elected Members were invited to attend a priority setting session. The objective of this session was to produce a set of proposed themes that could be presented at the first Wirral South Constituency Committee of 2014/15 for consideration.

2.3 Based upon the findings of the above priority setting session three main priorities were proposed and resolved at Wirral South’s first Constituency Committee of 2014/15, 25 June.

2.4 These priorities are (amendment made to “Open Spaces” priority, see resolution 2 of minute 21 Wirral South Constituency Committee, 16 October 2014):

- Improved Open Spaces; to increase the number of green flag parks in Wirral South year on year and ensure accessibility is improved in each chosen location
- Gaps in Youth Provision; to work with the internal and external partners to identify and rectify any existing gaps in provision of youth services in Wirral South
- Tackle Social Isolation; Identify the various groups affected by social isolation in Wirral South, establish the evident gaps in provision throughout the Constituency and aim to either support existing providers or commission a new piece of work

It was resolved that each of the priorities above should be allocated £15k each, thus leaving £5k of core budget to support various engagement initiatives.

3.0 PRIORITY PROGRESS

3.1 Improved Open Spaces

3.1.1 Since the last Wirral South Constituency Committee the Constituency Manager has met with the Senior Manager of Parks and Countryside Services. During this meeting current progress against the above priority was presented. Discussions also took place in relation to possible locations for future focus in an attempt to highlight the most suitable location on which to focus the Committee’s efforts throughout 2015/16.

3.1.2 On 11 December the Wirral South ‘Parks Priority Task and Finish Group’ met for the second time (see appendix 1 for meeting notes). Elected members were presented with progress in Mayer Park to date:

- A brand new entrance sign erected (*Beb Cllrs Core Budget*)
- Lines of sight improved by reducing height of existing hedges (*Friends*)
- New flower beds dug and planted up (*Beb Cllrs Core Budget*)
- Dead trees removed (*Parks*)
- New litter bins throughout (**Constituency Budget**)
- Work carried out on offending vegetation in roof of Mayer Hall/Pennant House (*Asset Management*)
- Stonework repaired on Mayer Hall/Pennant House (*Asset Management*)
- Stumps removed (*ongoing, Parks*)
- A fence at Ellen’s lane (**imminent Constituency Budget**)
- Replacement of rose bed in Ormerod gardens (*imminent Beb Cllrs Core Budget*)
- Edging of all paths throughout (*imminent*)
- Disabled access swing installed (**imminent Constituency Budget**)

The Wirral South 'Parks Priority Task and Finish Group' were (as of 16 October) given delegated powers to "...ensure budgetary spend can be agreed and improvements made as expediently as possible, thus maximising the potential for applying for the Green Flag Award within 2014/15" (minute 21 refers). With this in mind the task and finish group were presented with two main improvement options for Mayer Park, namely:

- The refurbishment of decorative gates and railings (at a cost of £5,400) and
- Installation of a round top, metal fence along the (currently open) grassed area on Ellen's Lane (at a cost of £3,700)

Following responses from a clarification question (relating to guarantee of work on gates and railings) the members of the task and finish approved both options.

3.1.3 Members of the task and finish group also considered the possible geographical location of focus for the committee in 2015/16. This discussion not only considered the existing distribution of Green Flag Awards throughout Wirral South per ward but also the level of involvement of community/friends groups in relation to their local park. Based on this discussion it was proposed that Dawstone Park in Heswall be recommended as the area of focus for 2015/16 (see recommendation 13.2).

3.1.4 Appendix One details the current projected spend against the parks Priority for 2014/15. If all relevant recommendations are resolved within this report then there will be £2496.10 remaining to spend in 2014/15. It is recommended that the Wirral South 'Parks Priority Task and Finish Group' consider the views of both parks staff and the existing "Friends" group for Mayer Park and expedite the spend of the remaining budget where necessary.

3.2 Gaps in Youth Provision

3.2.1 The following proposals were presented to the Wirral South Constituency Committee 16 October 2014 (minute 21 refers):

i. Diversionary Activities

*2 x excursions to mountain biking facility in Delamere Forest for 14 young people to encourage engagement in focussed locations experiencing existing anti-social behaviour. **These events will occur on the 24th January and the 25th February. Engagement has already taken place and the young people attending have been selected from the New Ferry area.***

ii. Education in Theatre

*20 x themed performance/workshops aimed at equipping young people with the tools to deal with both abusive relationships and bullying. **Performances are planned to run in February and March from various locations in Wirral South. Underspend from the late commencement date of the counselling services will be used to provide a counsellor after each performance. As the performances are hard hitting it was***

felt that this would support young people who might have been affected by any of the issues that are raised within the performances.

- iii. Extension of 'The Lads' engagement programme
Doubling the provision for Wirral South from 14 to 28 for young Men completing the above development programme. The course will be starting 4th Feb. Young people are being referred in through the Gateway, up to now we have 8 participants.
- iv. One to One Counselling Services
Offering a one to one counselling service to young people within the Wirral South Constituency footprint until 31 March 2015. These sessions have been running since the week beginning 17th November 2014. They run on a Wednesday and Thursday.

Response – Information and Advice

Wednesday, 7pm – 10pm @ South Wirral Youth Hub

Counselling

Thursday, 3pm – 5pm @ Bebington Childrens Centre

Thursday, 6.30pm – 10pm @ South Wirral Youth Hub

See appendix 3 for a full breakdown of costs for each element of this priority. Further work will be carried out with Youth Services to develop recommendations for the remaining budgetary spend. These recommendations will be presented to the committee 16 April (giving time for assessment of success re. existing activity).

3.3 Social Isolation

3.3.1 Members of The Wirral South Public Service Board met on 4 September to discuss the opportunity of setting up "Dementia Friendly Communities" in Wirral South (see appendix four for further detail). Utilising existing evidence from the Wirral South Profile (produced by Public Health) and with support from the Alzheimer's Society it was proposed at the Wirral South Constituency Committee 16 October 2014 that Heswall be recommended as a pilot location for this initiative.

3.3.2 Following the resolved recommendation (3.3.1 above) an open meeting was held in Heswall library 27 November 2014. This open meeting (entitled "Making Heswall a Dementia Friendly Community") was well attended by a variety of community and partnering organisations. Initial pledges were made by many organisations in attendance and a plan for action in 2015 is soon to be developed.

3.3.3 The second meeting in relation to this project will be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd (188 Telegraph Road, Heswall), 6pm on Thursday the 29th of January.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 Failure to agree project spend expediently may result in a loss of funding allocation in future years and an inability to deliver tangible improvements within 2014/15.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Careful consideration has been given to the best way to distribute this funding to help tackle the Constituency's priorities.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Existing evidence from the Wirral South Profile Document (produced by Public Health) has been used to inform the formulation of Wirral South's priorities. Feedback from communities to Elected Members has also factored into the priority setting process. Wirral South's Community Representatives have been consulted upon the proposals relating to their allocated theme.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 7.1 The overarching proposed model for neighbourhood working will strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary and community sector.
- 7.2 Tackling the priorities of the Constituency will benefit communities directly.

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

- 8.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South Constituency Committee.
- 8.2 Funding may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Yes an impact review can be found at the link below (Progressing Neighbourhood Working). A specific EIA related to the grants fund itself will be carried out should the relevant recommendation be approved.

<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 None

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 This report may have positive community safety implications dependent upon the allocation of spend determined by the Constituency Committee.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

13.1 Members note the progress made by the Parks Priority Task & Finish Group for Wirral South.

13.2 Dawstone Park in Heswall be agreed as the location of focus in relation to the parks priority for 2015/16.

13.3 Members note the progress made in relation to the Youth Priority and that previously identified gaps in youth provision for Wirral South are being addressed.

13.4 Members note the progress made in relation to the "Dementia Friendly Communities" project in Heswall.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 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.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Wirral South Constituency Committee	25 June 2014

Appendix one: 'Parks Priority Task and Finish Group' 11 Dec, 2014

Appendix two: Projected Spend Against Parks Priority (as of Jan 2015)

Appendix Three: Update Spend Re. Gaps In Youth Provision

Appendix Four: Dementia Friendly Communities

PARKS PRIORITY TASK & FINISH GROUP WIRRAL SOUTH

Thursday, 11th December 2014

Present	Councillor	P Gilchrist (Chair)
	Councillors	C Povall L Rowlands J Williams I Williams
Constituency Manager		Fergus Adams

1) MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors C Muspratt had already declared non pecuniary interests by virtue of being the Treasurer of friends of Mayer Park, a community group who feature in the plan for 2014/15. As such Councillor J Williams represented Bebington.

2) MAYER PARK PROGRESS

Fergus Adams explained that he had a meeting with Mary Worrall (21 Nov) to discuss both Mayer Park and possible locations of focus moving into 2015/16. Progress in Mayer Park to date was discussed (via; Constituency, asset's budget and local elected member funded. Recently Mayer Park has seen:

- A brand new entrance sign erected (*Beb Cllrs Core Budget*)
- Lines of sight improved by reducing height of existing hedges (*Friends*)
- New flower beds dug and planted up (*Beb Cllrs Core Budget*)
- Dead trees removed (*Parks*)
- New litter bins throughout (***Constituency Budget***)
- Work carried out on offending vegetation in roof of Mayer Hall/Pennant House (*Asset Management*)
- Stonework repaired on Mayer Hall/Pennant House (*Asset Management*)
- Stumps removed (*ongoing, Parks*)
- A fence at Ellen's lane (***imminent Constituency Budget***)
- Replacement of rose bed in Ormerod gardens (*imminent Beb Cllrs Core Budget*)
- Edging of all paths throughout (*imminent*)
- Disabled access swing installed (***imminent Constituency Budget***)

3) FURTHER PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION

- 3.1) Fergus Adams shared a quote for refurbishment to the decorative Gates and railings for discussion, detail of works:

- Removal of gates and railings from site to our workshop
- Initial blast clean to expose corroded parts in local grit blasters
- Make good any corroded parts to match existing in our workshop
- Delivered to specialist painting contractor
- Blast cleaned to SA2.5 (Millscale, rust paint and foreign matter is removed completely. Any remaining traces are visible only as slight stains or discoloration in the form of spots or stripes)
- Apply 1 coat Zinc Phosphate Primer to 75um
- Apply 1 coat Epoxy HB Intermediate coating to 100um
- Apply 1 coat Polyurethane finish to 60um
- Total nominal DFT 235um
- Refitted on site with final paint touch up by painting contractor

Total Cost: £5400.00

Members agreed that £5,400 be spent on refurbishment of the gates and railings provided some form of guarantee for works could be obtained by the contractor.

- 3.2) In the previous meeting of the “Parks Task & Finish Group” the installation of a fence at the park’s boundary with Ellen’s Lane was discussed. A quote for a round top, metal fence (painted black) was received from parks and presented to the group:

Procurement and installation of round top metal fence, painted black: £3,700

Members agreed that £3,700 be spent on the round top metal fence (painted black).

- 3.3) The cost and timeline of “Green Flag Award” application itself was discussed (Jan apply, judging in approx. July). Standard cost of £312 was discussed.

4) **FUTURE LOCATIONS FOR 2015/16 & BEYOND**

Members discussed future locations for the Constituency Committees’ focus during 2015/16 and it was agreed that Dawstone Park in Heswall was a logical proposal given the level of commitment and involvement by local residents reported. A resolution reflecting this decision will be presented at the next Wirral South Constituency Committee (22nd of January, 2015).

Actions from 11/12/14		
1	Secure guarantee for works from preferred supplier prior to signing off spend.	FA

2	Include recommendation in progress report to Constituency Committee for the 22 nd January re. Dawstone Park as location of focus for 2015/16.	
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Appendix two: Projected Spend Against Parks Priority (as of Jan 2015)

Mayer Park Budget Spend	
Item	Cost
Disabled Access Swing	400
Litter bins	2691.9
Fence	3700
Gates	5400
Application for award	312
Total	12503.9
Remaining	£2,496.10

Appendix Three: Proposed Spend Re. Gaps In Youth Provision

1) *Diversiory/Incentive Activity*

Aimed at addressing a current issue with young people in the New Ferry area (predominantly in the park/shorefields area). Although these young people do engage with the youth services in the area there has been an increase in criminal damage. The proposed project mirrors a recent successful initiative in the Woodchurch using the prospect of attendance at a mountain biking facility in Delamere Forest as a reward for modified behaviour. It is important to note that this initiative not only acts as diversion/incentive but affords youth workers the opportunity to further engage with the individuals in question. Example costs are outlined below:

- 14 young people + 2 staff @ £15 per head = £240
- £100 for instructor
- £50 for mini bus =

Total: £390

2) *Expansion of The Lads Personal Development Project*

This is an 8 week project aimed at 13-19 year olds, referred for attendance based upon existing issues. The project is currently programmed to run from September 2014, with 14 individuals from Wirral South attending. Further funding would allow a further 14 individuals to attend in the spring, thus doubling the existing impact for individuals and communities in Wirral South in 2014/15. The programme culminates in a residential element at Oaklands. Example costs are outlined below:

- 14 young people plus 4 staff @ £104 per head = £1872
- Contingency money = £100
- Mini Bus and fuel = £150 (includes fuel for a minivan that we own)

Total £2122

3) *Theatre in Education*

Pieces to tour Youth Units/other relevant venues in South Wirral. These cover various subjects from abusive relationships to bullying. Attendees are also offered follow up workshops in which they receive signposting to further support and advice where necessary. These sessions cost between £200 to £400 depending on the scale. Example costs are outlined below:

IF YOU LOVED ME per performance and after show workshop: 'If You Loved me You Would' is a play which explores healthy and unhealthy relationships. It enables young people to see, and, understand the full spectrum of relationship abuse. A follow up workshop facilitated by company members offers young people the opportunity to check their understanding, and where to seek advice or support if they, or, someone they know are in an abusive relationship

- 6 ACTORS/performers X 3 HOURS X £9 p/hr - £162.00
- 2 tech workers x 3hours x £9 per hour- £54.00
- Transport x 1 people carrier- £55.00
- 1 transit van for set and lighting- £50.00
- Fuel- £10.00
- 1 Level 2 worker x 3 hours x £15p/hour- £45.00

TOTAL £376.00

‘BECAUSE’ per performance and after show workshop ‘Because’ explores the bullying spectrum, including cyber bullying. Young people will learn about the impact of bullying behaviour on others. The follow up workshop helps young people understand the consequences of bullying behaviour and where to get help and support.

- 5 x peer educators x £15 per show- £75.00
- People carrier- £55.00
- Fuel- £10.00
- 1 level 2 worker x 3 hours x £15 p/hr- £45.00

TOTAL £185.00

4) *Pilot offering one to one counselling sessions offered in Wirral South* (delivered by Response in two locations -Eastham Hub and Children's Centre in Bromborough)

The counsellor will operate within the Wirral South area offering a counselling service. The counsellor will deliver this service during the operational opening times of the Hub and the local Children’s Centre. A typical counselling session will last for 50 minutes. Response will provide 3 x 3hrs counselling sessions per week for young people between Oct 2014 – March 2015. These young people will all be from Wirral South and will either be on an existing waiting list or signposted via gateway.

- Staff costs (Counsellor) 10 hrs per week @ £11.4637 + 22% on costs
- £14.70 per hour for 30 weeks (300 hours) = £ 4410
- £450 travel costs = £450
- Non Managerial supervision £30 per hour (met by Response) = £000

Total £ 4860

Given the information above if the Wirral South Constituency Committee spent only **£10,567** of its agreed £15K youth provision budget it could:

- Facilitate heightened engagement with 14 young people based upon an existing issue related to criminal damage etc. - **2 x events total £780**

- Double the impact of the Lads' Personal Development Project in 2014/15 (meaning 28 young males are involved rather than 14 as currently funded) - **£2122**
- Provide 10 performance and after show workshops (one of each theme per Ward e.g.) - **£2805**
- Provide ongoing counselling within Wirral South from October 2014 to March 2015 - **£4860**

Dementia-friendly communities

