

Page 2 In May, Ian and Lesley were re-elected, in spite of the opinion polls.



Page 4 The 2022 Christmas Eve atrocity united our community in grief and shock.



YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

Wallasey Ward

Annual Report



COUNCILLORS **IAN LEWIS, LESLEY RENNIE** & CAMPAIGNER **STEVE HOEY**

WE'RE THE TEAM THAT WORKS FOR WALLASEY...

The local council elections in May saw Ian and Lesley re-elected as Labour failed to gain all three council seats.

As a result, Labour failed to take outright control of the Town Hall and, shortly afterwards, their controversial council leader was replaced.

Although Steve Hoey narrowly missed out on being elected with Ian Lesley, by just 34 votes, he has continued to work with the team on local issues.

Throughout the campaign, we met people who usually vote Labour or Green nationally but who were voting for us to continue our work in the community.

We are very grateful to everyone who voted for us - Lesley received the most votes of any Conservative candidate in Wirral.

Elsewhere, Conservatives lost six council seats in Pensby, Thingwall, Barnston, Greasby, Frankby and Irby.

Labour continues to lead the Council but doesn't have



One of the many organisations we've supported over the last year were the team at Harrison Hall. Their 'Santa Paws' event was a great opportunity to bring people (and pets) together...

enough seats on their own so have to work with the other parties. Wallasey still has a Labour MP, Labour Police Commissioner and Labour 'Metro Mayor', based in Liverpool.

Within days of the election, Ian and Lesley wrote to 2,600 residents to thank them for voting.

Since then, we have continued to keep residents informed, whether by our regular newsletters, Facebook updates, our revamped local website or the regular monthly email bulletins on local issues.

This Annual Report covers some of the issues we've worked on this year.

“ They're the only ones who keep in touch all year round and deal with local issues. ”

OUR PLAN FOR 2024...

- 1 PROTECT OUR LOCAL GREEN SPACES
- 2 RECRUIT MORE POLICE TO DETER CRIME
- 3 INVEST IN LISCARD NOT JUST BIRKENHEAD
- 4 HELP RESIDENTS WITH THE COST OF LIVING
- 5 PUSH FOR BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT
- 6 IMPROVE HOUSING FOR TENANTS

SEE INSIDE

Action and service, all year round...



CROSS LANE FIELDS PROTECTED

In spite of the efforts of the local van hire company, we managed to secure the former Mosslands Fields as open green space and won all-party support for the fields (and 10 other sites in Wallasey) to be given extra protection for the future.

£10M GRANT ON THE WAY FOR LISCARD

Having had more than £100m in Government grants and spent most of them on Birkenhead, we were relieved that Liscard was finally included in a Town Hall bid. This was agreed by the Government in November. We have urged the Council not to waste this on trendy logos or yet more consultancy fees.



WALLASEY VILLAGE STATION LIFT

In February, we met with the Transport Minister to push the case for lifts at Wallasey Village Station. We have since written to the Department for Transport and hope that, at long last, the money, perhaps from HS2, can be used for this work.



GREENLEAS OASIS TO GO FOR HOUSING

The developer behind the housing plan led us, and residents, into believing the houses were for Magenta. They're not. The Town Hall's planning committee voted to allow 13 houses to be built on the site near to Greenleas Primary School.



£181,000 WASTED ON ANOTHER CYCLE LANE

We were outvoted by the other parties on the Harrison Drive cycle route. £181,000 is being spent on the route, including 'floating' bus stops that have been condemned by the RNIB. The Birkenhead to Liscard proposal includes similar features.



20MPH PLAN SEES ROAD SAFETY SCHEME CUT

One of the perverse consequences of the Town Hall's roll out of 20mph zones was the removal of speed warning devices, such as the one at St George's School. In spite of our efforts, the Council is so far refusing to replace them.

LABOUR HANDS BACK £322,000 COST OF LIVING CASH

Wirral Council is returning £322,000 of cash received from the Government to help people and businesses with the cost of living. While other councils, such as Sefton, have used all their grant (and received extra), Wirral has not and has been sitting on the cash...



PHONE MAST PLAN REJECTED

Proposals for a second phone mast on Harrison Drive, near Windsors, were thrown out after Ian and Lesley worked with residents and local businesses to show that the company had not made any effort to find alternative, less obtrusive sites.



A bench near the entrance to Mockbeggar Drive was dedicated to the memory of former councillor Kate Wood, who served until 2012.



CAMPER VAN BAN MADE PERMANENT

In December, the Council agreed the temporary ban on overnight parking along part of Coastal Drive and Kings Parade had worked and would be made permanent. We have asked for this to be now be fully enforced.



GROVE ROAD POST OFFICE

Following continued concerns from residents, we contacted the Post Office HQ about Grove Road. They have assured us that the temporary management has not given notice to quit and the landlord is looking to renew the lease.



Thanks to all those who volunteer to help us deliver our local newsletters including those helping us this year for the first time!

Get involved with your local Conservatives at volunteer.conservatives.com

Wallasey Ward: 269

Liscard 18

A Freedom of Information Act request revealed that Ian and Lesley have submitted more local issues for action than any neighbouring ward, including Liscard.

WE PROMISED TO WORK ON LOCAL ISSUES, AND WE ARE...

At a time when trust in politicians and those elected has never been lower, we know we have to work hard to retain the support of residents.

Since the elections in May, we have continued to keep in touch with people, local businesses and community and voluntary groups.

Figures published in response to a Freedom of Information Act request revealed that in the six months AFTER the election in May, Ian and Lesley raised 269 local issues for action with Town Hall bosses.

In nearby Liscard and Egremont, just 18 issues were raised for attention.

While we can't promise to solve every problem, we will try our best. If necessary, bringing Town Hall directors to see the problem for themselves in an attempt to bring common sense to a problem.

If you have an issue or problem you'd like us to know about in 2024, use the contact details below.

CONTACT your local councillors...

- ☎ Lesley on 07795450497
- @ or email lesleyrennie@wirral.gov.uk
- ☎ Ian on 07886 133571
- @ or email ianlewis@wirral.gov.uk
- 🌐 www.wallaseyconservatives.com



Reverend Jeff Hughes, Canon Philip Moor and Reverend Jeff Staples receive the 'Wirral Award' from the Mayor, Jeff Green, Mayoress Carol Green and with Council Chief Executive Paul Satoor

WALLASEY UNITED

Following the atrocity last Christmas Eve, residents, businesses and local councillors pulled together to reassure the wider community.

After the killer of Elle Edwards was caught and sentenced to 48 years behind bars, the community focused on supporting those most affected.

Among those who led that work were three local faith leaders - Reverend Jeff Hughes of

Wallasey Village United Reformed Church, which was a hub for the community in the days after the murder, Canon Philip Moor of Holy Apostles and Martyrs and Reverend Jeff Staples of St Nicholas Church.

In September, all three received recognition for their work on behalf of the community, having been nominated by Ian and Lesley.

Thank you to everyone who worked to support and reassure the community.

BIFFA BIN PROBLEMS

During the year, after multiple complaints, we learned that one part of Wallasey had endured more than 160 missed bin collections.

In spite of promises, nothing had improved and so Ian and Lesley arranged to meet with Council managers and Biffa crews in Broxton Road one morning.

We've been promised a reconfiguration of the routes for the wagons, greater use of the smaller wagons suitable for narrow roads and more attention by managers when complaints are received from residents. At the same time, residents are asked to park as close to the kerb as possible to improve access.



Ian and Lesley meet with Biffa and Council managers in Broxton Road

our plan

for Wallasey Ward in 2024



Councillor Lesley Rennie: former police officer in Wallasey

1 Protect our local green spaces and Green Belt

We will work to implement the draft Local Plan that protects Wirral's Green Belt and most local green spaces in Wallasey. Regeneration should focus on the run down urban areas instead.

2 Recruit more police to deter crime

Merseyside Police has recruited more than 700 extra police since 2019 and will receive an extra £27m next year. We will continue to push for more police patrols around Wallasey.

3 Invest in Liscard, not just in Birkenhead

Wirral Council has received more than £100m for regeneration. So far, none has been seen in Wallasey. The news in November that £10m will be invested in Liscard is a start.



Councillor Ian Lewis: seen here in Wallasey Village Library with Tyson

4 Help residents with the cost of living

We know this is a big worry for many families. We will do all we can to make sure people are aware of the help that is available. January sees National Insurance cut with a rise in the National Living Wage soon after.

5 Push for better public transport

Six years after he gained the powers to improve bus services, the Metro Mayor is finally acting. Having secured the reintroduction of the 107/108 route in Mount Road, we will push for further improvements.

6 Improve housing for tenants

We will continue to lobby Magenta Living to tackle issues in their properties in Wallasey, including problems with mould and damp. And 23% of homes in the private rented sector do not meet the 'decent homes standard'