

**Constituency Committee - Wirral South**  
**Thursday, 20 April 2017**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Wirral South Community Representative Report</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Director for Health and Wellbeing</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report details progress to date following the co-opting of five Community Representatives (Com Reps) to the Wirral South Constituency Committee (WSCC) on 15 October 2015 and since the previous committee on 5th October 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.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

Recommendation 1: The Chair and Vice-Chair meet with Com Reps within 4 weeks of this Committee.

Recommendation 2: Each Ward Local Action Team meets within 6 weeks of this Committee.

Recommendation 3: All issues raised are noted by the Committee and subsequently discussed within the Local Action Teams.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 2.1 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.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Recruitment of community representatives was agreed by committee

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 BEBINGTON**

- 3.1.1 Due to illness, no report has been submitted for Bebington ward.

#### **3.2 BROMBOROUGH**

##### **3.2.1 NEW FERRY**

- 3.2.1.1 At the time of writing this in the aftermath of the weekend's disaster, a third of the district centre's businesses will be out of action due to buildings being either totally destroyed, partially collapsed, or within the cordon where structural assessments still need to be made. The Council's emergency team have done a sterling job of finding temporary accommodation for the many residents who had to be evacuated from their homes; affected residents have been given cash, clothing and other essential items donated by local businesses and individuals who have demonstrated how close our community actually is underneath the surface. We are becoming aware that some of the businesses affected may not have adequate insurance cover for their buildings, and they will need ongoing support from the Council and other agencies to work out a plan to remedy this situation. Longer term, there is going to have to be some significant redevelopment work in the district centre. The Town Team have also arranged a meeting for the Traders where David Ball and CEO of Wirral Chamber of Commerce will be present. An Emergency Community Hub has also been set up at the Village Hall from 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March to offer support and guidance to anybody who may need it, with various agencies being present at this.

- 3.2.1.2 The perennial problem of anti-social behaviour has returned to New Ferry with large groups of teenagers gathering particularly in the precinct where they use some of the business premises' free Wi-Fi. Residents and traders have often felt intimidated by the large numbers of young people being abusive towards them. Liaisons are ongoing between Councillors, Police and other Council agencies to find better ways to tackle the problems.

- 3.2.1.3 The Football on Friday Nights programme at the Oval, for which the Mid-Wirral Crime Prevention Panel has sourced funding for many years, is in

jeopardy of disappearing as a result of the increasing difficulty of finding funders prepared to sponsor it. This vital activity attracts up to 200 young people per session during the summer months, encouraging young people to participate in organised, structured sport/activity and keeping them off the streets where they might otherwise be causing anti-social issues. The Mid-Wirral Crime Prevention Panel is doing what it can to find funding to sustain the programme, but if it fails, the programme will sadly have to be terminated.

3.2.1.4 At the time of writing, a Dementia Friends Information Session has been organised for April, giving those who attend further information on dementia and how to support people to live well with dementia.

3.2.1.5 An event for socially isolated people has been organised for 19th April, offering free lunch, music and songs, a magic show - and is coupled with fire safety and home security advice from the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Services and the Mid-Wirral Crime Prevention Panel respectively. The event has been made possible with funding kindly given by the Heswall Round Table.

3.2.1.6 Planning for the New Ferry Festival for 15th/16th July is still ongoing, but the Council's new procedure adopted as of 1st April of making event organisers on Council owned land pay a fee for holding the event (in this case, £450) may deter us from continuing with the plans. The event had been planned as a way of raising funds to pay for New Ferry's Christmas Lights this winter.

3.2.2 BROMBOROUGH (supplied by Lin Longshaw-Parr):

3.2.1 A series of health walks from the library/civic centre should start near the end of May, organised by the Friends of Bromborough Library.

3.2.2 Friends of Bromborough Library are doing well with several people having signed up as friends. They have also been given £200 from the local Councillors to put towards enhancing the front of the library/civic centre with tubs/ plants etc.

#### **4.0 CLATTERBRIDGE**

4.1 Nothing to report.

#### **5.0 EASTHAM**

5.1 Light Bites

Following on from the first Christmas Together event held in Eastham on Christmas Day 2016 (supported by the Com Rep, Elected Members, local businesses, the local community, and Wirral Council) a Light Bites event has been organised and funded by the Delamere Community Centre. The first event was held in March and involved volunteers providing soup and sandwiches followed by social activities for members of the local community. It was well attended with 26 people at the first one followed by 24 people attending the second event. Additional funding for the event has been provided by Heswall Round Table.

## 5.2 Gift Network

After a long period of virtually no activity in Eastham and the fact that local communities and members of the WSCC were not informed that a small grant scheme was available for local communities, a meeting was initiated with the new providers of the GIFT contract. This has resulted in 2 people being referred to GIFT following the launch of the Light Bites lunch which was also attended by a member of the GIFT team.

## 5.3 St Anselmian's Rugby Club Planning Application

The formal planning application to develop the St Anselmian's Rugby Club development has been submitted to the Council following consultation with members and the local community and involves a new sports pavilion/community facility and 21 houses on the existing site. Local organisations and members of the local community are concerned about the impact of traffic and road safety as a result of this development and the impact on local children having to cross the A41 to access the new community facility.

## 5.4 Wirral South In Bloom

A successful bid was made to the Wirral South In Bloom fund by the After School Club run by volunteers in Eastham to develop a growing project that will encourage parents and children to take pride in their local community, instil an interest in growing food and brighten up the local area and their homes/gardens.

## 5.5 Torr Park

Following a number of consultation meetings between the local community and Council Officers, an Advisory Board and Steering Group have been set up to oversee the development and implementation of the project to improve facilities and maintenance in Torr Park with the £50k budget provided by Section 106 funds.

## 5.6 Country Parks – Parking Charges

Eastham Community Forum and local residents are against the introduction of any parking charges in Eastham Country Park. The impact of the displacement of traffic onto other roads and Levers car park has not been assessed by the Council as well as the impact on local traders and homeowners adjacent to the Country Park. Many local residents use the Park on a daily basis for leisure and recreational activities and need to use their cars to access these facilities as it is not easily accessible by foot.

# 6.0 HESWALL

6.1 The Town Directory was issued in February. It was well received and thanks are due to the co-ordinators Angela Dordevic and Nick Drew, and all the helpers and contributors.

6.2 The Heswall Action Group led by Dr Dick Atkinson have agreed the name Connecting Heswall for the Residents Forum/hub. The hub will enable the town's people to create a more caring, less isolated community. The forum will support people to help each other, give the community a voice and enable

statutory and voluntary organisations to play more cost effectively to each other's strengths. A first draft of a constitution for the Forum has been prepared. The Group will work closely and openly with the proposed WSCC Heswall local action team being established soon to develop a local plan to contribute to the constituency plan. Officers have been working with the Action Group on specific projects and all parties now need to work closely together on all aspects of the ward's development. This is new territory for Heswall and the necessary building of community capacity and the enlisting of help and support will take time and effort. Recruitment of individuals and community groups/organisations will be a priority.

- 6.3 In the meantime the Action Group are concentrating on a project to get Heswall's high street to bloom this year. Helped by Dale Farm's team of disabled gardeners, residents are ringing trees with circles of flowers and creating new flower beds on the grass verges of the road. Shops and residents have already contributed over £400 to buy the flowers and Dale Farm and the Heswall Society have received £250 each via Wirral South In Bloom grants to do likewise. The benefits are already significant, visible, and chime well with the existing efforts of the Heswall Society and the Council. The Action Group have reported that the initial feedback and reactions are very positive. Residents are saying that the effect is appreciated by many people. Residents are chatting to each other and shopkeepers, asking what more could be done and saying that it is adding colour and brightness to their lives. Plus, a range of agencies which previously worked quite independently are playing to each other's strengths to turn the High Street into a more popular walkway and shopping area.
- 6.4 The Action Group advise that they plan to hold open meetings before long to refine their ideas. At first it was hoped that this might happen by the Spring. But, it is now accepted that it will take a little longer. Before too long, however, as well as making a colourful difference on the ground, the Group hopes that developments will provide Heswall's Community Representative and the Council with an articulate and confident resident's partner.
- 6.5 A new area for the attention of WSCC is the maintenance of the Dales. A Friend of Heswall Dales group is in the process of forming, and will work with the current volunteers at the Dales and the Ranger. This will also open up new opportunities for funding.

## **7.0 COLLABORATIVE NOTE FROM COM REPS - SUMMARY OF 2016/17**

- 7.1 Community Representatives have completed a Com Rep plan for 2017/2018 which they now wish to bring forward for discussion. The plan's principle focus/aim is tackling social isolation and loneliness on a ward by ward basis through working with individual communities and by building community capacity. Broad support for the Com Rep plan and strong team working is essential for success. To secure this support the Com Reps will discuss with the Chair and Vice Chair of WSCC the content of the plan and how best to take it forward.

- 7.2 The plan also considers a number of secondary aims where improvements to working practice can be made.

## **8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Effective engagement will maximise social return on any constituency investment

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

- 10.1 Increased engagement may result in better use of community assets

## **11.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 11.1 Failure to engage at a local level may limit the Committee's ability to effectively tackle its priorities.

## **12.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 12.1 Elected members, community representatives and members of the public have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees.
- 12.2 The neighbourhood working model strengthens the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

## **13.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

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## **APPENDICES**

None

**REFERENCE MATERIAL**

None

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

Council Meeting	Date