

Constituency Committee - Birkenhead
Wednesday, 13 June 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Birkenhead Constituency Committee
REPORT OF:	Assistant Director: Health & Outcomes

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 and note £1K allocation to each ward to support 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, Pathfinder 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 this Summer. We will organise bag collection.

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

£1K has been allocated to each ward in 2018 for 'In Bloom' projects which will include:

1. Birkenhead YMCA – planters and hanging baskets in Borough Road
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 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 105 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 120 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 2017-18

The following community partnership days have taken place 2017-8:

- 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
- Hardcourt Street May 2018

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 and note the £1K allocation to each ward**

3.2 Feeding Birkenhead

a) Beechwood Update

Skateboard Park

The official opening of the Skateboard Park in Beechwood took place on Tuesday 8th May 2018. Cllr George Davies, together with ex Councillor Harry Smith, started the discussions, many years ago, with funding from Section 106, when the new properties were built, on the estate, and current Councillor Brian Kenny, has continued their good work.

Big Local and Onward Housing, have worked with young people, and in partnership with members of Wirral Council and Joint Management Committee (made up from members from CA, BCT, Chapel) made it a reality.

Lady Mayor, Ann McLaughlin, with Harry and Brian, were delighted to officially open the park, and the brilliant company, Extreme Wheels, gave an outstanding performance of how it's done!

Everyone was invited back to The Little Centre for refreshments.



TUESDAY 8TH MAY
OFFICIAL SKATE
PARK OPENING!!

10:30AM @ FENDER WAY
Come and join us for the official opening the best skate park on Wirral. Just turn up at the Skate Park!



Be part of it!
All the community
welcome!

Free buffet for all
attendees @ The
Little Centre after
the ceremony.

For more info call
George Thomas:
07949334137

SKATE PARK SUPPORTED BY:

The Little Centre Beechwood

The Little Centre, has now been open for 6 months, and is going from strength to strength with the following activities already taking place.

- Community Café
- Food Pantry
- CA office
- Playscheme
- Softplay
- Bingo groups
- Room hire for meetings and parties

A new Manager has recently been recruited, who is looking forward to working with the Management Board to make it bigger and better, for the Community of Beechwood. Big Local is also funding a position of a Little Centre Apprenticeship role, to support the Manager in developing the activities for the centre.

A new playground, is to be built at the rear of the centre, with plans well underway, hopefully, all new equipment will be in for school summer holidays.

Volunteers

It has been proving difficult to recruit volunteers for the centre, and a new project funded by Big Local. The Volunteer Brokerage project is being organised with Community Action Wirral and Community Connectors.

Big Local

Big Local have launched years Bright Ideas Fund, inviting community to apply for funding up to £1000.

In Bloom

The environmental sub group, made up of partners to support environmental issues across Beechwood, Ballantyne and Bidston are delighted to be entering 4 projects.

- Beechwood Community Village
- The Little Centre Beechwood
- Ballantyne
- Bidston Village

The sub group is made up of members from Community, Onward Housing, Council, Councillors.

Ballantyne Community Centre

The have been several meetings, to look at a new community partnership to take over the running of the Ballantyne Centre. Ownership of the land is still being established. Meanwhile, 18 raised beds have been built in the grounds and with support from Onward Housing & Big Local and community is busy planting them up

Apprenticeships

Beechwood Community trust has successfully secured a Non Levy Apprenticeship contract from the Education Skills Funding Agency to the value of £257,000, being the only prime provider for such a contract on the Wirral.

Providing apprenticeships in Childcare, Sport, Hairdressing and Barbering. This demonstrates a bright future for Beechwood Community Trust who are now eligible to tender for further contracts and the young people and employers of Wirral.

Digital Plan/Twenty Pledges

Beechwood is eager to develop Wirral's Digital Strategy, Big Local funding Free Wi-Fi in Beechwood Community Trust and the Little Centre Beechwood. Coupled with Free Wi-Fi in Beechwood Recreation Centre and Beechwood Library the Beechwood Digital Hub is now a reality and not a dream.

b) 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 July 2018. The Centre will be delivering youth activity and holiday food provision throughout the Summer.

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

c) 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 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. For further information, please contact 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 year of 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 regarding, 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/Remploy/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
- Sports Development tackling ASB in each area

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 in 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, Oxtun, 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).

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 will be delivering the following programme of events this quarter:

1. Clean Air Day- 21st June 2018

This is a council led event, Mark Clemson from the BID team who is hosting a pre-meet to hopefully develop more of an understanding about what shape the event should take, who needs to be involved. BID are principally involved to help businesses within the BID area.

Further details on Clean Air Day are here:
<https://www.cleanairday.org.uk/Default.aspx>

2. Be in Birkenhead Festival- 26th July 2018

This is the 3rd year for the Be in Birkenhead festival and it's going to be bigger and better than in previous years. The aim is to showcase the businesses and charities within Birkenhead and be as inclusive as possible.

The BID team are looking for choirs and acts to perform on the stage, for businesses to donate raffle prizes and to promote the event as widely as possible in advance. Wirral Transport Museum will be running shuttle buses throughout the day to ensure that all areas of Birkenhead can benefit from the increased footfall.

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 May 2018. 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 a).

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.

3.7 Pathfinder Project

Pathfinder Project

The Pathfinder Project is a partnership between the Police, Council, YOT, local schools, CELLS project, Army and Leisure Services. The project has received £7K funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's fund. The pilot project has engaged with 5 schools so far years 9 and 10: EMA, Kilgarth, Woodchurch High School, Prenton High School for Girls and Birkenhead Park School. Over 140 young people who have offended or are at risk of offending have been engaged into the project.

The project offers 4 or 5 days of intervention activities to deter offending including, CELLS project which outlines the consequences of a range of offending, army assault course which promotes problem solving, confidence building and team

work, orienteering, mountain biking, foot golf, gym induction day and an awards ceremony. Successful young people have received a certificate and a 6 weekly gym pass. The project encourages involvement of credible role models in the support team who have been involved in ASB in the past but who have turned their lives around and are currently involved in youth work. The project applicant is Gautby Road Play and Community Centre which is the centre of the North end of Birkenhead where ASB rates have been historically high. Research shows that projects embedded in a community setting show the best chance of success.

Evaluation of the project has shown that the project is improving young people's confidence, skills, attitude to the Police and Council as well as acting as a deterrent from reoffending. It is demonstrating a high impact on changing young peoples' attitudes to committing ASB in the future.

- *46% Changed their attitudes towards the police in a more positive way*
- *73% were deterred from committing crime by understanding consequences*
- *91% reported increased confidence*
- *60% reported increased knowledge about crime and consequences*

Some quotes taken directly from the participants about the police:

- *'They are actually sound'*
- *'I realise they are just normal people doing a job'*
- *'Yes cause they're sound'.*
- *'They are actually quite sound'*
- *'I respect them a bit more'*

The project is currently looking for additional funds for the next phase of the project – Pathfinder 2.

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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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Community Engagement Update

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date