1. Introduction

The Big Lottery awarded Shadsworth with Whitebirk Ward £1 million to be spent over 10 years to make sustainable improvements to life within the Ward. They also awarded Beach Partnership Ltd, a community not for profit business, £10,000 as the lead organisation for the Ward to carry out Phase 1 of the ‘Getting People Involved’ programme. The purpose of this work was to inform local people about the £1 million award and to gather views on what should be done in the area to make things sustainably better.

2. Context

The Shadsworth and Whitebirk Ward is situated on the eastern edge of Blackburn. It is a large residential area with some industrial development which encompasses Shadsworth, Whitebirk, Hillside, Romney Walk, Westbury Gardens, Delph Lane and Intack residential areas as well as the Shadsworth Business Park. The Ward covers 214 hectares and includes 4 primary schools, i.e. Shadsworth Infant and Junior schools, St Antony’s Roman Catholic Primary School and Intack Community Primary. There are 2 secondary schools in the ward i.e. Blakewater College and Our Lady and St John Roman Catholic High School and Crosshill Special School. See map at appendix 1. There are 3 churches in the Ward, Westbury Gardens United Reformed Church, a Presbyterian Church and St Teresa’s Roman Catholic Church. There are also 2 community centres and a Children’s Centre within the Ward boundaries.

The Ward has 3,093 households and a population of 7,650. 41% of the housing in the Ward is rented compared with 19% in the Borough as a whole. The Ward suffers from high levels of unemployment with 12% of males unemployed with some unemployed for long periods of time. 37% of the working age people are claiming unemployment benefit compared to 20% in the town as a whole. The Ward also suffers from high levels of crime and has the 2nd highest rate of ASBO’s in the town and a significant level of domestic violence.

The ward is made up of predominately white British people with approximately 5% to 7% coming from an Asian (Indian and Pakistani) heritage. More recently some people from Eastern European countries have been moving into the area.

3. Approach Used

The Ward naturally falls into 3 main areas, Whitebirk; Shadsworth; Hillside, Westbury Gardens and Romney Walk. All the known groups and organisations in the area were informed of the award and invited to an inaugural meeting to explain the ‘Getting People Involved 1’ (GPI 1) phase. This grouping was formed into a ‘Reference Group’ which has been used to regularly keep people informed of what was happening and to ensure that there was continued support for the work being done.

Each of the above areas agreed to hold launch events in their own localities and leaflets and posters were produced and circulated to help promote the project and raise awareness. The launch events were used to attract people and to record the details of those people that were willing to take part in consultation training. The volunteers once trained in various ways of carrying out consultation work were asked to arrange programmes of consultation in their own areas including visiting schools, churches, children’s centres and other places that local people use so as to gather their views about the area. They recorded what people liked most or least about their area and where possible gathered ideas to address the issues being raised. These results have been collated and combined and are contained within this report as a base line for future work in the area. The volunteers that received training have
put that training into practice by carrying our actual consultation work and have thus learnt new skills and developed new confidence from that experience.

4. Project Structure and Programme

Beach Partnership Ltd (BPL) has worked in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Healthy Living (HL) a separate charity which has close connections with the locality and experience of doing public consultation work. Beach Partnership Ltd has also worked closely with the local Neighbourhood Management Team as they have intimate knowledge of the area and expertise that compliments and supports that of BPL and HL. The project has also used a Training Consultant to deliver the consultation training for the volunteers. The approach described above was used to establish a programme of work and the details are shown in the project timeline at appendix 2. A Project Management Team has been formed and regular meetings have been held to guide, direct and control the work being done.

5. How did we do it? (Methodology)

The Healthy Living Centre and BPL recruited ten local volunteers to act as researchers. All ten volunteers were trained in participatory research methods, drawing heavily on the approach of Participatory Appraisal.

This approach was used for the following reasons:

a) All Participatory Appraisal methods allow residents themselves to set the agenda rather than responding to an agenda set by others which is often the case with a questionnaire
b) Residents are approached where they live or where they go (e.g. talking to parents and carers outside the school) rather than expecting people to come to public meetings. This goes some way to ensuring a diverse group is reached.
c) Local researchers lead the activity meaning that the skills developed stay in the local community. The Local researchers often become motivated to take action themselves. It can also lead to a more effective consultation as local people may feel more comfortable talking to fellow residents and researchers may have better ideas of where consultation activities should take place.

The training programme was divided up into two, the first was targeted at those only available during the evenings, ran over six evenings and was led by Peter Bryant (Community Involvement Matters), the second was held during the day and was led by Mohammed Khan (Blackburn with Darwen Healthy Living Centre). The training allowed participants to:

1. identify the principles and features of effective community consultation
2. to try out a range of participatory research methods (opinion lines, mapping and problem trees) and to use a coding system
3. to plan and rehearse the first few consultation activities
4. to reflect upon the effectiveness of each consultation activity and make changes.

All researchers decided they felt most comfortable using one method, the opinion line. Use of this method allowed residents to identify both problems that need addressing and also to identify the positives about life in the area. Residents were asked to firstly, plot themselves on a line according to how ‘easy it is living here’ or how ‘difficult it is living here’ and secondly to talk about the reasons why they had placed themselves there. Some residents felt comfortable to write their own opinions while others wanted the researchers to record the information. Likewise some conversations were lengthy and in-depth and others were very brief snatched conversations. This means there is great variation in the quality of some information gathered.

Volunteer researchers:
Celia Allen, Alison Critchley, Margaret Estill, Amanda Grimshaw, Jade Hudson, Gordon Melody, Jurgen Munich, Selma Munich, David Reily, Brian Williamson.

Healthy Living Centre researchers:
Dilwara Ali, Mohammed Khan, Sharon Lucas
The volunteer researchers and Healthy Living Centre researchers led consultation activities at the following venues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>How long?</th>
<th>How many people?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accrington Rd Community Centre: young people from Whitebirk</td>
<td>Accrington Rd. Youth Group</td>
<td>Brian Williamson</td>
<td>June 25th</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillside</td>
<td>Clean up</td>
<td>David Reily Gordon Melody</td>
<td>June 26th</td>
<td>3.5 hours</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intack Primary School</td>
<td>School Council</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 26th</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Shadsworth Junior School</td>
<td>Outside school at pick up time</td>
<td>Amanda Grimshaw Margaret Estill Dilwara Ali</td>
<td>June 29th</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadsworth Infants School</td>
<td>2 Classes</td>
<td>Mohammed khan Margaret Estill Amanda Grimshaw Brian Williamson</td>
<td>30th June</td>
<td>1hr 15 minutes</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westbury Gardens</td>
<td>Westbury Gardens Art and Craft Group</td>
<td>Margaret Estill</td>
<td>July 5th</td>
<td>45 mins</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Shadsworth Junior School</td>
<td>Outside school at pick up time</td>
<td>Amanda Grimshaw Margaret Estill Dilwara Ali</td>
<td>July 6th</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrington Rd Community Centre</td>
<td>Women’s Friendship Group</td>
<td>Brian Williamson</td>
<td>July 11th</td>
<td>40 mins</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westbury Gardens</td>
<td>Westbury Gardens Art and Craft Group</td>
<td>Margaret Estill</td>
<td>July 12th</td>
<td>45 mins</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadsworth Junior School</td>
<td>School Council</td>
<td>Amanda Grimshaw Margaret Estill</td>
<td>July 12th</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadsworth Infants School</td>
<td>Outside school at pick up time</td>
<td>Amanda Grimshaw Margaret Estill</td>
<td>July 13th</td>
<td>45 mins</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Organizer(s)</td>
<td>Date(s)</td>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westbury Gardens Church</td>
<td>Selma Munich</td>
<td>Margaret Estill</td>
<td>July 10th/17th/24th</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westbury Gardens</td>
<td>Jurgen Munich</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alison Critchley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westbury Gardens</td>
<td>Beach Judo Club</td>
<td>Margaret Estill</td>
<td>July 21st</td>
<td>1.5 hrs</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westbury Gardens</td>
<td>Amanda Grimshaw</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitebirk Playing Fields</td>
<td>Whitebirk Carnival</td>
<td>Celia Allen, Jade Hudson, Jurgen Munich, Selma Munich, Sharon Lucas</td>
<td>August 6th</td>
<td>2.5 hrs</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadsworth Community Centre</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
<td>Dilwara Ali, Celia Allen, Jade Hudson,</td>
<td>August 9th</td>
<td>2 hrs</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadsworth, Whitebirk, top of Delph Lane, Toms shop, majorettes at Shadsworth Community Centre.</td>
<td>Street survey</td>
<td>Celia Allen, Jade Hudson, Mohammed Khan</td>
<td>w/c August 15th</td>
<td>10 hrs</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrington Rd Community Centre</td>
<td>Circle of Friends (residents of Farrier Court sheltered accommodation)</td>
<td>Dilwara Ali</td>
<td>August 25th</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Oswald’s Church</td>
<td>Static opinion line</td>
<td>Alison Critchley</td>
<td>August</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rothesay Rd:</td>
<td>Outside Spar and playground</td>
<td>Jurgen Munich, Selma Munich</td>
<td>w/c August 29th</td>
<td>10 hrs</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westbury Gardens Church</td>
<td>Westbury Gardens Carnival</td>
<td>Celia Allen, Jade Hudson, Mohammed Khan</td>
<td>Sept 3rd</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of residents consulted</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>330</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. What were the issues identified?

The following issues were identified by the team of researchers. They are ordered according to the issues that were mentioned the most by local residents. These issues may be positive or negative or sometimes both. Appendix 3 includes the results of a consultation with 53 young people aged between six and seven at Shadsworth Infants School. In drawing any conclusions about the needs of residents it is important that their views are considered in addition to the opinions listed below.

1. Things to do for young people and children:

Insufficient provision and the need for more provision for young people was mentioned by sixty people during the course of the consultation. This opinion came from both young people and old people.

Typical comments were ‘we need more activities for kids’. There should be ‘something to do for the kids’ said one woman in her thirties from Shadsworth. ‘There’s nothing for kids of any age’ said a mother. ‘It’s boring, there is nothing to do, everything is for adults we need activities for young people’ said one fifteen year old boy interviewed on the street in Shadsworth. One young person (aged 19) from Whitebirk noted ‘there is nothing for us to do, everyone’s kicking off’ similarly an eighteen year old girl from Shadsworth noted there is ‘nothing for us to do, everyone’s kicking off with each other’. Echoing this feeling one nineteen year old girl from the Hillside, Romney Walk and Westbury Gardens area said ‘there’s not enough activities for us to do’.

There was no shortage of ideas. Three people felt that there should be more on at the Community Centre at Shadsworth, for example, one person interviewed outside Shadsworth Junior School said ‘there should be more activities for children at Shads Centre’. Likewise one woman said the ‘community centre should be for cubs, rainbows and other groups…….make community centres learning centres for the young people’. Two people talked of the need for somewhere to play Football. One child from Intack Primary complained that there is only two Basketball nets and another complained that ‘all good things like a football pitch, swimming pool is too far away’. Two of the young people from the Accrington Road Youth Group talked about how they want a pool table upstairs at the club. Two young people talked specifically about the need for more youth clubs and another two of the need for a play area. One man in his late forties talked about the need for ‘guidance for young people’. One woman in her early twenties suggested there should be activities arranged for young people and that there should be a community centre at Whitebirk. One male in his early thirties from Shadsworth suggested that there should be ‘sports games and competitions for young and older people’. When asked to think about what should be done, one man in his late forties interviewed at Westbury Gardens Carnival suggested, we ‘need to talk to young people to find out what they need’.

One woman in her mid forties interviewed at Shadsworth Community Centre said that she worried for her kids and that she ‘doesn’t let them out’ instead she sends them ‘to paid activities’. Similarly a woman in her twenties interviewed at Shadsworth Community Centre spoke of how her ‘daughter cant play out’.

One older man from Romney Walk suggested that ‘give them an incentive to look after the area, to make it look nice’.

On a more positive note one woman in her late forties from Shadsworth felt there were ‘very good games for children, courses and social activities’.
2. Drugs

Fifty people talked about drug related problems, people using drugs and people dealing drugs.

The comment from one male in his twenties on Hillside was typical; There are ‘a lot of drug dealers and addicts in the area’. This was one of the main issues talked about by children from Shadsworth Juniors School Council, in the words of one child ‘there isn’t nice people here and some take drugs’. One woman interviewed at Westbury Gardens described how there are ‘seven houses in my row where I live and two are drug dealers’.

Some of those interviewed talked about the drug use of others making them feel unsafe. A woman in her mid twenties talked about how difficult she found it living in Shadsworth ‘It is unsafe. I’m afraid of the people that are drunk and drugged’ she said. One woman in her mid fifties also from Shadsworth said ‘I’m afraid’. She went on to describe how she was scared of young people and the drink and drugs on the street.

Many talked specifically of the problem of people selling drugs in their neighbourhoods. There are ‘too many families selling drugs in this area’ was a typical comment from a 63 yr old male from Shadsworth. One man in his sixties used the far end of the opinion line to show how difficult it is living in Shadsworth he said ‘I’m not happy, it’s unsafe and dangerous. There are too many drugs and there needs to be more police monitoring and control of the houses selling drugs’.

Three people talked about the people who are selling drugs being on benefits.

Thinking of solutions one male in his early forties interviewed at Shadsworth talked about the need for ‘more guidance for young people about drugs and alcohol’. Another woman in her early twenties interviewed at Shadsworth Community Centre talked about needles being left in the streets and as a solution suggested the need for drug councillors for families and friends.

3. Litter:

Forty two people of all ages talked about problems with litter.

There is ‘rubbish everywhere’ was a typical comment as was its ‘not very clean, lots of rubbish lying around’. ‘Lots of rubbish thrown in the garden’ complained a Whitebirk resident. One woman in her late forties from the Hillside, Romney Walk and Westbury Gardens area noted that there is ‘broken glass everywhere from people drinking’. Two young people from Shadsworth talked particularly about the problem with broken glass; I don’t like ‘seeing alcohol bottles and glass on the streets’ said one eight year old. There were plenty of ideas for solutions, one woman in her twenties from Shadsworth suggested that there should be ‘more fines for dumping rubbish’ and a nine year old boy suggested that ‘you could make the litter better by more people getting jobs for litter picking’. Similarly another young person from Whitebirk felt ‘you could improve this area by make the area cleaner and provide more bins’. One eleven year old said she had seen rats.
4. Police:
The police were brought up regularly by local residents in their conversations with the researchers, mostly when people wanted to complain about there not being enough police in their neighbourhood. Twenty eight people complained there was not enough police in the area. This opinion was shared by both children and adults.

‘We need more police after 6pm and midnight’ said one woman from Shadsworth in her early fifties. Similarly one male in his sixties from the Hillside, Romney Walk and Westbury Gardens area requested ‘bring police back to do more patrols’.

In addition to complaints about insufficient numbers of police there were also complaints about the actions of the police. One woman in her twenties interviewed at Shadsworth Community Centre called for ‘quicker action when there is trouble with neighbours’. Similarly another woman in her early thirties from the Hillside, Romney Walk and Westbury Gardens area complained that the police need ‘to take more action’. ‘Police don’t do anything’ said a male in his mid fifties from the Hillside, Romney Walk and Westbury Gardens area.

One woman in her thirties/forties explained that one of the positives of where she lived was the ‘weekend police station and the community police’ however she felt that it would be better if the station was open all week.

Two people complained that when they had phoned the police they hadn’t come.

5. Drink
Some twenty nine people saw one of the biggest problems affecting their life was due to others ‘drinking too much alcohol’ and ‘alcohol abuse’. One male resident of Shadsworth in his early sixties noted ‘alcoholism in this area is very widespread’. He went on to complain about there being too many off licences. Similarly another person explained ‘there are three off licences on the estate (Shadsworth) and I know they serve kids’. One woman in her mid forties from the Hillside, Romney Walk and Westbury Gardens area complained that there are ‘too many young people drinking outside’. One woman in her thirties from the Hillside, Romney Walk and Westbury Gardens area also complained of ‘too much drinking, the police don’t do anything’. Also on the theme of off licenses one forty nine year old man living on Shads talked of the need to ‘control off licence selling cigarettes to children’.

6. Neighbours
Twenty people talked positively about their neighbours. Typical was this comment from one parent outside Shadsworth Juniors, ‘I have good neighbours and live on a good street’. This was echoed by one 11 year old girl from Shadsworth ‘there are really nice neighbours’ and a 12 year old from Westbury Gardens ‘some neighbours are kind they help each other’. Likewise a nineteen year old male interviewed at Westbury Gardens Carnival talked about ‘good neighbours’ how he liked where he lived and that he ‘wouldn’t change anything’. One man in his sixties interviewed at the Westbury Gardens Carnival talked positively about how ‘neighbours look after each other’. One woman in her late forties talked about how she found it easy to live in the Hillside, Romney Walk and Westbury Gardens area, ‘I like my neighbours, I know everyone’.
Some people complained about their neighbours being loud ‘a lot of music playing at night’ recalled one child from Intack Primary. One man in his late fifties interviewed at Westbury Gardens Carnival talked about ‘bad neighbours.’ Loud music was a particular problem for five people that the team of researchers spoke to. One man in his seventies from Whitebirk talked about living in sheltered accommodation at Ferrier Court and how he ‘wants to move as soon as possible’ he went on to explain the problem ‘I can’t sleep because of loud music at night (2.00am)’ and that ‘the warden doesn’t do anything about loud music’.

7. Play areas:
Eight of the people spoken to talked positively about play areas in the area including mums and children themselves. One woman in her late twenties from Whitebirk talked about how ‘the park has been sorted with drug use by the community officer’. One person attending St. Oswald’s Church spoke positively about the new park area at Staff Crescent ‘although it could do with being a little more closed in’ they noted.

Fourteen people spoke of the need for play areas to be improved. One woman in her mid twenties interviewed at the Westbury Gardens carnival talked specifically about the need to ‘improve the park on Burnley Road’ and a man in his late thirties complained that there was no play area for babies. In Whitebirk one sixteen year old girl talked of the need to ‘find things for kids to do’ and in particular the need to ‘sort the park out’.

Three women from Shadsworth talked of how the parks should be revamped and tidied up. One woman talked of the need for ‘decent parks with CCTV’ similarly an eight year old boy said ‘they should put cameras up on parks’. One nine year old from Whitebirk said ‘I don’t like the way the park is broken and the graffiti’. One man from Rommney Walk talked of how the children can’t play because one of the playgrounds in the area is locked up.

8. Schools
Twenty one people talked positively about local schools. Most recorded that simply they felt local ‘schools were good’. Seven went on to talk specifically about how they liked the fact that the school was nearby. One boy from Intack Primary School said ‘I like my school, it’s clean and there’s no inappropriate things’ and another from the same school said ‘it’s a good school, the teachers are nice’.

9. Dog fouling
Twenty people interviewed by the research team talked of dog mess as being a major problem. When talking of possible solutions one man in his late twenties suggested that dog owners should be fined this was echoed by one woman in her mid twenties from the Hillside, Rommney Walk and Westbury Gardens area. Seven of those complaining about this issue were people attending St. Oswald’s Church.
10. Family and Friends
Eight people talked specifically about how important their family was. One man in his fifties from Westbury Gardens talked about ‘having the family living close by’ was a positive.

Eight people talked about the importance of friends. One girl aged 11 from Shadsworth described one of the good things about living in the area as ‘there are nice people to be friends with’. ‘Lots of friends and family live here’ said one parent outside the Shadsworth Junior School. One male in his late thirties from the Hillside, Rommney Walk and Westbury Gardens area, felt it was ‘not bad living here, friends are all here and family are all close by’.

11. Shops
Eleven people talked positively about the shops, especially about having shops nearby. Three of the people were young people ‘we have three shops nearby’ said one ten year old boy.

Three people talked about the need for more shops. One woman in her twenties talked of the need for ‘laundrettes, fruit and veg shop and butchers’. Likewise one ten year old boy from Intack Primary said that he liked the shops nearby but that the ‘big shops are too far away like Tesco, Asda’.

12. Traffic:
a) Speeding: Five people talked specifically about the impact of speeding. One girl from Whitebirk talked of there being ‘too many guys causing crashes driving too fast with music. It’s very dangerous’. She went on to suggest that ‘more traffic police are needed, Blackburn has the highest crash rates’. One man from Shadsworth in his early forties talked about how he had been knocked over by a car and that his car had twice been damaged by speeding cars. Two people attending St. Oswald’s Church talked of ‘cars going through estate at 70 mph’ as being one of the biggest problems in the area.

When talking about traffic calming one woman in her late twenties spoke positively of the effect of traffic calming in Whitebirk, she said it’s ‘a peaceful quiet road now we have speed bumps’. On a less positive note one person attending St. Oswald’s Church talked of ‘Speed bumps, mini roundabouts and chicanes are a waste of money. Very confusing. Cause damage and accidents’. One man in his early seventies said he was ‘not happy with the main road in Shadsworth, it is dangerous for the older people’.

b) Noise: Four people (adults and children) talked of their dislike of noise from cars and motorbikes. There are ‘too many cars driving at night’ said one primary school child.

c) Drink driving: Two children from Shadsworth talked about how they didn’t like ‘drink drivers’ in the area.

One man in his late forties interviewed at the Westbury Gardens Carnival complained about there being ‘too many motorcycles on the Arran Avenue Trail’. He went on to suggest that there should be a regular police patrol there between the hours of 5 and 10pm.

13. Housing
Six people complained about houses being rented out. A typical comment was that of a resident of Delph Close who felt that ‘tenants leave a mess’. Another man in his sixties from nearby also noted a problem with rented out houses. One male in his mid thirties from the Hillside, Rommney Walk and Westbury Gardens area noted there was ‘too many people renting properties’. One man in his sixties interviewed at the Westbury Gardens Carnival talked specifically about rented accommodation
being used by ‘druggies’. One twelve year old girl from Whitebirk talked of ‘scruffy gardens where houses aren’t owned but are rented’, she went on to suggest that ‘they could improve this by painting the houses like they have on Accy Road making the area look neater’. In a similar sentiment another young person from Whitebirk talked of the need to ‘make better buildings so more people will live around Whitebirk’. One woman in her thirties interviewed at Shadsworth Community Centre talked positively about new fences being put up by Twin Valley Housing while three people in Shadsworth talked of the need for fencing to be fixed. A woman in her fifties from Whitebirk suggested that hedges should be replaced with fences.

One male in his forties interviewed at Westbury Gardens talked about how he didn’t like not having a garden (he lived in a flat). Another resident of a flat, a man in his late fifties interviewed at Westbury Gardens Carnival, talked about how he ‘can’t have music on in the flats, they are bad to live in’.

On a positive note five people talked specifically about their house being one thing they felt made it easy to live in their neighbourhood. One woman in her late forties from Shadsworth said she was ‘happy because of her house, garden and family’, while a man in his late fifties from Shadsworth commented ‘good house, bad area’. Another man in his late fifties from Shadsworth noted ‘good house, happy with my dog’, similarly another man in his late forties talked about how much he enjoyed his garden. Finally one nine year old boy from Whitebirk said one of the five things he liked about the area was ‘the person boss of Twin Valley, she takes us on trips’.

14. Buses and public transport

Nine people talked positively about the local buses. One man in his late forties interviewed at the Westbury Gardens Carnival talked positively about ‘access to bus routes’. Two people interviewed outside Shadsworth Infants said ‘buses are good’ and a woman over 60 talked about the ‘good public transport’.

However, six people complained about insufficient bus services. Two women in their eighties interviewed at Westbury Gardens talked about how there are no buses, one said she would use a motorised scooter if she had somewhere to keep it and the other said that as a result of the lack of buses she had to catch taxis. One eighty year old woman also complained that there was no bus service on Hereford Road.

15. Young people

Many adults felt young people and their behaviour were a problem. Most of the time when young people were mentioned it was in terms of the need for more activities for young people, but, by eleven people they were also identified as a problem.

One man in his forties interviewed at Westbury Gardens Carnival identified ‘kids being on the streets’ as a problem. One woman talked of them being ‘disrespectful’ another (a man in his sixties from Shadsworth) complained about getting ‘abuse from kids’. One woman in her early twenties talked about kids in Whitebirk ‘hitting, chasing and swearing at cars’. A man in his mid seventies from the Hillside, Rommney Walk and Westbury Gardens area noted ‘I don’t feel safe in my own home’ he went on to talk about trouble with young people and ‘no police anywhere’. Another man in his late forties from the same area felt ‘sick of kids hanging around causing nuisance’. One woman from Whitebirk talked about how she is trying to move from the area as ‘it is a nightmare living here’ and that ‘kids are unruly’. Another woman in her mid twenties interviewed at Shadsworth Community Centre spoke of ‘terrorising kids’, one person attending St. Oswald’s Church talked of
'foul mouthed yobs' and a man from Shadsworth in his sixties talked of 'children at night screaming and fighting'

On some occasions conversation moved onto discuss where the problem lay and what might be done about it. Six people interviewed felt the problem lies with the parents, they are 'naughty children not kept under control' said one woman in her thirties in Shadsworth 'they need more guidance from parents'. One woman in her late twenties interviewed at Shadsworth Community Centre talked of her concern that parents can’t control children and that there should be ‘parenting courses’, Another woman in her late seventies talked about how ‘parents don’t care where the kids are’. One seventy-nine year old woman from Whitebirk, when describing the problem of ‘kids throwing stones at the window’ suggested that the ‘police can’t do much’ and that ‘parents need to take responsibility’ and that ‘parents lie for their kids’. One twenty year old woman from Shadsworth however suggested that we ‘need more help for mothers with children’.

One man from Hillside suggested that corporal punishment should be reintroduced as ‘children were more respectable and obedient before it was abolished’, while a man in his forties felt that ASBOs didn’t work and that instead people should be ‘put in the army (not the front line) to teach respect and honour’.

16. Divided communities:

Some residents talked about a ‘lack of sense of community’ and some others talked about divided communities. For example one fourteen year old girl from Whitebirk talked of ‘different areas have rivalries like Audley and Newbank’. She went on to talk about how ‘multi ethnic schools should encourage everyone to co-operate’ and that ‘there’s too much segregation in Blackburn and not enough is being done, it’s hard to feel like you belong’. One middle aged Asian man talked of the feeling of a ‘divided community’ as a Christian living in a Muslim community. A 15 year old boy from Whitebirk asked that there should be ‘less discrimination’.

a) Racism

Three people talked about racism. One East European person interviewed talked of their problems with racism and how someone had ‘hit them recently’. They asked that people’s opinion should be changed ‘educate people, we are all the same’ they said. One teenager from Whitebirk talked about ‘racism towards her cousin in the street and in school and EDL problems’.

b) Transient communities

One Shadsworth resident talked of the ‘transient community has no roots in the area’. Another said that ‘Shadsworth House needs to go’ and two others shared this view.

17. Jobs

Unemployment was identified as a problem in the area by eight people from a range of ages. Two women talked about how there should be ‘more jobs for our young people’. One fifteen year old boy from Whitebirk said that one of the solutions for improving the area was ‘more employment opportunities and opportunities for work experience’. Two other young people shared similar views. One Shadsworth resident talked about how ‘low employment gives more problems’. One man in his late forties from the Hillside, Romney Walk and Westbury Gardens area complained there ‘are no jobs and no prospects’.

One middle aged woman from Shadsworth however felt that ‘there are people who haven’t worked and refuse to work’.
18. Learning
Eight people identified the need for more opportunities to learn. This included a woman in her mid twenties who talked about the need for short courses and qualifications in Shadsworth, a male in his late fifties and one woman in her early fifties who suggested that there should be more ‘courses and activities in the community centre’ (Shadsworth) and a man in his late forties interviewed at Westbury Gardens Carnival who talked of the need for ‘more courses for young people’. Two people also talked of their desire to go to computer classes in the area.

19. Activities for adults
Six adults talked about the need for more activities for adults. This included two residents who talked about how they would like to join a walking group, one woman in her mid thirties from Shadsworth who talked about the need for ‘activities for old people, bingo, dance, exercise’ and a woman in her mid sixties from Shadsworth who agreed similarly suggested there should be ‘more activities for old people’.

20. Anti social behaviour
During the consultation six people specifically mentioned ‘anti social behaviour’ as one of the biggest problems. In addition to this four people talked about ‘fighting’ being one of the main problems, two of this group were children from Shadsworth, one of them talked of ‘too many fights and drinking’. Two children also talked about how they didn’t like so much swearing.

21. Vandalism:
Four people talked specifically about ‘vandalism’. One resident from Romney Walk (male, over 50) described where they lived as a ‘forgotten estate’ and the problem of ‘kids damaging walls and vandalism’. Two children from Intack Primary School also prioritised the problem and one boy from Whitebirk suggested it should be made harder to get hold of ‘spray paint and other graffiti stuff’. One seventy nine year old woman from Whitebirk described how she has had ‘kids throwing stones at her window’

22. Facilities:
a) Shadsworth Leisure Centre
One 11 year old girl from Shadsworth spoke very positively about Shadsworth Leisure Centre saying ‘There is a very good sports centre in Shadsworth with a swimming pool and lots of other things’. One woman from Romney Walk area commented that, there was a problem for local schools in accessing the leisure centre resulting in them going to the next nearest leisure centre which as Daisyfield. She also commented that she felt there should be more done to encourage local young people to access the leisure centre. One man in his late fifties interviewed at Westbury Gardens Carnival asked that the Leisure Centre be kept open ‘ and talked very positively about the Beez cards. He concluded by asking that the community centre be kept open for groups. One nineteen year old male from Shadsworth talked about how it is a nice area to live in, one of the main reasons for this he explained was because of the ‘good gym’. One man in his late fifties interviewed at
Shadsworth Community Centre suggested that there should a ‘bench at the community centre and the bus stop to sit down’.

b) Children’s Centre
Two women talked about how they felt that the Children’s Centre could be ‘more accessible’.

23. Pavements
Three people from Hillside talked about the problems with damaged pavements and one person talked of the problem of pot holes in the road.

24. Bullying
Three people told of their experiences of bullying in their neighbourhood. One woman in her early twenties from Whitebirk described how her nephew ‘got slapped because of bullying’, a man in his mid thirties from the Hillside, Rommney Walk and Westbury Gardens area also talked about ‘older kids bullying younger ones’.

25. Violence
Two young people from Whitebirk talked about ‘violence’ in the area one said ‘I don’t like living here because there is too much violence’ and another said ‘I wish we had less violence’.

26. Other issues
One man in his late fifties interviewed at Westbury Gardens Carnival said how he enjoyed being near nice country and fields. Likewise four residents attending St. Oswald’s Church talked positively of having ‘countryside on (the) doorstep’.

Four people attending St Oswald’s Church spoke positively about their local church ‘it’s a good church with pastoral care’ said one.

Two people spoke about money. ‘There is no money in the area’ said a man in his early sixties from the Hillside, Rommney Walk and Westbury Gardens area.

One woman over 60 from Shadsworth prioritised safety at night as an issue as did one man of a similar age from Rommney Walk, he talked of the need for ‘more lights’.

One woman in her forties suggested that there should be a support group for carers.

One woman in her early twenties interviewed at Shadsworth Community Centre talked about the need for ‘support for domestic violence on the estate’.

One woman from Whitebirk in her late seventies, talked about ‘nobody listens to what you say’.

27. Its easy living here.
Some residents commented only that they felt happy living in their neighbourhoods. One eighteen year old male interviewed at Shadsworth used the opinion line to show how easy he found it living in Shadsworth ‘I’m very happy’ he said. ‘its alright here I know everyone’ commented one woman in
her early forties. Likewise one man in his late sixties from the Hillside, Rommney Walk and Westbury Gardens area said ‘I’ve always lived here and I like it’.

Many residents talked very positively about life in the area, for example ‘I’m very happy living in this area’ said one woman in her 40s from Shadsworth. Likewise one woman in her 30s from Shadsworth said she was ‘very happy’. One young person from Whitebirk said ‘Whitebirk is good because its fun’.

2 people requested copies of the report:

Report signed off by

Derek Estill
Beach Partnership LTD

Signed…………………………………………………………………………….. Date 28/09/2011

Abdul Mulla
Blackburn with Darwen Healthy Living

Signed…………………………………………………………………………….. Date 28/09/2011
Appendix 1

Shadsworth with Whitebirk

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty’s Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence no.: 100019493.
Appendix 2

BIG Local Trust: The Way Forward
GPI 1 Timeline

March

Shadsworth Area

Whitebirk Area

Hillside Westbury Romney Area

Launch Event

Launch Event

Launch Event

April

May

June

July

August

September

Reference Group 4th May

Reference Group 6th July

Session 1

Session 2

Session 3

Session 4

Session 5

Session 6

Community Consultations

Community Consultations

Report
Appendix 3

Consultation with young people aged 6 and 7 from Shadsworth Infant School

The researchers felt that we needed to talk to a wide age range as possible. It was organised that we could go into the school and talk to some of the young people. The researchers understood that they could not use the same tools as they had done previously. It was agreed to let those young people express themselves and what they thought they liked about where they live and what they did not like about where they live. We gave them a simple task so that they could communicate what they felt through their drawings.

The issues that were raised through their art are as follows;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive Comments</th>
<th>Negative Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About their Home</td>
<td>Litter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play areas</td>
<td>People fighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and Friends</td>
<td>Neighbours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure centre</td>
<td>Cars driving too fast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>Bullying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Play areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People swearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spiders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Street they lived on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shops always closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Don’t like being alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I don’t like people putting the tire swing up hire because it is peevish. I do not like sweets because they make your teeth go black. I hate going to the park with rubbish on because people put rubbish on it and it is horrid. I don’t like people fighting with me. I don’t like JLS because it is rubbish. I don’t like peas because I don’t like the taste of them.