

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

5 OCTOBER 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 (com reps) to the Wirral South Constituency Committee (WSCC) 15 October 2015 and since the previous committee on 6<sup>th</sup> June 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

#### 2.1 Social Isolation

2.1.1 In considering a work programme for 2016/17 the existing Wirral South Constituency Committee (WSCC) priority of Social Isolation was agreed (by the com reps) as being a high priority.

2.1.2 Increased com rep involvement in the WSCC approach to tackling social isolation will add substance and focus to the establishment of ward based local action teams (currently being established through a Task and Finish Group).

2.1.3 It is recommended that further exploration takes place into how com reps can add value to the existing Wirral South specific approach to addressing social isolation. A detailed proposal will be developed via the existing constituency plan task and finish group and presented to the WSCC on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2017 (see recommendation 16.1)

## **2.2 Review of 2015/16 and Considerations for 2016/17**

2.2.1 Com reps wish to put themselves forward for another year to continue their work from 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016 to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (see recommendation 16.2).

2.2.2 The com rep Chair and spokesperson has been asked to stand for (the above proposed extension period) and agreed to do so.

2.2.3 The three month trial of Officer/com rep meetings was completed in June 2016.

2.2.4 The meetings were successful and it is recommended that they be continued but at a lower frequency as they will be to an extent superseded by Local Team meetings. The frequency suggested is once a quarter with the meetings taking place four weeks before the WSCC meetings (see recommendation 16.3).

2.2.5 The review concluded that a significant amount of progress had been made during the year.

2.2.6 In particular the agreement to establish local teams was considered to be a breakthrough, however to be successful resident participation was considered essential.

2.2.7 It was noted that the inaugural meetings of the local ward teams had not been completed as agreed and indeed some have still not been completed. Com reps believe this work stream is integral to the success of 2016/17.

2.2.8 Com reps considered the Ward team meetings to be an essential channel of communication to neighbourhoods through which residents would be kept informed of progress on the delivery of Vision 20:20 and other matters.

2.2.9 Com reps believe that a review of the handbook is urgently required and should be carried out by a Task and Finish Group (see recommendation 16.4)

2.2.10 The Neighbourhood Working Plan is considered to be an essential aspect of the delivery of Vision 20:20 and its late delivery is causing a measure of concern.

## **3.0 BEBINGTON**

3.1 Progress continues to be made in working together for the benefit of the residents and communities within the ward. Two meetings were held between Elected Members and the com rep over the summer period. Engagement continues with Community Groups.

- 3.2 An initiative has commenced between the com rep and Elected Members to bring together business owners in Higher Bebington to address the needs of the area.
- 3.3 There has been involvement from the com rep with the creation of a new Friends of Higher Bebington Library group. This is moving forward.
- 3.4 The com rep is working on cleaning up the database of Community Groups in the ward – identifying up to date contacts for each group and the current form of the various group. This takes time but is progressing.

#### **4.0 BROMBOROUGH**

- 4.1 An initial Local Bromborough Ward Meeting was held between the Engagement Officer, Elected Members, the Bromborough Ward com rep, the Eastham Ward com rep, and a representative from the Bromborough Village Community Association on 3rd August. The aim of the meeting was to share and consolidate the major issues which affect the ward.
- 4.2 As the meeting progressed, it became clear that there are several distinct communities within the ward, with each having both different and common issues.
- 4.3 The areas were identified as:
- New Ferry
  - Port Sunlight
  - Bromborough Village
  - Bromborough Pool
  - Croft Retail Park
  - Other smaller housing areas around Brotherton/Spital
- 4.4 The main issues highlighted were (in summary):
- The amount of housing development in the Bromborough area and its negative impact on traffic and infrastructure
  - The recent expansion of the Croft Retail Park, the impact on parking and circulation, and additional pressures which may be caused by yet more development which is in the pipeline
  - The recent rapid decline of New Ferry's district centre following closure of a major high street supermarket and the town's last bank
  - The poor state of many of the buildings in New Ferry's district centre, as well as barriers to investment including the poor state of the malfunctioning pedestrian precinct and pavements on New Chester Road over-narrowed by obtrusive unsightly railings
  - Concern that the HIVE Youth Zone being created in Birkenhead will have a deleterious effect on local youth clubs, further exacerbating the lack of youth provision in the ward;
  - Concern that residents are not reporting local crime and antisocial behaviour in the ward because of a lack of confidence in the police and other agencies to do anything about it with ever-dwindling staff and resources.

- 4.5 Several of these issues are now being tackled by separate groups with which the com rep is engaging.
- 4.6 The New Ferry Town Team is being re-established with the support of a reinvigorated New Ferry Traders Association and other local interested parties to tackle the district centre issues, whilst the New Ferry Residents Association will be working to further encourage residents to report crime and anti-social behaviour to assist the police in tackling local issues.
- 4.7 Additional teams are looking at the viability of the youth club in New Ferry transforming itself into a self-funding community hub, as well as a Friends of New Ferry Park group who will tackle, amongst other things, issues including anti-social behaviour in the park by closer working with the Wirral Youth Outreach Team.

## **5.0 CLATTERBRIDGE**

- 5.1 Progress throughout the year has been disappointing in spite of a positive start. By February the Elected Members and the com rep had agreed to work as a team and it was hoped that a meeting involving Officers could be arranged. This has not been possible so far. Finding meeting dates acceptable to all team members has been difficult but another date of the 11th October has been proposed.

Clearly if regular meetings cannot be established then little progress will be made with structured neighbourhood team working. It is essential that the inaugural meeting takes place as soon as possible and hopefully this will be on the new proposed date (see recommendation 16.5).

## **6.0 EASTHAM**

- 6.1 A constructive meeting was held between the com rep, Council Officers and the Elected Members in July. The meeting focussed on how all parties could work together and what was needed to develop and deliver a Local Plan for Eastham. It was agreed that the Local Action Team will require a comprehensive and representative consultation process in order to determine the key priorities for Eastham.

This consultation process would include residents, local churches and groups, schools, health sector and local businesses/public sector. It was suggested and agreed that a reinvigorated Eastham Community Forum could work as a long term mechanism to facilitate this process. Elected Members, the com rep, Council Officers and the local community could work together to identify and tackle the key priorities identified during and after the consultation process.

In the short term it was agreed that Elected Members could begin to ask questions now of what local people see as the main priorities for Eastham and that no official consultation process would be undertaken until the 3 Year Neighbourhood Working Development Plan was formally approved. Eastham Community Forum would also engage with its members to identify key issues and priorities that need to be addressed.

## 6.2 Key issues already identified in Eastham include:

- Concern regarding the future of the former Lyndale School site and the adjacent South Wirral Youth Hub
- Concern that the HIVE Youth Zone being developed in Birkenhead will have a detrimental impact on facilities for young people in Eastham
- Concern regarding the continuing increase in housing development in the area, including the Acre Lane site, causing more traffic, road safety and parking issues on infrastructure in the area which is already at or approaching capacity
- No progress on the need for the local community to be involved in the planning process including the development of planning gain through Section 106 and 278 Agreements
- Continuing traffic issues in and around Eastham Village
- Need to improve the local retail areas
- Open Spaces – including the resourcing and focus on Eastham Country Park
- The need to address loneliness and social isolation in Eastham
- The inability to address traffic issues on the A41
- The lack of future funding opportunities for the local community following the end of the Your Wirral funding

## 7.0 HESWALL

- 7.1 Good progress has been made following the open meetings in April at which support for the formation of a community organisation was established and ratified under the name Heswall Together.
- 7.2 A co-coordinating team has formed, which is attracting new members, and three open forums arranged with Officers in attendance. Monthly forum meetings have been scheduled for the remainder of the year.
- 7.3 The work of the forum has been divided into two elements: projects and structure, and these subdivided into four strands which are summarised in a quadrant report. The latest quad report is attached (see Appendix One).
- 7.4 Some existing projects will be now be coordinated through the forum, for example the Christmas Festival. There are also several new projects commencing including the creation of a local directory and a social isolation pilot study proposal from Healthy Wirral. Several attempts over the last 10 weeks to clarify the position with the newly reduced Healthy Wirral resource have not yet been successful. In the meantime a project team has been formed and discussions with GPs established.
- 7.5 Extensive discussions between key stakeholders and residents on the detailed aspects of structure and governance of Heswall Together are ongoing. The aim is to establish final approved proposals by the end of the year.
- 7.6 A big issue in Heswall is the regular gathering of young people in Dawstone Park over the summer break. Damage has been caused and residents have been affected by their activities. Subsequently, on the evening of Saturday 10 September there was a further incursion of around 50 young people in the Mount and Dawstone Park vicinity. Fights ensued and police arrived in some force. Arrests were made and an ambulance called. Cllr Andrew Hodson has received

reports of damaged cars and windows. We are assured by Neighbourhood Police Inspector Kate Wilkinson of the deployment of additional police resources.

## **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 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

16.1 Further exploration takes place into how com reps can add value to the existing Wirral South specific approach to addressing social isolation. A detailed proposal to be developed via the existing constituency plan task and finish group and presented to the WSCC on the 2nd of February 2017.

16.2 Current cohort of community representatives be appointed as members of the Wirral South Constituency Committee from 15th October 2016 to 15th October 2017.

16.3 Meetings between community representatives and officers be continued on a quarterly basis taking place as close to four weeks before the WSCC meetings as practicably possible.

16.4 The WSCC handbook be urgently reviewed by a Task and Finish Group.

16.5 The Clatterbridge Ward team meeting takes place as soon as possible.

## 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)

Council Meeting	Date

### APPENDIX ONE: Heswall Together Update Report (AUG 2016)

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19 August 2016

### Heswall Together

*an overarching community organisation that represents and serves the local community*

#### **1. Projects**

##### Progress

Directory: "heswalldirectory @ gmail.com" set up,  
2 open sessions in library 0930-1230 on 27 Aug & 3 Sep,  
quote from printers helping unlock YourWirral grant funds.

Youth concert: 8<sup>th</sup> Oct afternoon music workshop by  
Simon Smith (Voice) with intent to perform that evening at  
concert in Heswall Arts Festival.

Youth Council: in feasibility stage, BYC willing to help.  
Connecting with existing Wirral Forums / Michelle L before  
schools return.

##### Future milestones

Dir: Meetings with Shannon&Fergus; Directory info trawl by  
mid Sep against template, publish in Dec2016.

Youth Concert: scoping meeting with Simon 1 Sep

#### **2. Healthy Wirral Pilot**

##### Progress

Shannon met Healthy Wirral reps on Monday – still some  
life there!

Next step for KF to meet with Shannon & Fergus. Heswall  
Together 'working team' is formed & ready to engage.

WSCC to be approached on this subject in October by  
ComReps

##### Future milestones

Pilot proposed timescales were:

Start asset mapping work in Aug; Run pilot Oct-Mar; report  
findings by May2017

#### **3. Stakeholders & Communications**

##### Progress

Steve Anderson (Heswall Society) presented to August HT  
Forum and this sparked lots of interest & questions.

Local Councillor Andrew Hodson & Wirral South  
Engagement Officer Shannon Kennedy participated in  
August HT Forum.

##### Future milestones

Future HT Forums set for 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays @ 7pm : 20/9 ;  
18/10 ; 15/11 ; 20/12)

#### **4. Organisation & Structure**

##### Progress

Draft statement of HT aims circulated & discussed at  
forum.

Draft constitution prepared. Further work ongoing.

Considering how best to engage residents & groups in this  
strand

##### Future milestones

By end of year, intent is to elect 'officers' to a committee to  
oversee HT, draw up a "modus operandi", consider  
capacity builder post, an office, and publicity / comms,