

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

15 OCTOBER 2015

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| SUBJECT: | WIRRAL SOUTH UPDATE REPORT |
| 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 gives a progress update in relation to the resolved priorities and allocated budget for the Wirral South Constituency Committee in 2015/16 and beyond.

2.0 BUDGET BREAKDOWN 2015/16

Breakdown of confirmed budget for 2015/16:

- Core Budget (to be broken up into 15K per priority and 5K for general engagement)
£50K
- Operational Budget
£5K
- Your Wirral Fund
£35K
- Anti-Social Behaviour
£15K

- Community Clean Ups
£10K
- Love Wirral (carried forward from 2014/15)
£10K
- Local Transport Capital Funding and the Integrated Transport Block for 2015/16
£25K
- General Engagement (carried over from 2014/15)
£5K

Total Budget 2014/15: **£155K**

3.0 PRIORITY UPDATES

3.1 Improved Open Spaces

3.1.1 At its last meeting of 2014/15 the Wirral South Constituency Committee resolved that Dawstone Park in Heswall be the location of focus in relation to this priority for 2015/16 (Minute 32, resolution 2 refers).

3.1.2 Work with The Friends of Dawstone Park and colleagues in Parks has progressed since the previous committee. Figure one details the various planned and completed works and the remaining budget.

Figure One:

| Dawstone Park Budget Sheet | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Item | Cost | Status |
| 1. Repare path 2 x entrances Dawstone rd and Brow lane | £1,000 | confirmed costs 18th Sep complete |
| 2. Park signs :- | | |
| a) one large, | £860 | complete |
| b) two small | £700 | complete |
| 3. Repairing gates (3 sets) | £1,960 | ordered |
| 4. Waste bins (replace 3; relocate 1) | £1,350 | complete |
| 5. Notice Board (similar to Heswall Hall) | £1,300 | complete, |
| Geraniums | £420 | complete |
| Total | £7,590 | |
| Remaining | £6,960.00 | |

3.1.3 It is proposed (recommendation 14.1) that the Constituency Manager continues to work with colleagues in parks, the Friends of Dawstone Park and the Wirral South Parks Task and Finish Group to complete the improvement works in the chosen location as expediently as possible.

- 3.1.4 Since the last Constituency Committee in June 2015 Mayer Park (the subject of the committee's support in 2014/15) has had its green flag raising ceremony. The green flag now flies adjacent to the main entrance and the friends continue their excellent work engaging with volunteers from within the local area and beyond.

3.2 Gaps in Youth Provision

- 3.2.1 In November 2014, a pilot project (funded via the Wirral South Constituency Committee) was launched to deliver counselling services for young people in Wirral South. The service was delivered via Youth Support by Response.

- 3.2.2 The initial pilot was established to assess the uptake of the service and to highlight what the level of need was for the service in the future. Although the pilot has now ceased data suggests that there is an obvious need for the service to continue. The youth related priority for Wirral South states:

"...To work with internal and external partners to identify and rectify any existing gaps in provision of youth services in Wirral South".

Evidence suggests that this particular initiative did exactly what the priority was established to do for the young people of Wirral South. Wirral South Constituency resolved in June 2015 that the "...existing 2015/16 budget for gaps in youth provision be used to commission and establish an ongoing service reflecting that of the pilot project (with the aim of launching the service in October 2015)."

Due to resource implications it has not been possible to release this opportunity to tender and have it in place by the previously proposed date. The Wirral South Constituency Manager will work with colleagues in the youth service and public health to ensure this service is commissioned as soon as possible.

3.3 Social Isolation

- 3.3.1 Social isolation is a significant problem within our society and one that we should all be concerned about. Whilst most of us are fortunate enough to have family, friends and neighbours to provide us with a reliable social network, there are some for whom regular social interaction is non-existent.

There are a number of Groups that may be at higher risk of social isolation within our society but for the purpose of this contract the main areas of focus are:

- Older people
- People from black and ethnic minorities
- People who have substance misuse problems
- Carers

(for further information relating to social isolation and its effects on the above social groups see appendix one: SOCIAL ISOLATION ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR WIRRAL 2012-2013).

- 3.3.2 Since the last constituency committee (June 2015) the request for quotes document was released and prospective providers invited to bid to deliver the service across Wirral South.
- 3.3.3 At the time of writing this report the closing date had not yet passed and as such this report is unable to detail number of received bids etc. The timeline for awarding the contract is early November with contract commencement in December 2015. A full update and introduction to the successful providers will be scheduled for the next constituency committee (February 2016).

4.0 OTHER FUNDED WORKSTREAM PROPOSALS

4.1 Your Wirral

- 4.1.1 The first tranche of funding for Your Wirral in 2015/16 closed at noon 14 September 2015. Eleven applicants were received totalling £18,840. The Your Wirral Assessment Panel are due to meet 6 October 2015 and as such verbal update will be given to this committee by the Constituency Manager.
- 4.1.2 It is important to note that 2015/16 is the final year of the Your Wirral funding and the no further allotment will be allocated to the constituency committee to administer.
- 4.1.3 To be eligible for funding, applications must fit within one or more of the seven themes, which were agreed by the Joint Working Group in line with the charitable objectives of the Community Fund Deed they are:
1. Creating an attractive and safe environment
 2. Contributing to community economic regeneration
 3. Preventing crime or reducing the fear of crime
 4. Providing employment and training for local people
 5. Benefiting local people who face discrimination
 6. Improving community facilities
 7. Engaging communities to improve quality of life

4.2 Anti Social Behaviour

- 4.2.1 At its meeting on 24 February 2015 Council agreed to:

“Provide dedicated funding to Constituency Committees to tackle ASB - £60,000

In support of the constituency committee process and to engage the committees in tackling ASB in their areas, it is proposed to make available a fund of £60,000 to be split equally amongst the 4 Constituency Committees. The ASB team would work with the Constituency Committees and produce action plans to tackle ASB in their area. Constituency Committees will be offered a menu of ASB prevention and intervention activities to enable them to choose what they feel would benefit their areas. Some examples on this menu are – Youth alcohol testing programmes, additional youth provision, sports development workers, enhanced household security campaigns, and increased CCTV camera provision.”

4.2.2 The Constituency Manager has met with various internal and external partners (e.g. Wirral's Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team, Merseyside Police's Neighbourhood Inspector, Youth Services). The ASB Team were tasked with analysing historic evidence to highlight the various hotspots within Wirral South throughout the year. Based upon this analysis a suite of options have been produced and shared with the elected members that form the Wirral South ASB Task and Finish Group for their consideration. The aforementioned group are scheduled to meet 27 October 2015 to discuss their approach re. the devolved budget (£15K).

4.3 Community Clean-ups

4.3.1 At its meeting on 24 February 2015 Council agreed to:

"Community Clean-ups - £40,000

There have been a number of examples during this year where individuals and communities have come together to help clean up their local areas. We applaud the commitment and pride shown by individuals and communities and would wish to support them to continue to do so. We therefore propose allocating £10,000 to each of the four constituency committees to enable local groups to pay for the cost of skips to be provided to support these local clean-ups. Constituency Committee managers will work with staff from the Council's waste team to quickly develop processes for this option to be introduced."

4.3.4 Similarly to the ASB budget (4.2) the Constituency Manager for Wirral South has met with colleagues in the Waste and Environment Team to discuss proposals for this devolved budget. A number of options have been developed and a "Shopping List" of items that will add value to current services has been developed. Meetings to discuss this spend continue on a ward by ward basis.

4.4 Love Wirral

At the last Constituency committee (Jan 2015) it was agreed that a "Love Wirral" task and finish group be set up (minute 31 refers), comprising the following members:

- Councillors P Gilchrist
- C Muspratt
- S Niblock
- T Pilgrim
- L Rowlands

The group was tasked with developing proposals in respect of the devolved £10K Love Wirral funding. It was agreed electronically that the budget be split evenly between the five wards. Meetings to discuss this spend continue on a ward by ward basis.

5.0 GENERAL ENGAGEMENT

5.1 Since the last Constituency Committee an Engagement Officer has been appointed to Wirral South. Shannon Kennedy (in post for eight weeks at the time of writing this report) has been busy introducing herself to elected members and community groups across the constituency. A brief but not exhaustive list of the projects Shannon has been involved with so far is detailed below:

- **Town Lane Estate Engagement Project**
Working with an embryonic residents association on the Town lane Estate to develop community capacity and support the momentum of a growing group of residents
- **Social Media Support**
Supporting existing voluntary organisations to maximise their visibility on various social media platforms
- **Lower Super Output Analysis**
Developing evidence based reports detailing the challenges and opportunities experienced by some of the communities in Wirral South

To get in touch with Shannon you can e-mail: shannonkennedy@wirral.gov.uk or phone direct on: 07771 938 871.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 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.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 The overarching proposed model for neighbourhood working will strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary and community sector.

8.2 Tackling the priorities of the Constituency will benefit communities directly.

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

9.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South Constituency Committee.

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

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 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>

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 By supporting localised initiatives the need for residents to travel outside their immediate area is reduced.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- 14.1 The Constituency Manager continues to work with colleagues in parks, the Friends of Dawstone Park and the Wirral South Parks Task and Finish Group to progress the improvement works in the chosen location as expediently as possible (this includes delegated power to spend the relevant parks budget as in 2015/16).
- 14.2 Members note the progress outlined within this report.

15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 15.1 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

SOCIAL ISOLATION ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FOR WIRRAL 2012-2013)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

| Council Meeting | Date |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Wirral South Constituency Committee | 25 June 2014 |
| Budget Council | 24 February2015 |
| Wirral South Constituency Committee | 18 June 2015 |