

newsline

In shock news, Wirral is one of 15 councils around England that have failed to come up with a local plan to protect the Green Belt.



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The Town Hall has pledged to carry on with plans to spend £1.5 million issuing all households with wheelie bins for food waste



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SAY 'NO' TO WIRRAL LABOUR'S PROM PARKING PLAN

Wirral Conservatives: 'We'll scrap Labour's plan for parking charges'

As the rest of Wirral was getting ready for Christmas, the Town Hall announced plans to introduce 'pay and display' parking charges on Wirral's promenades and coastal areas.

The plan, which was kept secret until 18th December, will see charges introduced and enforced by a private company, with stiff penalties for anyone who fails to 'pay and display'.

Announcing the charges, the Leader of the Council, Labour Councillor Phil Davies from Birkenhead, said he would raise £245,000 a year.

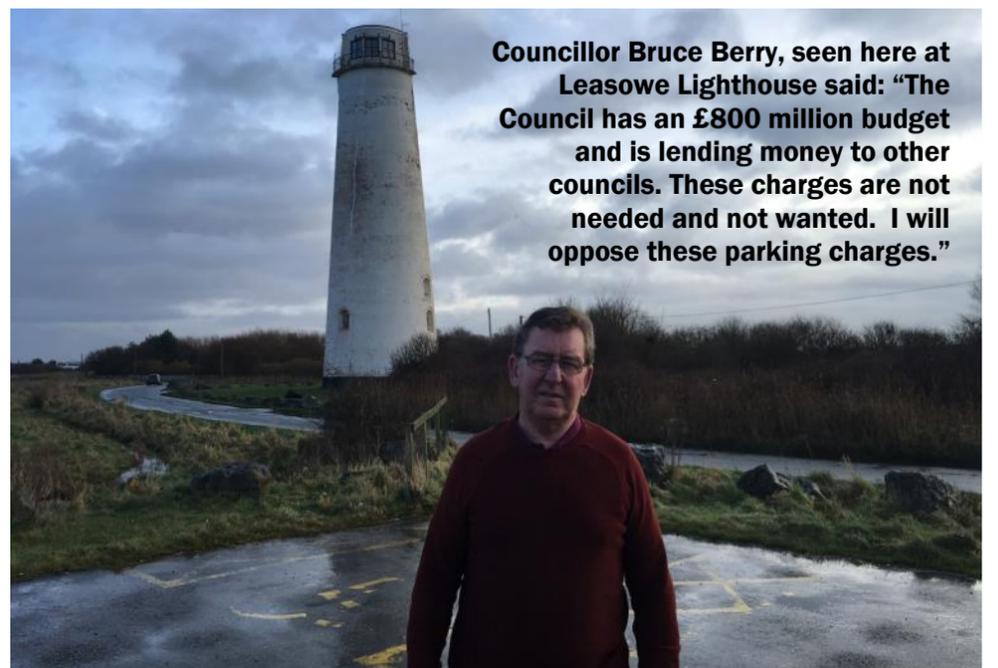
Wirral's Conservative Councillors are opposing the plan.

Parking meters have also now been installed in Wirral's Country Parks.

Wirral Labour's Promenade Parking Plan will see charges introduced at Kings Parade and Derby Pool (Wallasey), Leasowe Common, (Moreton), North Parade (Hoylake and Meols) and South Parade (West Kirby).

So far, more than 1,000 residents have signed our online petition against the charges. We are calling on Labour Councillors to think again.

Visit the website to add your name: www.wirralconservatives.com/promenadeparking



Councillor Bruce Berry, seen here at Leasowe Lighthouse said: "The Council has an £800 million budget and is lending money to other councils. These charges are not needed and not wanted. I will oppose these parking charges."



CASH FOR CONSULTANTS HITS £2 MILLION!

While the Town Hall is looking at extending parking charges, figures obtained by Wirral's Conservative Councillors have revealed the full extent of spending on management consultants.

In the last 12 months, a staggering £2 million has been spent on consultants, including TWO reviews of library and leisure services, costing £308,000. The highest paid consultant is now being paid £1,000 a DAY by Wirral Council.

Councillor Bruce Berry, seen here at Moreton Library said: "This money would have been better spent on our library and leisure services."

Our local Facebook page is a hit with residents in Moreton and Saughall Massie

We're using Facebook to keep people up to date with news in our community. More than 15,000 visited in December.

If you're on Facebook, visit the page: News for Moreton and Saughall Massie and 'like', comment and share...

Action in our community:

Your three local Conservative Councillors fight for a fair share of Wirral Council's £800 million budget for our community:

Roads and pavements:

We continue to press for action on this problem. The Town Hall has spent just £49,000 of a grant of £270,000 given to them by the Government to fix pot holes in our roads by April.

Linear Park footpaths

Last year, we reported on our work to persuade the Town Hall to repair footpaths near Linear Park, at the top of Town Meadow Lane and Millhouse Lane. We're pleased to report that this work has now been agreed.

Douglas Drive speeding:

Following our last newsletter, several residents living around Douglas Drive contacted us, worried about speeding traffic. As with other roads in Moreton and Saughall Massie, we have asked the Road Safety Team to see what can be done to tackle the issue.

Thanks to Carr Farm

Many residents have been in touch to say how good the planters around Moreton Cross are looking. Thanks to Carr Farm Garden Centre for their support in keeping them stocked.

'Wirral View' newspaper:

The controversial Town Hall 'newspaper' has failed to attract advertisers, leaving the Council to pick up the bill. Wirral View costs £270,000 but many people still don't receive it. As a result, the Council's deliverers are now asking some people to sign for it!

Tesco Express car park

Following meetings with Highways Officers, double yellow lines will be painted at the access and exit points at the store near Millhouse Lane to improve visibility.

Did you know?

Between 1997 and 2010, more than 7,000 local post offices were closed, including many here in Wirral. Now, the Government has announced £370 million to support those that are left. Did you know that you can pay in cheques and cash into your personal bank account at a Post Office? Ask them for details or visit www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-banking-services

TOWN HALL REFUSES TO PUBLISH 'RISK REPORT' ON THEIR NHS PLANS

A report by consultants PricewaterhouseCoopers into the Council's plans for the NHS will be kept secret.

The report, which cost £79,000, looked at the risks to the NHS of integrating health services with Wirral Council.

Conservative Councillors have called for the report to be made public. We have now requested this, using the Freedom of Information Act.

Councillor Steve Williams said: "People have a right to know what the risks are from the Council's plans, how they are being addressed and that the NHS locally supports any changes."

Meanwhile, the NHS in Wirral ended 2017 with more patients being treated than ever before. An extra £1 million was pumped into the service locally to help with extra demand in Winter.

Nationally, thanks to improvements in cancer care and treatment, there are 7,000 more people alive than would have been the case in 2010.

Lingham Park in Moreton is one of the areas with a scrambler bike problem.

More than 4,300 people signed Bruce Berry's petition



Misuse of scrambler bikes has become a big issue for many people in Moreton and Saughall Massie.

Councillor Bruce Berry, seen here in Lingham Park, helped to collect more than 4,300 names on a petition calling on the Town Hall and Police to work more closely on the problem.

Bruce, and other councillors, also arranged a special council meeting on the issue. While the Labour Councillors refused our request, we are pushing for tougher action on the problem.

TARRAN ESTATE LANDFILL

People living near the council-owned former golf course on the Tarran Estate have asked for help following concerns about what was happening at the site.

The Town Hall is selling the site for around £30,000 to the owner of the nearby golf driving range.

No planning applications have been submitted to the Council yet but work to change the access to the site have started.

The works will see the former golf course levelled, and the driving range extended.

Due to the history of the site and land nearby, many residents are concerned this will lead to a new landfill site being created.

Councillor Chris Blakeley said: "Bruce, Steve and I have always kept a very close watch on this part of our community. For years, we saw all kinds of industrial uses here that made life a misery for people living nearby."

"By selling off the golf course, the Town Hall could, if we're not careful, be giving the green light to a return to the bad old days of noise and air pollution here."

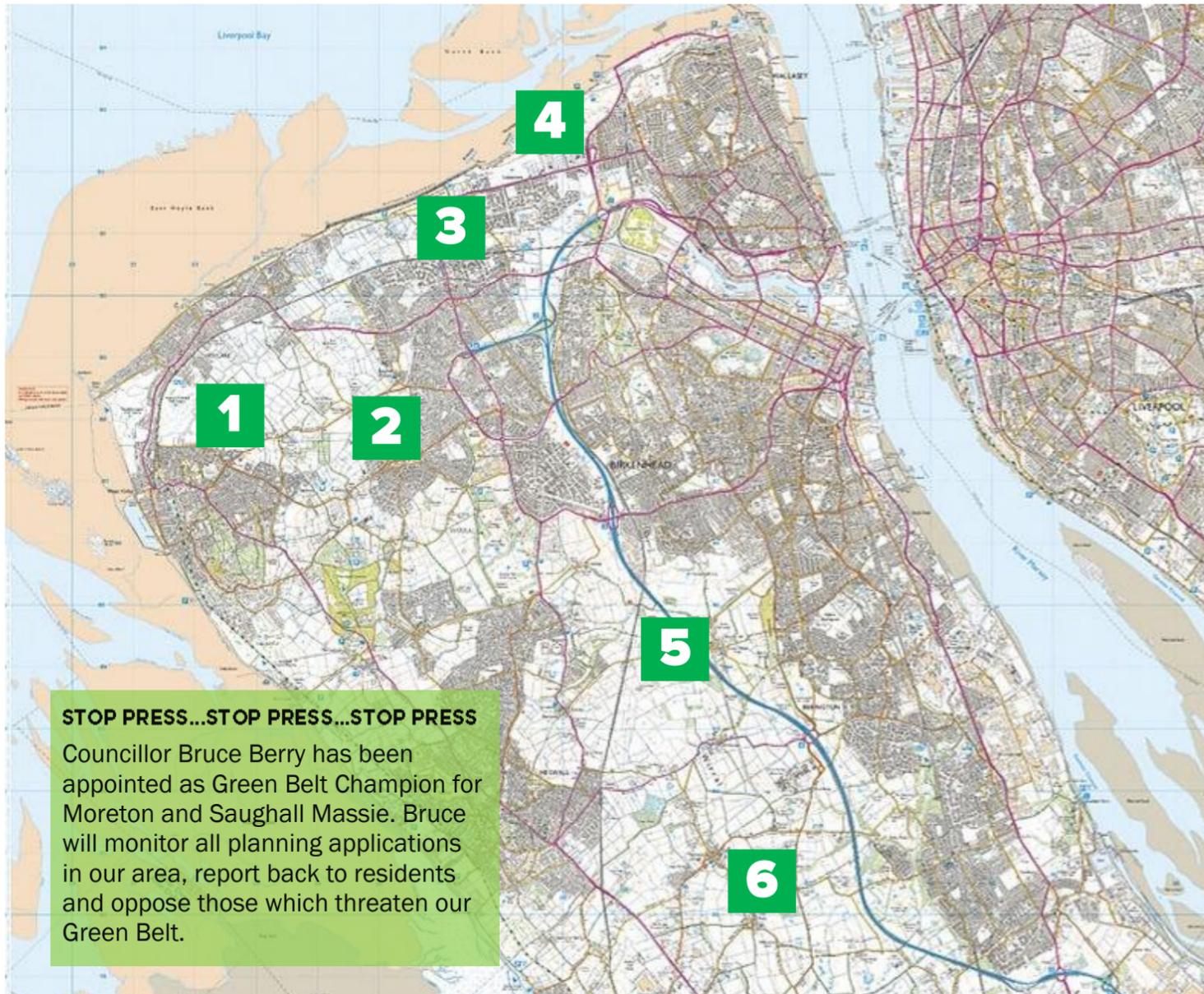
13 YEARS OF TOWN HALL FAILURE PUTS WIRRAL GREEN BELT AT RISK

In 2003, the then-Labour Government made it the law that all councils had to have a local plan to protect their Green Belt.

For the last 13 years, Wirral Council has failed to comply. This has led to 'open season' for developers to apply to build anywhere in the Borough.

Now, Wirral is among 15 councils that have been told to get their act together, by the end of January.

Councillor Chris Blakeley said: "We saw at Saughall Massie how the current restrictions mean nothing to Labour Councillors. Wirral urgently needs a Local Plan to protect our Green Belt. Other Councils have all managed to produce one. Why hasn't Wirral?"



STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS

Councillor Bruce Berry has been appointed as Green Belt Champion for Moreton and Saughall Massie. Bruce will monitor all planning applications in our area, report back to residents and oppose those which threaten our Green Belt.

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1. Hoylake Golf Resort: This is the most high-profile site now at risk in Wirral. The ruling Labour Cabinet are backing the plan to develop it, with public money, including building 150 'executive' houses on our Green Belt.

2. Saughall Massie: Council-owned Green Belt has been 'gifted' to the Fire Authority, for a new fire station, against the wishes of most local residents.

3. Burtons: 299 new houses are to be built on the land around Burtons on Pasture Road.

4. Harrison Estate: Labour's plan to sell off the market gardens on Leasowe Road to the highest bidder have been withdrawn after a campaign by tenants and local Conservative Councillors.

5. Storeton Village: Controversial plans for building in Green Belt here have been thrown out by the Planning Committee.

6. Thornton Hough: Plans have been submitted for an 'extra care village', including 100 apartments, at one of Wirral's most well-known beauty spots. If approved, the village would grow by almost a third.

...but homes lying empty: It has been revealed that 6,000 homes are lying empty across Wirral. At the same time, work has yet to start on the 13,521 homes already approved at 'Wirral Waters'.

Why our community needs councillors like Bruce Berry

LOCAL CHAMPION, TACKLING LOCAL ISSUES.

A good local councillor can make a big difference. Bruce works hard with Chris and Steve to help residents with local problems, making life better for our community. We can't solve every problem, but we will try our best.

CHALLENGING DECISIONS OF THOSE IN POWER

Most of the decisions that affect our community are taken by Labour politicians from other areas. Bruce isn't afraid to stand up and challenge them and fight for a fairer share for our community of the Council's £800m budget.

COMMUNITY FIRST, PARTY POLITICS SECOND

Wirral is a Labour-run Council: there are 38 Labour Councillors in Wirral. Time after time, they vote to put Birkenhead first, and our area second. Our community needs a councillor who is prepared to stand up to them.



You have: a Labour Councillor from Birkenhead as Council Leader.



You have: a Labour Member of Parliament in London.



You have: a Labour Metro Mayor of the 'City Region' based in Liverpool.



You have: a Labour Police Commissioner, based in Liverpool.



You need: Bruce Berry to speak up for our area.

visit www.wirralconservatives.com/bruceberry

TOWN HALL REPORT:

Flood defence cash:

The latest report to the Council shows that just £14,000 of a £250,000 fund to improve flood defences has been used by the Town Hall.

Child grooming report: the recent report into the latest child sexual exploitation case in Wirral will NOT be published, authorities have said. Guidelines clearly state that such reports must be written in a way that enables publication, while protecting the identity of the victims. Conservative Councillors disagree with the decision not to publish the report, and the Council's failings that enabled the abuse to continue.

Labour Councillor suspended:

A Wirral Labour Councillor has been suspended from her Party following complaints of bullying and intimidation being upheld by an all-Party Panel.

Soft play areas:

£300,000 will be spent to install soft play areas for children at leisure centres.

Senior director pay-offs:

Labour Councillors have voted to grant 'pay offs' to senior directors that will cost Wirral taxpayers £1.4 million, with one director set to receive a whopping £390,000.

Debts not collected:

The latest Town Hall report reveals that debts of £14 million are owed to the Council, and have been for at least a year or more.

NEW PROTECTION FOR WIRRAL COAST



■ There's good news for the coast around Wirral this month: parts of the Irish Sea and Liverpool Bay are to be given special protection to support the marine environment and bird populations.

Previously, Conservatives have axed plans by the previous Labour Government for 'Underground Coal Gasification' in the Dee Estuary and Liverpool Bay. The licences, granted in 2008, would have enabled gas to be extracted.

Plastic 'microbeads' in cleaning products are also being banned.

At the last Council meeting, Conservative and Green Party councillors worked together to call for action on polluting single use

plastics, as reported in the fantastic BBC Blue Planet series.

Our new Coastal Clean Up Team meets soon to litter pick our beaches and coastal areas. Visit: wirralconservatives.com/beaches

LAWS TO CHANGE TO IMPROVE ANIMAL CARE

■ The Government's consultation on toughening up sentences for animal cruelty is now underway and closes on 31 January. The changes will see maximum sentences increased from six months to five years.

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

Councillor Steve Williams said: "Animal welfare is a cause that is really important to many people here in Moreton and Saughall Massie."

"Making the sentences longer will send a strong signal that we will no longer tolerate animal cruelty."

Have your say via our website: www.wirralconservatives.com/animalwelfare by no later than 31 January.

In a further step, Conservatives are developing proposals to crack down on puppies being reared in unhealthy circumstances by unscrupulous breeders who have a total disregard for their welfare. We'll report back on this soon.

TOWN HALL CARRIES ON WITH FOOD BINS

■ Proposed changes to refuse collection in Wirral have led to a storm of protest from residents. Many people in Moreton and Saughall Massie contacted their three councillors, unhappy with plans for extra bins.

The Town Hall has been struggling to hit recycling targets since they introduced charges for the garden waste collections.

This led to fewer people using the service, and less garden waste being collected.

Plans are ongoing to give all homes two extra bins for food waste in an effort to boost recycling.

Councillor Chris Blakeley said: "We need to see less waste produced in the first place. Food waste bins are not the answer and, for many

people, extra bins are just not wanted, or practical. We are calling on Labour Councillors to think again."

What do you think? www.wirralconservatives.com/bins

WE'RE HERE TO HELP WITH LOCAL ISSUES

■ Moreton and Saughall Massie have three local Conservative Councillors. It doesn't matter who you vote for in a General Election, we put the community first and Party politics second.



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