

Constituency Committee - Birkenhead
Thursday, 1 March 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Birkenhead Constituency Committee
REPORT OF:	Managing Director for Delivery

REPORT SUMMARY

Section 3 and 4 of this report provide an update on progress in relation to agreed schemes of work from the budget devolved to the Constituency Committee to date. It also details other Birkenhead Constituency Committee neighbourhood projects in progress.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the partnership work undertaken and future clean-up days funded by the skip fund**
- **Note the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean-ups**
- **Note the 2018 Birkenhead in Bloom proposed projects**
- **Note the updates from the food hubs and holiday food projects**
- **Note the updates regarding the Improving Life Chances community pilots**
- **Note the updates from BID team, Connectors and Assets update**

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

Please see section 3.0 background information for details

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Please see section 3.0 background information for details

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Keeping Birkenhead Clean

The launch of the Love where you Live Litterpick kits

Birkenhead Constituency now has 5 Love Where You Live hubs. This means any members of the public can book at the numbers below and use the litter pick kits for clean-ups:

- Beaconsfield Centre: 07447 913888
- Gautby Road Centre: 652 5645
- St James Centre: 670 9974
- Beechwood Trust: 677 8008
- Livingstone Street Centre: 653 5223

Britain Tidy is organising a national Great British Spring Clean to take place over the weekend of 3/4th March. Information can be found here:

http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean?utm_source=KBT_General&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GBSC18_260118_KBT_General

2018 'In Bloom' proposed projects include:

1. Birkenhead YMCA – planters and hanging baskets in Borough Road and YMCA garden
2. Beechwood in Bloom – partnership work transformed Beechwood
3. Ballantyne in Bloom - hanging baskets improve Ballantyne
4. The Beechwood Little Centre in bloom
5. Bidston Village in Bloom – hanging baskets improve Bidston Village
6. Gautby in Bloom – youth club, play scheme and staff flower up Gautby Road
7. Livingstone Street in Bloom – centre users grown vegetables and flowers
8. Bidston Rise in Bloom – residents and Magenta worked to have hanging baskets and planters.
9. Bluewood in Bloom – Magenta and residents planted up wild flower Areas
- 10 Oxtan in Bloom – secret gardens, Williamson and hanging baskets
11. Rock Ferry in Bloom – Neo Community Café and volunteers have worked to improve one stop shop area
12. Beaconsfield in Bloom – developing community garden next to the centre
13. Prenton in Bloom x 2– continued improvements on Woodchurch Road and

Prenton Dell Road

14. Claughton in Bloom – working with retailers and the 6th Form College to have an Oxtan style hanging baskets.

15. The Lauries Centre – tenants improve the town centre landscaping

16. The Hive – development of a community garden

17. Alleyways behind Claughton Road – residents transform into an oasis of Flowers

18. Alleyways behind Water Street – residents and Wirral Methodist Housing Association transform into an oasis of flowers

19. Birkenhead Park in Bloom (HYPE)

20. The Woodlands in Bloom

The projects will be great examples of agencies putting in time and funds, working with schools and residents to improve their areas. Big Local, probation, Magenta and Tesco are making valuable contributions to projects with their time and funds, along with residents, agencies, schools, the Environmental Team, probation and constituency team.

In Bloom projects have a number of positive outcomes:

- Makes retail areas more inviting so encourages local economic growth
- Provides volunteering opportunities
- Probation and residents will also give time and resources to the project
- Draws in external funds to Birkenhead and in kind contributions from other sectors
- Improves the environment through better landscaping
- Probation and Biffa cleanse, remove flytipping and paint areas
- Involves schools in teaching about recycling and growing
- Supports numerous Wirral pledges
- Provides an excellent platform for partnership working and a support network for volunteer groups in different areas to exchange ideas
- Provides a target to work towards – judging day - and an event to celebrate the good work done at the awards ceremony in Southport.

Skip Fund, Community Partnership days and Clean-ups

In total the Birkenhead Constituency Committee has provided and planned (see next section) 104 skips and given officer support at more than 40 Community Clear Ups and Action Days at the cost of circa **£13,000** from the skip fund budget.

While it is difficult to calculate exactly how much waste the constituency team has removed, a rough estimate based on information from the skip hire company and Biffa, **we estimate that it equates to at least 119 tonnes removed.**

The skip days bring local residents, Councillors, partner agencies like the police together. They improve the environment and provide a platform for closer working.

Historical Clean-up dates within last 12 months

We have the following community partnership days planned in March/April 2017:

- Rock Park clean up - 4th March 2017

- St Anne's Street clean up - BID team, constituency team and Magenta - 15th March 2017
- YMCA, BID and McDonalds co-ordinate - clean up 5th April 2017
- Bentinck Street area - 8th April 2017
- Union Street Beaconsfield Centre clean up - 19th May 2017
- Magenta Bidston Rise clean up – 18th May 2017
- Rock Ferry police action days – 9th June 2017
- Jamesbrook Close and Patten Street - 20th July 2017
- Beaconsfield clean up 1st and 3rd August 2017
- Noctorum clean up 22nd August 2017
- North end clean up 26th August 2017
- Northend 19th September 2017
- Rock Ferry 21st September 2017
- Westborne Ave – 7th January 2018
- Rodney Street Residents – 6th February 2018

The 'Community Pay Back' Team

The 'Community Pay Back' team have delivered a programme of alleyway weed clearing and cleansing for Birkenhead. They have supported 'In Bloom' projects by doing clean ups and a range of other cleansing in each area. They have completed over 60 jobs for the Birkenhead Constituency Committee.

They have completed the following jobs also last year:

- Larch Road - March 2017
- Strip of land by B and M - March 2017
- Bhead library pocket park - March 2017
- Castle Street/Water Street - March 2017
- Holly Grove - March 2017
- Holborn Road - March 2017
- Central Hotel - April 2017
- Elm Road and Woodchurch Rd – April 2017
- Allcot Avenue April 2017
- Arno Rd April 2017
- Patton St Clean-up day April 2017
- Flaybrick Cemetery - June 2017
- 266 Claughton Rd - May 2017
- Oxtan Village Old bank site April 2017
- Sisters Way May 2017
- Larch Grove May 2017
- Chistleton Close May 2017
- Byrne Ave and Bedford road - June 2017
- Pocket Park behind Birkenhead library 20th June 2017
- Little Centre Beechwood 19th June 2017
- Liberty Centre 30th June 2017

Please see **appendix 1** for further details of the Birkenhead Constituency's environmental clean up day in Rodney Street.

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the partnership work for clean-up days for the skip fund**
- **Note the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean ups**
- **Note the 2018 Birkenhead in Bloom proposed projects**

3.2 Feeding Birkenhead

The food hub projects that have been funded by Constituency funds have provided the update information below.

Update from the Food Hubs

a) St James Centre – North Birkenhead Development Trust

The St James Centre continues to provide support for families weekly. October half term we provided food and fun for 77 children.

In December we had a full programme of festive activities including flower arranging, bingo, a family winter celebration, breakfast with Santa and story time with Santa, visits by 2 local schools, a nursery and pyrography session. We delivered 27 hampers with the support of Sainsbury's, Renegade Inc and Riverside Housing. The centre also delivered 40 children's gift bags donated by Thingwall Primary School and distributed a huge number of toys donated by Wirral Lions.

The Centre continues to provide a hot food hub (HFH) in partnership with Wirral Ways to Recovery on the first Friday of the month, welcoming between 20 and 50 adults of no fixed abode. Our 2 sessions in December (an extra hub 23rd December 2017) were supported by local businesses including JM Education, Miriam Day Nursery, CSM Barkery Bromborough, FareShare and Tesco Bidston Moss. The Centre gave out 60 hampers through the hot food hub. The Centre has delivered 2 sessions so far this year, providing over 50 individuals with meals. They are planning to provide 2 HFH for Easter. And from April onwards, to increase this to a fortnightly provision. They are also distributing flasks through the HFH and encouraging use of the Café.

Christmas break activities were delivered in the first week of January due to school holiday and Centre closure. St James provided a family cooking which was attended by 18 children and parents and cake decorating supported by a local small business. Open play and lunch sessions will start in the New Year focused on hopes and dreams for 2018, this will be shared around the table over a pasta lunch.

For February half term we have a full programme of activities including a storytelling picnic facilitated by The Reader Organisation and a Winter Warmer event sponsored by Viridis.

We continue to provide crisis support including free hot and cold meals from the Café as well as store cupboard standby bags.

Our weekly timetable provides activities for the whole family; including parent and tots groups, adult learning, welfare drop in, foodbank, leisure learning, classes providing a qualification, job club, exercise classes, afterschool clubs for children and young people.

Over the holidays we offer a full community programme aimed at local families see **appendix 2**. This includes work around food, ensuring families have access to nutritious meals during the holidays. Please see **appendix 3** for details of February 2018 activity provision.

b) Beechwood Update

Enabling residents to access to FREE Wi-Fi

Big Local funding for not for profit organisations in the Big Local has now been completed. Quality and reliable hi-speed internet is now available for members of the public to use. With the movement of many services online, it is hoped that this will be of great assistance to local residents and improve the usage of community venues.



Dog fouling – No excuses

Big Local and Liverpool Housing Trust have agreed to match fund 4 x dog fouling stations in the Big Local area following consultation with residents on what changes they would like to see in the area. These stations will offer free, anti-vandal, bio-degradable dog bags which residents can access 24/7. In addition, Big Local has been working on a social media campaign to engage with residents for the hot-spot areas which have proved very popular.



Raised beds anyone?

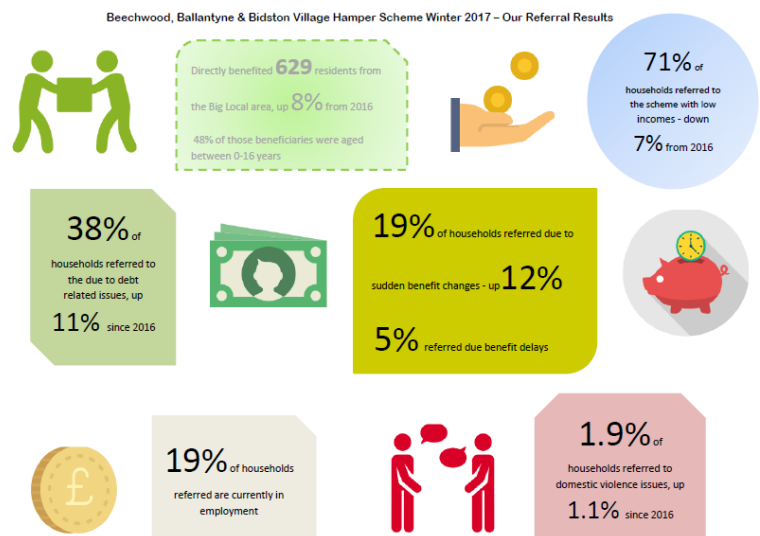
Following an application from Liverpool Housing Trust, work is nearly completed on 18 raised beds which are being built, then given away, to residents in the Ballantyne area! These beds will provide manageable areas for residents to grow flowers/vegetables of their choice and local schools will use the area also. Raised beds have been snapped up fast!

In addition, Liverpool Housing Trust's Jigsaw team have secured Big Local funded to build two large raised beds at the rear of 'The Little Centre' to enable young people attending the Beechwood Play Scheme to join in on the local environmental revolution that is taken place.



Big Local release figures following local support

Big Local has released data following their annual multi-agency Christmas hamper scheme for local residents. Demand for the scheme was higher than ever but the data highlights the difficulties the area continually faces.



The refurbishment of the community centre, has taking longer than expected is now up and running and the centre was renamed again, THE LITTLE CENTRE, Beechwood. The new logo, was created, and the new signs all ordered for the front of building.

The recruitment of staff for the centre has taken place, a cook so far. Investment grants from the Big Local funding for state-of-the-art facilities are currently underway. Alongside the previous investment for a brand new soft play centre, new

hall and P.A systems as well as Café equipment, and multi-use comfort areas have been granted, to enable the Centre to play a key role in the development of services for local people in the years ahead.

Neighbourhood Planning for Beechwood

The government is giving local communities the chance to shape development in their area through Neighbourhood Plans. The Neighbourhood plan for this area, will be called Shaping Beechwood. It will give the community a say in how the area develops. A partnership has been formed, and training provided, with support also from AECOM. The community have been invited to 'have their say', and leaflets inviting the community to various meetings have been distributed across the whole estate. Beechwood Community Trust will facilitate the Neighbourhood Plan.

c) Rock Ferry Food Hub – Neo Community Café at The Beaconsfield Centre

Hamper project went well with Neo delivering hampers to over 3000 vulnerable families at Christmas 2017.

Neo developed the garden at the Beaconsfield Centre and is improving the area by Rock Ferry One Stop Shop. Neo have been working closely with the Labour party, Tranmere Rovers FC, Birkenhead Constituency Committee, and the Wirral Council ILM programme to employ one of their former Volunteers to a full time position, enabling him to attend meetings which have been held between partners from Public Health and Fender Health Centre.

The meeting was extremely positive and a request has been made to Involve North West to investigate the feasibility of the Health and Wellbeing Connector at Fender Health Centre which the GP's can refer to. Overall the proactive partnership working approach is very positive for the future. Meetings had also been held with Joanne Chwalko from Wirral Community NHS Trust following a request from Dr Sim, as she is doing research with male parents on their support needs.

It has been agreed that the new Community centre, will be utilised for as many well being projects as possible to achieve, managing 9 traineeships and running our new surplus food storage and distribution unit. All is going well their Intermediate Labour Market placement who is now nearly half way through his contract. The business plan is being developed to explore moving towards asset transfer which hopefully will take place within the next few months.

The new look purpose built social supermarket is going strong in Beaconsfield and will also be offering on-site training programmes including retail qualifications and customer services. Neo are continuing to deliver a community dinner every Monday and numbers are growing each week. Adult learning courses begun at the end of March in partnership with Crosby Training and the DWP, including a Job centre adviser working from the centre and having a drop in and appointment service on site each week.

Neo are doing well with attracting more external catering work and functions all adding to both the fundraising for building costs, opening up employment

opportunities and redirecting more and more food away from landfill, we are averaging about 3-5 tonne of food a week now.

We are also very pleased that with the support of Peer Head Housing we have opened a community boutique and wellbeing centre in Hamilton Square. For further details please contact: Ema Wilkes: neo.cafe@aol.com

d) Gautby Road Community Centre

Gautby Road Community Centre has been offering a discounted supermarket weekly to local residents since January 2016. The Centre subscribes to Fareshare, His Church and get surplus food from Tesco's through the icloud app. Gautby is ordering pallets from His Church and has negotiated a good price from Fareshare for surplus food and received pallets.

The Centre has refurbished the kitchen in order to offer holiday food to local children and a food offer as part of the ASB youth project. They are working with local children to grow and cook their own vegetables as part of Gautby in Bloom 2018, building on the 'Thriving' award they received last year.

Gautby Road is working with St James, the police, YIP and the sports development team to provide food and activities across the North end for young people including a Thursday night and Saturday night session. As part of the project Gautby has taken on two ILM work placements and updated its CCTV. Gautby has extended the ILM placements until June 2018.

Luke O'Dowd: luke@gautbyroad.co.uk

e) Livingstone Street Centre – BEE Wirral Council

BeeWirral continues to deliver a full timetable of activities, from Monday to Saturday, for all ages. On Mondays, Tea and Memories, our oral history group, now runs in the morning at The Livvy, and in the afternoons at Tomorrow's Women Wirral.

Baby dance is a 5 week course which encourages bonding with your baby with easy to do dance moves. This is a popular course so booking is essential!
BeeKids is our after school club for 6+, but younger children are welcome if carers stay. It's free during term time.

Our social food co-op operates all week and is a great way to make your money go further. Bring a carrier bag along and fill it for a small donation (Max £3)

We have just become an Open Awards accredited centre, so in the near future many of our activities will allow those taking part to gain an accredited qualification. Future developments include working in partnership with Magenta Living and the community connectors to transform four derelict planters on Beckwith Street into wildlife havens as part of our It's Your Neighbourhood scheme.

Alongside these activities we have a continuing programme of building improvements to ensure that The Livvy has a long life as a community hub. Kath Shaughnessy: kathshaughnessy@gmail.com

3.3 Improving Life Chances

Update for Improving Life Chances Community Pilots

The Improving Life Chances Steering Group is working towards the following aims across Wirral:

- a. Improving life chances for children
- b. Supporting families to be financial resilient
- c. Tackling the immediate impacts of poverty
- d. Supporting parent into sustainable employment

Task groups in two wards have been set up to target specific areas experiencing high child poverty: Bidston and St James ward, and Seacombe ward. The areas have had their first and second meetings and have developed their respective action plans for the next year.

There has been a lot of enthusiasm for the ILC community pilots so far which is encouraging. People coming to the meetings include residents, GP, community group representatives, Councillors and agencies.

The aims of the partnership are:

- Improve partnership working
- Improve sustainability of the food projects
- Improve joint working eg. energy week, loan shark awareness week
- Establish joint data to establish evidence base and increased evaluation
- Raise profile of food hubs and community centre
- Strengthen referrals to food hubs and community centre
- Promote other wider services as part of food project
- Increase volunteering and befriending in to services

Already some good outputs have been completed thus:

- Christmas holiday food hamper project across Birkenhead and in each community pilot, working together in partnership. Delivered over 2500 hampers across the Birkenhead area. The food hampers are an opportunity to promote services through an info pack inside each hamper. The project has galvanised partnership working. Information in food hampers includes reporting ASB/Crimestoppers, energy advice, Magenta, Fairforyou, credit unions, school uniform swaps etc.
- supplementary sheets has been developed which is tailored to each area and particular themes which can be distributed at the food hubs, in hampers, Halloween, Christmas events etc.
- Beechwood and the North End have jointly bussed young people to the River of Light festival on bonfire night as part of Operation Banger
- St James has successfully secured funding for a joint Warm Home awareness event
- Annual Christmas grotto in Gautby Road in December and in Beechwood
- Annual Christmas table decorations taken place in each pilot area delivered by Life Long Learning.

- Beechwood has developed St Paul's School community hub and will offer a breakfast food club, possibly in partnership with Fareshare
- North end ASB project set up and delivered across North end
- Addressing Fuel Poverty event in Beechwood

ILC Actions for 2017-18:

- Beechwood has identified a need for a handyman service for the elderly – this is being explored through 'unltd' funding
- A volunteering/befriending project is being explored in Beechwood which has the potential to be replicated across other areas (hopefully with a portfolio for the volunteer that will lead to training or jobs)
- Invite agencies like Job Centre Plus/Reemploy/Reach Out/Health Connectors to discounted supermarkets to promote services in each area
- Joint training and e-learning will be offered eg. child poverty e-learning,
- Energy Projects Plus training, Food Hygiene training
- Sharing of initiatives and learning across the areas
- In bloom projects to be delivered in each area
- Look at joint funding applications to fund increased activity
- Implementing data collation and evaluation tool
- Applications to the community funds

The impact of the ILCs are being evaluated by public health and an update will be reported to the next committee

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the updates on Improving Life Chances pilot projects**

3.4 Community Connectors Project

The commission for community connectors is a joint commission between the Public Health and Investment teams from Wirral Council and was awarded to Involve North West for a period of two years, commencing the 1st February 2017. There are 13 community connectors employed across the east and north of the borough with 7 of the 13 connectors based within the Birkenhead Parliamentary Constituency. They are all in post and have been working hard to get to know their areas during the last quarter.

The following wards are covered by the contract based on insight research, worklessness and health inequality data; New Brighton, Moreton West and Saughall Massie, Leasowe and Moreton East, Wallasey, Liscard, Seacombe, Bromborough, Eastham, Bidston and St James, Claughton, Oxtan, Prenton, Birkenhead and Tranmere and Rock Ferry.

The connectors role is to provide support for individuals to access local community activity to improve their wellbeing and as appropriate their readiness for employment. Interventions will include providing them with up to date information

regarding local opportunities available in relation to community activity as well as signposting/referring participants to mainstream services as appropriate. They are tasked with building on the asset mapping exercise that has already been undertaken ensuring that it is kept up to date and provide a platform to identify gaps in community provision. They are enablers for people providing individuals with “hand holding” to community activities/groups or mainstream services and supporting participants to build/extend their individual personal networks and friendship groups and neighbourhood. Examples of this could include organising days out, environmental and/or community participation projects. The project has a target to engage with 1,885 across the specified wards, it is expected that 1,015 of the participants:

- Are at least 18 years old and of working age;
- In receipt of employment support allowance with priority given to those in the employment support allowance work related activity group (owing to the continued expansion of DWP’s Universal Credit payment system this eligibility may be subject to future expansion with prior agreement and at the absolute discretion of the commissioner),
- A minimum of 75% reside in the parliamentary constituency of Birkenhead (this figure can be subject to flexibility in consultation with and at the absolute discretion of the Commissioner).

Please see **appendix 4** for Connectors update presentations slides.

3.5 Birkenhead First Activity Update: 2017

The Business Improvement District Team are continuing their diverse town centre activity to support the retail area in Birkenhead and has delivered the following programme of events last quarter:

- 30th September - 14th October 2017 -Wirral Arts Festival
- November 2017 River of lights -Hamilton Square Waterfront
- 17th, 18th, 19th November 2017 - Fabulous Frost Fair Birkenhead Town Hall
- 18th November 2017 - Pirate Day - Tram museum and Pacific Road
- December 2017 Santa Special Tram ride and Christmas wonderland -Tram museum and Pacific Road
- December 2017 Birkenhead Loves Christmas - Hamilton Square
- December 2017 Santa's Post Office - Town Centre

3.6 Birkenhead Assets update

The Beechwood Centre

The Beechwood Centre signed the lease to take on the former Beechwood Community Centre, as an asset transfer, on 9th December 2016. The Directors of the Beechwood Centre formerly, members of the Joint Management Committee, have worked relentlessly for the past few years to develop a business plan, secure funds and run the building as a community interest company.

The building has been refurbished and will soon provide an expanded food hub, community café, soft play area, sports hall, community room, play scheme and much more for the local community. The group appointed a Centre Manager and cook

and assistant in September 2017. The centre hosted the successful Improving Life Chances annual event in October 2017. A full update of their activities can be found in 3.2 b).

Beaconsfield Centre, Rock Ferry

The Beaconsfield Centre is being operated by Neo Community Café. They are providing office space for the Early Years Trust. They have a food hub, youth club, residents association, Bingo, advice and guidance, community garden and much more. They have developed their business plan and are accessing funding whilst working towards asset transfer in the very near future.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are no staffing implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

There are no relevant risks.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Please see appendix 1 for details.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no equality implications.

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