

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

6 JUNE 2016

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WIRRAL SOUTH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b><u>BEBINGTON</u></b></li><li>▪ <b><u>BROMBOROUGH</u></b></li><li>▪ <b><u>CLATTERBRIDGE</u></b></li><li>▪ <b><u>EASTHAM</u></b></li><li>▪ <b><u>HESWALL</u></b></li></ul>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL SOUTH)</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR MATTHEW PATRICK COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details progress to date following the co-opting of five Community Representatives to the Wirral South Constituency Committee 15 October 2015 and since the previous committee on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016. This report also highlights particular issues being experienced by the communities within the five wards and seeks to bring them formally to the attention of the committee.

### 2.0 COLLABORATIVE PROGRESS TO DATE

Following the 4th February WSCC meeting, at which the proposed Role and Responsibilities of a WSCC Community Representative (from this point onwards referred to as Com Rep) was agreed and agreement was also made to establish a Task and Finish Group, further progress has been made.

Regular meetings between Officers and Community Representatives have been established, currently at a frequency of one per month. The inaugural meeting took place on the 22nd March, when the business of the meetings was agreed as follows:

*To facilitate good communication and good working practice in neighbourhood working between Officers and Com Reps in the best interests of WSCC*

*neighbourhoods and specifically in identifying and meeting individual neighbourhood's needs and wishes.*

Prior to the meeting four key Points for Discussion were set out by the Com Reps and at the second meeting on the 19th April these were developed. The next two meetings are scheduled for the 23rd May and the 21st June. Minutes for the first two meetings are attached as Appendices A and B.

Com Reps have been meeting on a regular basis (at least monthly) for informal discussion about progress and the challenges facing neighbourhood working. Through this report we seek to bring to the attention of the WSCC proposals where further significant progress can and should be made. The success of the Com Rep initiative in coming together as a team, setting out the challenges to be faced in effective neighbourhood working and what needs to be done as a WSCC team, now needs full 'buy in' and active participation from all members of WSCC. The Com Reps have identified three areas for immediate action supported with requests for WSCC approval:-

### **Defining Neighbourhoods**

Com Reps and Officers in meetings and discussions have fully recognised that the ward boundaries can, and do in many cases, separate neighbourhoods and consequently act against effective neighbourhood working. This challenge needs to be resolved. The Com Reps wish to present draft outline proposals for the attention of WSCC as to how neighbourhood boundaries may be defined, proposals that will, wherever possible, be informed through representation with residents within those neighbourhoods.

### **Team Working**

Individual Com Reps are unable to fulfil their responsibilities if they are not part of the decision making process, not informed and are not working within a local team environment. Agreed local plans for action are crucial. Progress on establishing local teams for each ward/neighbourhood has been slow and needs now to be given a high priority if the Com Rep initiative is to maintain momentum. The first and key step is the Task and Finish Group approved at the 4th Feb meeting. Com Reps would like to see, prior to the inaugural meeting of the Task and Finish Group, ward team meetings involving Elected Members, Officers and Com Reps to consider how best to work together. It is possible that each ward team will reach a different conclusion and these can then be presented to the Task and Finish Group when it meets.

### **Resourcing**

From the Com Reps perspective it is obvious that any plan which aims to develop an effective programme for neighbourhood working, to determine the needs and wishes of residents and communities and to facilitate neighbourhood working will need resourcing. It is a sad fact then that the plans brought forward to create a community hub at Pennant House in 2013 involving the relocation of up to 14 staff have not been implemented. The point about resourcing has been made by Cllr Gilchrist in a Notice of Motion and is well made. Neighbourhood working on a 'shoestring' is not likely to produce meaningful outcomes. Community Representatives believe that funding levels will be key to delivering effective neighbourhood working, funding that then forms an integral part of future budgets.

Community Representatives note that Elected Members on the WSCC have previously highlighted this as an issue.

### **3.0 BEBINGTON**

- 3.1 Ward Engagement with community groups and individuals has continued more on an ad hoc basis than in a co-ordinated or structured way. There remains a need for a sharing forum to achieve a collective voice for these presently disparate groups, together with a vehicle for a co-ordinated voice for local businesses. At present apart from relationships that exist with elected members there is no community structure or organisation in place.

### **4.0 BROMBOROUGH**

- 4.1 The greatest issue facing Bromborough ward is the recent announcement that New Ferry's District Centre is facing a major issue with both the Co-op and Lloyds Bank closing. An emergency meeting of the traders was organised, attended by David Ball, Head of Regeneration. Traders reiterated not only their dismay about these businesses closing, but were also critical of the Council who they felt had done nothing to halt the decline of the centre over the last few years. The state of the derelict shops along New Chester Road was particularly highlighted. David Ball promised to look into what action could be taken to tidy up these premises.

At the same time, the traders are to reform the defunct Traders Association to act as a conduit for information regarding any progress/ideas for the district centre. Representatives from the traders will be meeting with David Ball at a later date to discuss ideas for how the vacant Co-op building may be reopened either with a new business or a possible co-operative of local businesses.

Some concerns have been raised about the proposed new Aldi and Lidl stores within the Bromborough ward. There are concerns about what these stores (if either is allowed to happen) could do to the survivability of the existing district centres (Bromborough and New Ferry), and also the additional traffic that will be generated in already congested areas (New Chester Road/Croft Retail Park).

The Bromborough Com Rep has also made contact with a representative from the Bromborough Village Community Association. They will be arranging a meeting as soon as possible to discuss Bromborough issues.

Anti-social behaviour remains a concern for the community, although the number of incidences has been down due to the colder weather through the winter. Now that summer is here, the number of incidences is expected to rise again, with eyes looking to New Ferry Park, Shorefields and Port Sunlight River Park in particular where such behaviour tends to cause problems. An Oval/New Ferry Park Problem Solving Group has been established and is run by the Police to address some of these issues.

## **5.0 CLATTERBRIDGE**

- 5.1 Two meetings with the Engagement Officer have taken place, at which the challenges of community engagement in Clatterbridge Ward were discussed. These meetings were also attended by Nancy Kitch (Third Sector Development Officer, 1st Meeting) and the Constituency Manager (2nd Meeting). Discussions centred on the different types of neighbourhood within the ward (rural, small villages and parts of urban populations linked to adjacent wards) and how to establish contact and initiate engagement.

In most parts of the ward there is no community structure/organisation in place and it has been agreed that the churches and the schools are the best start point. E-mails to the schools sent by the Engagement Officer have not yet received a response.

In Thornton Hough, where there is an established Community Trust, three meetings were attended. At the first meeting a short presentation was made on WSCC's objectives in Neighbourhood Working. In discussions it became clear that the Trust's constitution did not extend to a determination of the needs and wishes of the neighbourhood and its residents without significant amendment. The Trust's help has been sought in identifying suitable individuals to serve on a local team once it is established.

So far, although agreement to meet has been reached on the need for Officers, Elected Members and the Community to work as a team, a first meeting has not yet been arranged. This is now an urgent priority.

## **6.0 EASTHAM**

- 6.1 The Delamere Community Centre which was transferred to the local community as part of the Councils Asset Transfer Programme has gained charitable status. This will enable the centre to bid into additional funding streams to support the ongoing self-sustainability of the Delamere Centre.

The forthcoming closure of Lyndale School is raising concerns in respect on how this asset will be disposed of, along with the future of the local Youth Hub adjacent to Lyndale School both in the short and long term. This site is in a prime location within Eastham and members of the Eastham Community Forum need to be part of a consultation process as soon as possible on the future of this site and the local Youth Hub.

## **7.0 HESWALL**

- 7.1 Heswall Together held two public meetings in Heswall Hall in April. These meetings fulfilled the main remit of Heswall Together: to put before the public the proposal to form "An overarching non-political community organisation to represent and serve the residents, community groups and businesses of Heswall". The total number of the public attending was 60, but those present represented at least 15 community groups. The meetings were chaired by Mr. Charles Hillock, Deputy

Lieutenant, Merseyside. A short presentation gave the background to the proposal, followed by questions, suggestions and discussion on how to move to the next step. Strong support was given to the proposal by way of feedback forms completed at the end of the meeting. With this support in place a further meeting has been arranged for 14th June 2016 to begin the process of forming the new organisation.

At his request, a meeting was held with the Constituency Manager, Fergus Adams, on Friday 13th May. Present were Charles Hillock [Chairman of the public meetings] Ray Squire [Community Representative for Wirral South], Keith Foggin [Acting Chairman of Heswall Together] and Peter Wright [Engagement Lead for HT]. A full update was given following the public meetings and the high level of support given to the proposal by those present. We were assured of his support and that the support of Council members and officers, as previously given, would continue.

By working with HT the establishment of the specific needs and wishes of Heswall Ward will help inform the preparation of the 3-year Constituency Plan. The meeting agreed that the Community Representative would be the conduit into WSCC.

## **8.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 Community Representatives have been an established part of this committee since its inception.

## **9.0 CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 Wirral South Community Representatives engage with their respective communities in various ways.

## **10.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

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

## **11.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

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

## **12.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 The arrangements will help the Council to deliver their 20 pledges for 2020 and also the Localism Act 2011 and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

### **13.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 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.

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

### **14.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **15.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 This report may have positive community safety implications on a Ward by Ward basis.

### **16.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

16.1 Ward based meetings with Community Representatives, Council Officers, and Elected Members are scheduled (where necessary) within a month of this committee meeting

### **17.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

17.1 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)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>

## **Appendix A**

### **Community Representatives and Officers Meeting Jireh Church, 22/03/16, 18:00**

**Present:** Fergus Adams, Shannon Kennedy, Mal Wright, Mark Craig, Peter Wright, Kevin Sutton, Ray Squire

**Apologies:** None

**Business of the Meeting:** See Appendix 1, all agreed this document

**Frequency of Meetings:** It was agreed that the group would meet once a month for a quarter, and then review the frequency. Community Representatives will meet in between meetings without Officers

**Minute Taking:** It was agreed that Shannon would take the minutes

**Circulation:** It was agreed that Shannon would send the minutes out to the Community Representatives and Community Representatives would then send them to their respective Elected Members. It was agreed that after this meeting only, Shannon will send the minutes to the Heswall Elected Members as Ray will be away

**Timing:** The minutes will be circulated as soon as possible following the meeting

**Officer Updates and Status of Plans:** Fergus gave several updates:

- Shared document that shows how various plans feed into each other (Appendix 2)
- The 3 Year Neighbourhood Working Plan has been postponed until June (instead of March) due to discussions in meetings and workshops constantly changing what the plan looks like
- The Neighbourhood Working Plan is a strategy for how the Constituency Managers and Engagement Officers are going to support the 2020 Pledges
- On the next level down, the 3 Year Constituency Plan is more delivery based and will detail what's going to happen in Wirral South over the next 3 years. This plan will contain the 3 priorities already agreed by Councillors in WSCC and will be informed by workshops in mid-May with both partners and communities
- The next level down from this is the Local Plans, which the Community Representatives will play a part in forming
- It was agreed that Community Representatives will be involved as soon as is possible/appropriate

**Discussion Document Points:** See Appendix 3 for document with points detailed

1. It was agreed that Community Representatives will discuss how they would like to work with Officers and they will bring a proposal to the next meeting
2. It was agreed that Community Representatives will discuss their definition of neighbourhoods and bring a proposal to the next meeting.
3. Community Representatives will discuss this point and bring a proposal on an offer to be used when in discussions with communities and residents
4. It was agreed that Local/Constituency Plans would be agreed with the relevant resources attached to the plans. It was raised that there should be resources for

the Community Representatives to engage with their local communities. Fergus explained that the Officers have a General Engagement budget that can be used for this.

**Social Isolation/Dementia Friends/ARCH:** Peter asked if there is a plan for how this contract will be carried out and whether Community Representatives will be involved and have a say. An action was agreed that Shannon will ask Ola and Jules to send out an e-mail to all Community Representatives asking to meet with them. Fergus explained that it is an initial 18 month contract and that there are quarterly contract meetings and reports at the WSCC meetings. The contract is in its very early stages and ARCH have made a good start on their work. There are outcomes, however these are not easy to measure as it is about human story rather than numbers. An action was agreed that Shannon will send out the website address for the GIFT Network.

**Healthy Wirral:** It was agreed that the Community Representatives will write a list of questions for Healthy Wirral and send them to Officers to forward to Healthy Wirral

**Task and Finish Group:** Fergus explained that he has begun to organise it, but because of Purdah it shall have to wait until mid-May

**Ward Boundaries:** Shannon gave each Community Representative their own ward map to help with Community Representatives working together in area that cross ward boundaries. The areas that cover ward boundaries will be accepted in Local Plans and something will be done to try and address this

**AOB:** It was discussed whether the agenda for each meeting should have an AOB item. It was agreed that it would and that the Chair will call for any items of AOB at the start of the meeting.

**Close of Meeting:** 19:25

**Summary of Actions:**

1. Community Representatives to bring a proposal for Discussion Points 1, 2 and 3 (Appendix 3) to the next meeting
2. Shannon to ask Jules and Ola from ARCH to e-mail Community Representatives to organise a meeting
3. Shannon to share the website address for GIFT
4. Community Representatives to write a list of questions for Healthy Wirral, and once the questions have been received Officers will forward them onto Healthy Wirral

## **Appendix B**

### **Community Representatives and Officers Meeting Jireh Church, 19/04/16, 18:00**

**Present:** Fergus Adams, Shannon Kennedy, Mal Wright, Peter Wright, Kevin Sutton, Ray Squire

**Apologies:** Mark Craig

#### **Approval of the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting:**

- Approved, proposed by Mal Wright and seconded by Peter Wright

#### **Matters Arising (not covered by the rest of the agenda):**

- Community Representatives requested that they get ward maps with more details on. Fergus informed them that the maps purchased for them went down to road level and there was no need for them to see each individual property
- Community Representatives requested they see more localised results from the resident research contracted out by the Council. Fergus explained that there will be a presentation at the next committee and that he would ask if they could have the presentation earlier. Community Representatives requested that when the Council hired in external contractors to produce specific pieces of work they saw the formal reports of the work. Fergus explained the importance of keeping a local approach to the Community Representative role and that there weren't specific public reports produced by said contractors

#### **WSSC Reporting Arrangements:**

- Community Representatives requested that they report on an individual ward by ward basis to WSSC using a standard template and that these reports are attached to the Constituency manager's report as an appendix. Community Representatives also propose that they provide a signed group report to the WSSC detailing general progress and the challenges that are coming forward for which support from the WSSC will be required
- Fergus explained that if they split the report up it is likely to have much less impact, but he understands the approach the Community Representatives would like to take with the reports
- ACTION: Fergus and Shannon will create a template for the report and share it with Community Representatives.

#### **Community Representative Ward Updates and Local Plans:**

- This item was discussed in other items

#### **Meeting with Wallasey Community Representatives:**

- The Community Representatives are very receptive to meeting with the Wallasey Community Representatives
- It was suggested that a meeting takes place around September time, as at that point there will be more certainty around Constituency Plans and the way Neighbourhood Working will be moving forward. Wirral West will also have recruited Community Representatives at this point
- ACTION: Shannon will contact Wallasey Engagement Officer and explain that the Community Representatives would be happy to meet later in the year.

### **Officer Updates and Status of Plans:**

- This was discussed in other items. The Constituency Plans should be going to Cabinet in June

### **Summary Discussion Items (Appendix 1)**

- Working with officers – covered in previous item
- Reporting to WSCC – covered in previous item
- The Offer - Fergus explained that the Constituency Plan will not be going to residents; the Cabinet will sign off the Constituency Plan. In the Constituency Plan the concept of Local Plans will be agreed, and then Officers will work with Community Representatives and residents to develop the Local Plans
- Definition of Neighbourhoods – It was agreed that one size doesn't fit all, and that there are many different neighbourhoods and communities within Wirral South across wards. It was agreed that ultimately neighbourhoods and communities are self-identified by the communities themselves
- ACTION: Community Representatives to come up with a visual representation of neighbourhoods/communities within their ward as a start. This would be supported by their reasoning, and could be taken to prospective communities to challenge or agree with

### **Social Isolation/Dementia Friends/ARCH:**

- There was a general feeling of negativity around follow ups from GIFT Co-Ordinators.
- The role of the Gift Co-Ordinators was further explained, giving examples of their day to day actions and how busy they are currently
- Fergus explained that the Co-Ordinators are moving forward positively and doing some good work with individuals
- It was agreed that a line would be drawn under previous experiences, and that if the Community Representatives have a question for the Co-Ordinators or would like to invite them to something, they would contact them and ask them
- ACTION: Fergus to share the outcomes of the contract with Community Representatives

### **Healthy Wirral**

- Community Representatives have several questions for Healthy Wirral
- ACTION: Peter to e-mail Healthy Wirral questions on behalf of the Community Representatives and CC Fergus and Shannon

### **Task and Finish Group**

- Progress will be made on this after the election

### **Ward Boundaries**

- It was discussed and understood that communities/neighbourhoods would sometimes cross over ward boundaries. Community Representatives agreed to work together to cover areas between wards

### **AOB**

- Covered in previous items

**Close of Meeting: 19:30**

**Summary of Actions:**

5. Fergus and Shannon will create a template for the report and share it with Community Representatives
6. Shannon will contact Wallasey Engagement Officer and explain that the Community Representatives would like to meet when the timing is better
7. Community Representatives to come up with a visual representation of neighbourhoods/communities within their ward as a start. This would be supported by their reasoning, and could be taken to prospective communities to challenge or agree with
8. Fergus to share the outcomes of the contract with Community Representatives
9. Peter to e-mail Healthy Wirral questions on behalf of the Community Representatives