



## Constituency Committee - Wirral South

<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 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017. 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

It is recommended that:

Recommendation 1: All issues raised are noted by the Committee and subsequently discussed within the Local Action Teams.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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

- 1.1 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 (com reps) was agreed by committee

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### 3.1 BEBINGTON

- 3.1.1 Nothing to report.

#### 3.2 BROMBOROUGH

##### 3.2.1 NEW FERRY

The relief effort following the explosion continues. Some businesses have been able to move into vacant shops elsewhere in the area to continue trading. Others have not been so fortunate, and for a handful without insurance, the future is looking very bleak indeed. Wirral Chamber of Commerce has been helping local businesses to advertise that New Ferry is back in business, whilst the Co-op has provided funding for the repairs of the building they continue to lease although they mothballed it last year (and are still locked into a long lease with) for it to be used by a collection of local charity shops displaced by the explosion.

Affected residents have been supported by both the Council and several individuals and groups including the New Ferry Town Team who have been receiving donations from several larger local and national companies.

Within days of the blast, a group of residents set up "New Beginnings" to help find items vitally needed by residents displaced from their homes. People from across Wirral and beyond wanted to help by donating clothing, food and other essential items that residents would need, especially in the first few days and weeks whilst they were found temporary accommodation and waited for assistance from their insurance companies. The group started off in the Village Hall and then quickly moved to the church hall in Port Sunlight where they were swamped with donations. When the financial burden that displaced residents were facing whilst in limbo waiting for official help became clear, the New Beginnings organisers decided to convert the donations to cash to help those affected start again, for example paying deposits on new

rented accommodation and significantly those who had been on low incomes and unable to afford insurance. As part of their fundraising efforts they held an event at the Lyceum club on 26th May 2017 and successfully raised over £3,513, making their total since moving into the old Co-op building to £7,500. The group is now a fully constituted organisation and on its way to seeking charitable status.

New Ferry Residents Association organised an event for elderly people and those with dementia and dementia care responsibilities on 19th April at St Marks Church Hall. Funded by the Heswall Round Table, and with the assistance of AgeUK Wirral, several community volunteers cooked and served lunch to 9 residents who turned up on the day and were also treated to a magic show and a visit by some exotic animals from a local sanctuary. With AgeUK Wirral, this was followed with a series of 6 weekly events at the Park Lodge Tea Rooms which attracted around 5 participants to each session. Refreshments and the food for all the sessions was kindly donated by Bebington Co-op. 6 of the organisers received dementia awareness training before the first event (provided by the Wirral South Engagement Officer).

New Ferry Residents Association has decided to continue to organise the New Ferry Festival which it had been planning before the explosion to raise funds to pay for New Ferry's Christmas lights this year. With funding now coming in from Asda, Tesco and Unilever, the event - to be held in New Ferry Shopping Precinct and New Ferry Park on 15th and 16th July will feature vintage buses from the Wirral Transport Museum, classic cars, a full scale replica Spitfire, fun fair, musical entertainment from several groups including Insanity Beach, stalls, dog show and much more.

### 3.2.2 BROMBOROUGH Village (supplied by Lin Longshaw-Parr of Bromborough Village Community Association)

Bromborough Village Community Association (BVCA) are having a Summer Fair on the 10th June in partnership with St Barnabas Church and using their grounds to hold it this year instead of closing the road down. It will include the usual craft and food stalls, fairground, Bouncy castle. Local Schools are involved with a painting competition which will be displayed and judged on the day. Church has a brass band coming on the evening of the 10th June and also on Sunday day time to celebrate the Saints birthday.

Friends of Bromborough Library are doing well, and held their second coffee morning. They are in the process of arranging a flower display outside the Library and have also completed training to start doing the Health Walks from the Library/Civic Centre at the end of June – Mondays at 10.30 (start date yet to be agreed). They have also started Story Time in the library on a weekly basis which appears to be doing well.

The BVCA have arranged to plant the church troughs for the summer and Bromborough Village are in the process of clearing and planting the troughs in the village. The main Cross flower bed has already been completed.

There has been some vandalism with the flowers which has been reported to the police.

The district centre has lost one of its cafes - Taste from in the precinct and the fruit and veg shop opposite the civic centre will be closing in June. However, some new shops are also due to move in (to be confirmed).

### 3.3 CLATTERBRIDGE

At the time of writing, the Clatterbridge Local Action Team (LAT) are planning to meet following the general election.

### 3.4 EASTHAM

The Eastham LAT have met and it was very productive. There was a general consensus to develop a strategy to address social isolation in the ward of Eastham. It was agreed that any such strategy should build upon some of the existing work carried by social sector partners.

Clear aspirations for said strategy were explored, elements of which included:

- Setting up the Delamere Centre as a bank for volunteering in the area
- An annual social sector open morning in the Delamere Centre (the first of which would help establish a database of existing partners and their projects)

### 3.5 HESWALL

Concern relating to the level of police support for the town, when judged against the level of anti-social behaviour and burglary, continues to rise. As recently as the 24th May a serious break-in occurred at the Premier Convenience Store in the Lower Village. Four "identically" dressed males all wearing balaclavas used an angle grinder to cut through the heavy metal shutters to gain entrance and then crow bars to open the cash till and take the entire contents of the indoor cash machine. Police report that they are expecting an "outcome". At the time of this report our new Neighbourhood Police Inspector Georgina Minnery advises Homewatch of a further 11 crimes of burglary and car theft in Heswall and neighbouring Bebington. Cautionary emails have been sent to the 400+ household members of the consolidated Heswall Homewatch Schemes.

News that key individuals have stepped back from Connecting Heswall is of concern and goes some way to explain Dr Dick Atkinson's request for more volunteers. An update from Connecting Heswall for this report has not been received and further clarification as to the current status of the new organisation is needed, especially if it puts in doubt the preparation of a detailed proposal for a Residents Forum/hub.

The Heswall Society continues to be integrated into Heswall in Bloom and maintains responsibility for the flower beds at Castle Buildings and is just about to set up a bed in the area opposite, having commissioned Dale Farm

to construct a raised bed. They report that they are very grateful for Wirral South in Bloom providing them with a grant to cover the construction cost and for planting out. To ensure the proper co-ordination of the interests currently involved in the initiative the Chair of the Heswall Society, Dr Steve Anderson, has formed a Steering Group. He expects the group to grow as more organisations become involved. Current members include the Friends of Dawstone Park, Dr. Dick Atkinson (who has done a great job in getting individual businesses involved in the project), Dale Farm, Bill and Margaret Milner, Heswall and District Business Association, and Council Officers.

Bill and Margaret Milner have been working tirelessly on a Heswall Community Wildlife Project. Margaret has attended training at Chester Zoo and is now a Community Wildlife Champion. The location of the project is the land adjacent to Heswall Hall and behind the library. The project aims to make the whole area more wildlife friendly and begins with a volunteering day to clear the area on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

The Heswall Society still wishes to adopt the telephone kiosk in the lower village as it is an important contribution to the street scene, but the process is proving difficult as the kiosk is on private property. A final decision will be taken once initial costs and possible future costs have been evaluated.

The Society advises of a growing concern re pressure to build on Green Belt land and enforcement of conditions in granted planning applications. Action will be taken to ensure neighbours are informed of conditions and encouraged to contact the Society and or the Council if they believe they are not being satisfied. Separately the society will be discussing with the Council Planning department their ability to enforce conditions.

The inaugural meeting of the Heswall LAT is scheduled for after the general election for which preliminary discussions have been taking place with key participants.

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

3.6.1 Peter Wright and Kevin Sutton have met with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the WSCC since the last meeting (as recommended) and a very constructive meeting was held. The discussion focused on the com reps' suggestions for tackling social isolation and their associated draft plan, a number of worthwhile suggestions were made and agreed by the meeting. Some amendments to improve the aforementioned plan were also agreed. The Chair and Vice-Chair expressed their continuing support for the Com Reps and the Com Reps expressed their desire to work together with all members of the WSCC team in finding better and improved ways of furthering the aims of the Wirral's neighbourhood working model.

In principle the Chair and Vice-Chair were supportive of the focus and aims of the plan. The Com Reps agreed to consult and take guidance from the Chair and Vice Chair at each and every stage and to keep the Chair and Vice Chair fully informed of progress.

- 3.6.2 To ensure that Com Reps are all taking the same approach to LAT activities, and pan-WSCC projects, they have agreed to establish a set of principles for LAT working, effectively a common framework/structure, one that can be developed and adapted for all wards/communities. It was also agreed that the Com Rep Chair should attend all LAT meetings and when that was not possible, a deputy. Having an overall picture will provide an extra stimulus to the Com Rep Collective and to LAT working ensuring that suggestions and ideas are brought forward across all communities and wards. It will also ensure that occasional absence is covered so that momentum is maintained.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Effective engagement will maximise social return on any constituency Investment

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

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

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

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

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

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

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impactassessments/>

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### APPENDICES

None

### REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Wirral South Constituency Committee</b>	<b>15 October 2015</b>