

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 Lesley Rennie said: "The system was working well until Labour started charging for brown bins. Since then, recycling rates have been dropping.

"Many people here in Wallasey 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, Lesley and the local 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:

FOOD WASTE KITCHEN - FOOD WASTE DRY RECYCLABLES GARDEN WASTE RESIDUAL WASTE

Plus a small bin for food waste in your kitchen!

HAVE YOUR SAY: wirralconservatives.com/bins

Extra cash announced for school sport in Wallasey

There's good news for children in Wallasey this month, as money for sport and PE has been DOUBLED by the Government.

Primary schools in Wallasey will be receiving a share of £1.7 million that is being awarded to Wirral by the Department for Education for spending on PE and sport.

Councillor Paul Hayes said: "This is great news and should lead to children playing more sport. The extra cash can be used on new sports equipment or adding to the sports activities already offered."

Among our local schools, Greenleas Primary will now receive £18,730 for sport and PE; Mount Primary will receive £18,920 and St George's Primary will receive £22,960.

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 Wallasey 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 Halton Road, Studley Road and North Drive (again!). 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 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 828, is now 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 £94 million reserves on installing new units, starting this month. Among the lights to be replaced are School Lane, Fieldway and Sea Road.

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 further consideration and to include our local shopping areas but were outvoted by Labour Councillors.

'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 Wallasey do not receive 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.

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

Lesley, who is also a governor of the maritime engineering college, 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."



Following concerns that Wallasey Village Library was in need of some work, Councillor Ian Lewis arranged for the Princes Trust to get involved.

Working with the Friends of Wallasey Village Library, students from around Wirral helped to redecorate part of the building, including quotes from well known authors inscribed on the walls.

"The students did a fantastic job and I'm hopeful we can now

persuade the Town Hall to invest in the building and update the toilet and tackle the other repairs that are needed," said Ian.

The Friends organise a wide variety of events and activities at the library - it's not just about books!

Sports pavilions review



Work to tackle the poor condition of many of Wirral's 60 sports pavilions could be on the way, after action by Councillor Paul Hayes, seen here at the changing rooms on Wallacre Playing Field.

Following concerns raised by some of the players and clubs using several council-owned buildings, Wirral's Conservative Councillors called for a review by the Town Hall to assess repairs.

This was referred to a Council committee and, after discussion, it was agreed to carry out a series of urgent inspections to decide what was needed and how they could be improved.

Paul says: "Wirral Council has £12 million set aside for 'capital' works, including our parks, open spaces and sports fields. I'm hoping that, when they have seen the state of some of these buildings, we'll finally see action."

Among the first buildings to be visited are those in Wallacre Playing Fields and in Belvidere Playing Field. We'll report back in the next issue.

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 Ian Lewis said: "Last month, the Town Hall announced the new 'Safer Wirral Hub' to improve community safety. Dealing with scrambler bikes is the first test for the 'Hub'."

Wallasey's three Conservative Councillors called for a special Council meeting on scrambler bikes. This is on 11 December at Wallasey Town Hall, starting at 6pm.

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



Campervans on the prom

Thanks to everyone who has been in touch with us regarding the number of campervans and motorhomes on the Promenade.

Your Councillors had a meeting with the Highways Director that wasn't particularly productive but we are hopeful the Town Hall will look at ways to limit the overnight parking, without discouraging visitors.

Other councils have introduced similar measures.

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 Lesley Rennie 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.

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.

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.

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, including Councillor Paul Hayes, organised the ceremony that took place in September.

Vauxhalls: News of 400 voluntary redundancies 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 Lesley Rennie, a former police officer in Wallasey, said: "We've seen some awful cases of abuse and neglect this 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

Wallasey Village Christmas Festival: this year's event takes place on Saturday 2nd December and will see Santa in the village, along with a great range of stalls and events.

The volunteers on the committee have put in a tremendous amount of work to make the event a success - all we need now is decent weather and for residents to come along and take part! It starts at 3pm and further details can be found on Facebook. Your three Councillors are sponsoring 10,000 leaflets to help promote the event.

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 Lesley Rennie 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 our coffee morning at the library and to the Friends for their help."

■ 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 Ian Lewis 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."

Councillor Lesley Rennie has also written to around 2,500 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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