

newsline

Reduce the risk of a fire at home: call the Fire Service to arrange a FREE home fire safety check 0800 731 5958



More than 4,000 people have signed our petition calling for action on the menace caused by kids on scrambler bikes



Anger at £1.5m food waste bins

Residents to get two extra bins for food waste

Recycling rates drop after charge for garden waste

Opposition is growing to Labour's plan to give every home in Wirral two additional bins for food waste. One of the extra 'bins' will be for use in the kitchen. The second is a wheelie bin for outdoors.

Councillor Bruce Berry said: "It's clear that Wirral's recycling dropped when Labour introduced a charge for the collection of the brown bins.

"I know many people in Moreton and Saughall Massie simply stopped using the service."

"Now, in a panic move to reverse the decline, the Town Hall wants to spend £1.5 million on wheelie bins for food waste instead."

"Labour's plan will also see existing green wheelie bins removed and

residents given smaller bins instead. "Many of the people in our community will struggle with these extra bins."

The Council's 'consultation' on the plan was also slammed after it was revealed most people in Wirral weren't contacted.

In response, Conservatives have been delivering leaflets asking for views.

If you would like to give your views on the plans, visit our new website: www.wirralconservatives.com/bins

LABOUR'S WIRRAL BIN PLAN:

Plus a small bin for food waste in your kitchen!

HAVE YOUR SAY: wirralconservatives.com/bins

Extra cash announced for school sport in Moreton

There's good news for children in Moreton and Saughall Massie this month, following news that money for sport and PE has been DOUBLED by the Government.

Councillor Bruce Berry, who is also a governor at Lingham Primary School, has welcomed the extra cash: "Primary schools in Moreton will be receiving a total of £108,870 from the Department for Education for spending on PE and sport. This is great news and should lead to children playing more sport."

Meanwhile, the Town Hall has also backed Bruce's call for a review of sports pavilions in our parks, following complaints from players and clubs. See page 2 for details.

Join us today!

Welcome to our new members who have joined us since the election in June.

Every supporter who joins as a member makes us that bit stronger.

Membership costs £25 a year (with reduced rates for the under 23s and Armed Forces). www.conservatives.com/join

Action in our community:

Your three local Conservative Councillors are keen that our community receives a fair share of Wirral Council's £800 million budget:

Roads and pavements:
We have asked the Town Hall for repairs to roads and pavements, including Westbrook Road, Jasmine Close and Joan Avenue. The Government gave Wirral an extra £306,000 to tackle pot holes last year. If there are any other roads that you think need attention, let us know - our contact details can be found on the back page or visit our website at wirralconservatives.com/survey

Children leaving care:
Working with the Children's Society, we asked the Council to exempt care leavers from Council Tax until their 25th birthday. Ofsted said children in care have been let down by Wirral Council's 'inadequate' services. The number of children in care in Wirral, at 810, is twice the national average. All parties agreed with our call.

Overgrown trees:
We used the Freedom of Information Act to obtain a list of trees in our area that have been assessed as 'high risk'. The list is available on our website: wirralconservatives.com/trees

Street lights:
At October's Council meeting, we again raised the issue of faulty street lights. Wirral now has 2,650 units that are unlit, while others are on 24 hours a day. Following our questions, the Town Hall has agreed to spend £500,000 of the £94 million reserves on installing new units, starting this month. See page 3.

Local shopping areas:
The October meeting also saw Labour submit their 'Strategic Regeneration Framework' for Wirral. Sadly, apart from Birkenhead, many areas have been left out of the plan. We wanted to refer it back for more work but Labour refused.

'Wirral View' newspaper:
We have AGAIN questioned the logic of spending £270,000 a year on the Town Hall's newspaper. Our recent surveys have confirmed that many people in Moreton and Saughall Massie do not receive it, even though they are paying for it!

New shipbuilding plan leads to Mersey hopes

September saw plans that will see more shipping contracts for UK shipbuilders, securing jobs for UK workers and creating new apprenticeships.

Conservative councillors immediately wrote to the Ministry of Defence, urging shipbuilders in our area to be considered for future contracts, including eight new frigates are being ordered for the Royal Navy.

Councillor Bruce Berry said: "This is good news for our navy and also, we hope, for shipbuilding in Merseyside."

"It would be fantastic news for our local maritime industries to be included in these contracts."

"Every new contract that is awarded locally means more jobs secured, and apprenticeships created for local young people."



The first review of council sports pavilions for almost 50 years is underway, after action by Councillor Bruce Berry.

Football players contacted Bruce, unhappy with the poor condition of the building in Lingham Park, one of more than 60 around Wirral which are owned by the Council.

Bruce, working with Chris Blakeley and Steve Williams, met with some of the players and went to the pavilion to see the state of the building for themselves.

Bruce said: "Frankly, it is a disgrace and, since then, we've heard from other clubs and groups that buildings in other parks have also been neglected."

"The clubs and teams pay the Council for the use of the pitches and to use these buildings."

"It's clear that the Council has not been using the money to maintain the buildings. The toilets, changing areas and general condition are pretty disgusting."

Bruce submitted a notice to a meeting of all councillors, asking for a full review of the buildings in order to access money held by the Council for maintaining buildings.

This was followed by a meeting of the Council's Environment Committee, which saw Bruce present the case for investment.

"After some debate and questioning of Council Directors, all councillors agreed that we'd start with a review of the pavilions,

with visits to some of the most neglected. I'd also like to hear from players, teams and league organisers with their views on any of the Council-owned pavilions in our parks and pitches."

"We've heard reports that some teams are actually now playing outside Wirral because of the poor condition of the buildings. That's a crazy situation."

Wirral Council has £12 million available for 'capital' works including parks and open spaces, plus a further £5 million received in grants from the Government.

Once the review of sports pavilions has been completed, it is hoped some of this money will then be used to improve these facilities.

Conservative Councillors call for action on scrambler bikes

More than 4,000 residents have signed our petition calling for action on the menace of scrambler bikes.

This followed complaints to Conservative councillors from worried residents that many parks, open spaces and shopping areas are now dangerous for pedestrians.

Councillor Chris Blakeley said: "Last month, the Town Hall announced the new 'Safer Wirral Hub' to improve community safety. Scrambler bikes are the first test for the 'Hub'."

"Many of the scrambler bikes on our roads or public spaces are also later found to be stolen."

"They present a real danger to road users and pedestrians. We need to see more action to seize these bikes."

Conservatives have called for a special Council meeting on scrambler bikes. This takes place on 11 December at Wallasey Town Hall, starting at 6pm.

If you have any information on scrambler bikes, call the Police on 101 (or 999 in an emergency).

Sign our online petition: www.wirralconservatives.com/scramblers



Councillor Bruce Berry in Lingham Park with the petition

Town Hall spending:

Value for money:

For the second year running, the Council's auditors, Grant Thornton, have said that Wirral Council does not give value for money for the £800 million it spends every year.

Cost of consultants:

Conservatives are asking the Town Hall to scrap the controversial review of library, leisure and cultural services by a firm of consultants at a cost of around £300,000.

Council 'reserves'

Labour's Cabinet Member for Finance has revealed that Council reserves of cash now stand at £95 million. The minimum level of reserves a Council must hold is judged at £10 million.

'Phil Davies TV'

While the Town Hall's £270,000 newspaper, 'Wirral View', remains mired in controversy, a contract for live broadcasting of Council meetings has now been advertised for £275,000. This will enable residents to watch the Leader of the Council live over the internet. Let's hope it doesn't clash with Coronation Street!

Top director pay:

The latest figures published by the Town Hall have revealed that senior director salaries are now costing £1.1 million a year - up from £860,000 six years ago.

Labour's decision to increase the salary of the Council's Chief Executive means the job now costs the Council £192,256 - more than the Secretary General of the United Nations!

Theft from Council:

The Town Hall has promised to tighten up financial controls after an employee in the Finance Department was found guilty at Liverpool Crown Court of stealing £7,365 from the Council.

Street light campaign success

Following an increase in the number of faulty street lights, councillors have voted an extra £500,000 on replacing 600 lights by the end of December.

New 'LED' units in Moreton and Saughall Massie that are to be installed include lights in Belford Drive, Berrylands Close, Douglas Drive, Cartmel Drive and Town Meadow Lane. If there are any street lights in your road that need attention, contact Bruce, Steve or Chris and they will ask the Town Hall for action. The list of all 600 lights can be found on our website at www.wirralconservatives.com/streetlights

Extra £1 million for Wirral's A&E service

An extra £990,667 has been given to Arrowe Park Hospital for accident and emergency services this winter.

The cash, announced in June, is part of an extra £90 million being invested in NHS A&E services around the country by the Government.

Councillor Steve Williams said: "With more people than ever before being

treated by our NHS, this money is good news for Wirral."

In 2016/17, more than 94,000 people attended A&E at Arrowe Park. That's 4,000 more than six years ago.

The NHS is urging people to think about whether an alternative to A&E is more suitable - such as the pharmacy or calling the NHS on 111 for advice.

The Trust that runs the hospital is also the largest employer in Wirral - with 5,500 staff.

Nationally, the numbers of doctors, nurses and midwives have all increased since 2010.

The Trust has, however, run into controversy over plans that would see staff charged for parking. Almost 10,000 people have signed a petition organised by the Wirral Globe against the plan.

The Trust has said conditions on the car parks, imposed by Wirral Council, mean they have to restrict parking.

Want to help us win?

JOIN US:

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Every new member makes us stronger. Membership costs £25 a year (with reduced rates for the under 23s and members of the Armed Forces). www.conservatives.com/join

STAND AS A CANDIDATE:

WE'RE SELECTING NOW

The next Council elections take place in May 2018 and we're putting together a team of 22 candidates to stand in communities across Wirral.

VOLUNTEER:

NEWSLINE DELIVERER

This newsletter has been produced at no cost to the taxpayer and is delivered by volunteers. We're looking for people who can help to deliver for 1-2 hours a month.

visit www.wirralconservatives.com for details of how to help

Reporting back:

Bus and coach safety: Did you know there are no legal limits on the age of tyres used on coaches or minibuses? Following a fatal crash in 2012, a campaign was started to change the law and introduce a 10 year limit. At the last Council meeting, councillors gave their support. Schools in Wirral will also be asked to check with bus and coach companies when hiring.

Hillsborough: Wirral Council has posthumously awarded the Freedom of the Borough to the 96 victims of Hillsborough. An all-Party working group made the arrangements for the ceremony that took place in September.

Vauxhalls: News of 400 voluntary redundancies at Ellesmere Port have been blamed on changing consumer demand. All councillors voted to urge action to support the plant.

Action to tackle pollution on Wirral's beaches

■ In September, the UK became one of the first countries in the world to announce a ban on so-called 'microbeads': the small plastic beads that are found in many of today's detergents, shampoos and bodywashes.

Wirral's Conservative Councillors are now putting together a programme of community clean ups to remove plastic waste from our beaches. If you'd like to get involved, let us know and we'll include you on the mailing list.

In December 2016, Conservatives also axed plans by the previous Labour Government for 'Underground Coal Gasification'.

The licences, granted in 2008, would have enabled gas to be extracted in the Dee Estuary and

Liverpool Bay. This led to fears among residents and environment campaigners about the effects of UCG on the Wirral coastline and Hilbre Island.

wirralconservatives.com/beaches

Tougher penalties on the way for animal abuse

■ The last year has seen some horrific cases of animal abuse and neglect in Wirral. Now, Conservatives are set to change the law to give longer sentences for those who commit these offences.

In 2016, Merseyside was in the Top 10 areas for animal cruelty.

The new proposals, which will see maximum sentences increased from six months to five years, will be published shortly for consultation.

Councillor Steve Williams said: "We've seen some awful cases of abuse and neglect over the last year.

"Clearly, the current law is no deterrent. I hope the new sentences will be."

If you are interested in animal welfare issues and want to be kept up to date, a new Facebook page has been set up: "Wirral Animal Welfare News". We'll publish details of how residents can give their views in the consultation.

Community Noticeboard

Christmas Events: shops and traders in Moreton and Saughall Massie are encouraging more residents to do some of their shopping locally this Christmas.

Local fundraising by residents Steve and Angela Pouncey means Moreton once again has Christmas Lights around the Cross. If you receive this newsletter before 18th November, please come down for the Switch On at 5pm outside the Coach & Horses, which, this year, will be performed by Moreton resident and Centenarian, Cliff Crozier.

Free home fire safety checks: While the number of house fires has fallen in recent years, there is still more that can be done to reduce the risks in many homes. Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service carry out free home fire safety checks on request. Call the free number 0800 731 5958

■ Thank you to everyone who supported the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' in September. A fantastic £15.5 million has been raised, so far, for Macmillan Cancer Appeal.

Here in Wirral, Conservative councillors were among those who organised events, raising a fantastic £1,320. We organised coffee mornings and an abseil at Leasowe Lighthouse to raise money for this great cause.

Councillor Bruce Berry said: "More people than ever before are surviving cancer and Macmillan do a great job to support patients and families. Thanks to everyone who supported my abseil or our coffee morning at the Community Centre."

■ Winter Fuel Payments, worth up to £300, are on the way to Wirral pensioners. Last year, a record 70,370 Wirral residents received them.

Councillor Steve Williams said: "As well as Winter Fuel Payments, many pensioners will also be helped this winter with £140 from the Warm Home Discount Scheme and, if it gets really cold, the extra Cold Weather Payments will kick in."

Conservatives in Wirral have also written to around 11,000 older residents to encourage them to apply for a top up to their pension known as Pension Credit. Call free on 0800 991234.



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