

Birkenhead Constituency Team Neighbourhood Engagement Update
November 2016

Neighbourhood engagement is a vital element of the Birkenhead Constituency Committee work.

There are a number of projects being developed in partnership with the local community, statutory organisations and community and voluntary groups that will benefit Birkenhead in the future.

Here is an update on how a number of these projects are progressing and the benefit they will bring to the community.

Rock Ferry Community Garden

When the Rock Ferry Community Garden was officially opened the council entered into a partnership agreement with a social enterprise called Grow Sow Well.

This lease has now been transferred to an organisation called the Utopia Project due to the director of Grow Sow Well immigrating to another country.

The Utopia Project is an organisation who worked with young people who have been excluded from school and will use the garden to teach alternative classes. They are also exploring the possibility of providing horticultural qualifications at the garden specifically for young people. If successful the garden will be one of the very few whom offer focused horticultural qualifications solely for young people in Wirral.

Birkenhead Library Health, Reading and Well Being Park

Since the launch of the health, reading and well-being park at the Birkenhead Library Site it has been used by numerous groups and residents who have taken advantage of the park the Birkenhead Constituency Team built in partnership with the library and Involve Northwest.

The funding agreement with the Department of Communities and Local Government requires the library to apply for a Community Green Flag Award. To gain the award the library will have to demonstrate how the park is managed, its sustainability and that it is a welcoming, safe and secure place for people to visit. If successful Birkenhead Library will be the only library in Wirral to have a Green Flag Award.

Make Birkenhead Brighter

The Birkenhead Constituency Team has been working with colleagues from the Councils Waste and Recycling Department to support a newly formed voluntary group called 'Make Birkenhead Brighter'.

The group have aspirations to improve Birkenhead's environment, especially the main gateways into Birkenhead Town Centre and outside Birkenhead Library.

Starting with a litter pick and community clear up around the front of Birkenhead Library the next steps for the partnership with the Constituency Team and the Make Birkenhead Brighter group is to seek funding to brighten up the appearance at the front of the library and bring some colour to the area.

Cloughton Village Irrigation System

Improving Wirral's Environment is one of the key pledges of Wirral Council and the Birkenhead Constituency Team is contributing to this in a number of ways.

As well as the number of clean ups the team has been involved in and working in partnership with groups such as Rock Park Proprietors and Make Birkenhead Brighter, the Constituency Team is also working on an environmental scheme with businesses in Cloughton Village.

The scheme would see the installation of an irrigation system and hanging baskets on every building in the village, dramatically improving the appearance and colour of the area, hopefully making it a more welcoming place for visitors.

Good Neighbour Scheme

The Birkenhead Constituency Team have been working with colleagues from the Public Health Department on developing a 'Good Neighbour Scheme'.

Even though the scheme is in its infancy the idea is to highlight residents in Birkenhead who are a good neighbour, encourage others to do the same and hopefully create a good neighbourly movement that could potentially increase community spirit, reduce isolation and promote what it means to be a good neighbour.

Merseytravel Artwork Project

A number of months ago the Birkenhead Constituency Team was approached by Merseytravel with a request for ideas on how to improve the appearance of Bidston and Upton Train Stations.

Following this request the team have been working in partnership with Ridgeway High School. Working with the art department the project will see glass artwork installed at Bidston and Wrexham Train Stations and the parapets painted at Upton Train Station.

The project is a great example of organisations coming together to work in partnership with the aim of improving a community facility.

For information on any of these projects please contact.

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