

newsline

Fears for Wirral's Green Belt have grown after Labour Councillors said **there won't be a plan to protect it until 2020.**



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In the last five years, the number of young people in Wirral without a job has fallen by two thirds - down by a massive 1,660!



Pg3

LABOUR: COUNCIL TAX UP BY 6% THIS MONTH!

Council Tax in Wirral is going up by 6% this month. Cllr. Phil Davies, Labour Leader of the Council, has **said he is 'proud' of the budget. He has also pledged to introduce parking charges at Wirral's promenades and coastal areas.**

Wirral's opposition Conservative Councillors have called for less to be wasted on consultants and to scrap the Wirral View newspaper.

Conservatives also want to halt the plan for £1.5 million for food waste bins and loans to other councils.

"People in Moreton and Leasowe will see bills going up but little to show for it in our community.

"Instead, Labour Councillors are focussing on spending millions in

Birkenhead," said Moreton resident and Newsline Editor, Debbie Caplin.

Higher Council Tax also means those who were due to benefit next month from record increases in the state pension, the National Living Wage or the tax free allowance will, instead, be paying out more in Council Tax.

See Page 3 for details of how we would do things differently, or visit: www.wirralconservatives.com/ourplan



BACKING FOR WIRRAL'S RAPE & SEXUAL ABUSE CENTRE

Debbie Caplin, the new Editor of Newsline who lives here in Moreton, recently took the **Home Secretary, Amber Rudd MP, to meet with staff at Wirral's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre.**

Jo Wood MBE, Chief Executive of the Centre said: "Many people still believe rape and sexual abuse only happens to 'someone else' but when 1 in 5 adult women and 1 in 8 adult men are reporting they have been a victim of sexual violence at some point in their lives, our specialist services will always be needed and will always be stretched to capacity."

Action in our community:

The local Conservative Action Team fights for a fair share of Wirral Council's **£800 million** budget for our community:

Action on fly posting:

Following another outbreak of posters being stuck to railings, fences and pedestrian crossings, we asked the Council for urgent action. As a result, around 200 were removed over the course of 24 hours. We are pressing for the company responsible to be prosecuted and fined.

Special schools:

Conservatives have called for urgent action following a report which revealed how Wirral's remaining special schools are struggling to meet demand, after Labour voted to close Lyndale School.

New LED street lighting:

Over the last few months we have reported several faulty or broken street lights for repair. The Council has now promised to install 500 new lights, around Wirral, which are less prone to faults and use less electricity. They have said the following lights will be replaced by the end of March:

- Heyes Drive
- Baffin Close
- Cameron Road
- Chapelhill Road
- Drake Road
- Fender View Road
- Frobisher Road
- Grampian Way
- Griffin Avenue
- Mereheath
- Pasture Avenue
- Priorsfield
- Ravenhill Crescent
- Ross Avenue
- Shackleton Road
- Stavordale Road

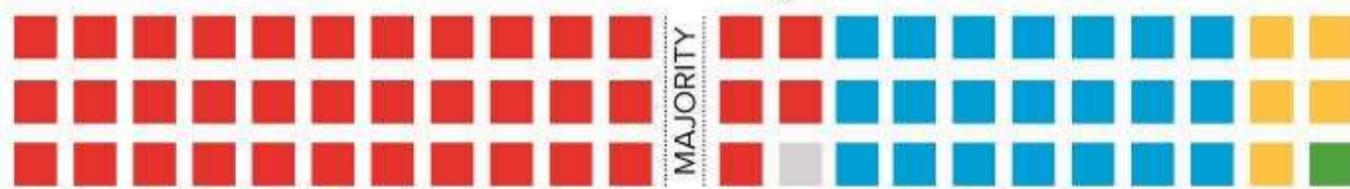
You can see the full list at www.wirralconservatives.com/streetlights

Our local pharmacies:

Over the last 10 years, the number of community pharmacies has INCREASED by 1,500. There are now 11,600 pharmacies around the country and, under changes being introduced by the Conservatives, patients needing urgent repeat prescription medicines can be referred from NHS 111 to community pharmacies, rather than to the GP out-of-hours service.

WIRRAL HAS A LABOUR-RUN COUNCIL:

Labour has a majority in the Town Hall



ONLY THE LOCAL CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLORS IN WIRRAL CAN STAND UP TO LABOUR IN THE TOWN HALL

- Instead of spending money fairly across Wirral, Labour puts Birkenhead first, meaning this community loses out.
- Your local Conservatives will always put the needs of this community first and fight for a fair share of the Town Hall's £800 million budget.

Visit www.wirralconservatives.com for details

Coastal parking charges are wrong, says Debbie Caplin



Debbie Caplin, seen at Leasowe Lighthouse with Councillor Chris Blakeley, has pledged to oppose the charges.

Labour Councillors, including those representing this area, have voted to impose parking charges on people using our coast.

The move follows the earlier introduction of parking charges in our Country Parks.

The charges will be introduced at Leasowe Lighthouse, as well as Kings Parade in Wallasey, North

Parade in Hoylake and South Parade in West Kirby.

Conservative Councillors in the Town Hall, led by former Leasowe & Moreton East Councillor, Ian Lewis, have called for the charges to be scrapped and, instead for less money to be spent on management consultants.

Debbie said: "Labour Councillors say they need to introduce the charges to raise £250,000 but are quite happy to spend £2.6 million on expensive consultants. It doesn't make sense and it's really

disappointing that the three Labour Councillors for this area have gone along with the plan."

Debbie added: "Like so many other residents of Moreton and Leasowe, I regularly visit Leasowe Common and walk along the embankment.

"These charges will deter people from using this wonderful local amenity."

To sign our petition against the charges, visit www.wirralconservatives.com/promenadeparking

PLAN TO SAVE OUR GREEN BELT DELAYED FOR TWO YEARS!

In the last edition of Newline, we reported on **the Town Hall's failure to produce a plan to protect Wirral's Green Belt, 13 years** after it was due.

Replying to the Government, the Leader of the Council failed to explain why almost every council had managed to comply with the law.

Instead, Councillor Davies said it would take Wirral Council another two years, during which time any number of new threats from developers could emerge.

However, following changes by the Government, Wirral Council has an extra £240,000 to spend within the Planning Department.

Conservative Councillors want some of that money to be used to enforce existing planning controls and to also produce a plan for the Green Belt sooner than 2020.

£6m GRANT FOR WIRRAL COUNCIL

The Government has given Wirral Council a grant of £6 million to help build more homes on brownfield sites, relieving pressure on our Green Belt.



YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN WIRRAL FALLS AGAIN

The number of 18-24 year olds out of work in Wirral has fallen again - down to 880 in January, compared to 2,540 five years ago.

This month also saw a big push to promote National Apprenticeship Week, as part of a plan by the Conservatives to work with employers to create more apprenticeships. The last year saw 491,000 apprenticeships created.

April will also see the National Minimum Wage increased to £7.38 for those aged 21-24, up from £4.92 an hour under Labour.

Debbie Caplin said: "Every school leaver in Moreton and Leasowe must have the opportunity to

choose the future they want, whether it's continuing at college or university, a job or apprenticeship or starting their own business. We can only do this with a strong economy, with lower taxes on jobs and the businesses that create the jobs."

OUR PLAN FOR WIRRAL

 **Conservatives**

Back our plan for Wirral:
wirralconservatives.com/ourplan

- 1 Make better use of the Council's £800 million budget:** We will ban Wirral Council lending your money to other councils and end Labour's obsession with Birkenhead. We will grow our economy by creating new businesses and jobs.
- 2 Scrap the plans to build on the Green Belt:** We will develop brownfield sites instead and do more to bring 6,000 empty homes back into use.
- 3 Reduce spending on Directors' salaries and consultants:** We will cut the £2.6 million a year spent on consultants and we will stop recruiting directors paid more than the Prime Minister.
- 4 Abolish Labour's parking charges:** Our country parks and coastal areas will, once again, be free for everyone and we will reintroduce 'free after 3' in our shopping areas.
- 5 Scrap the Wirral View newspaper:** The £254,000 Labour spends on their newspaper will be used, instead, to reintroduce school crossing patrols.
- 6 Stop the £1.5m on food waste bins:** We will focus instead on reducing the amount of waste, including single use plastics and packaging.
- 7 Protect our libraries and leisure centres:** We will scrap Labour's review of these services and guarantee that no library or leisure centre will be closed.

TOWN HALL REPORT:

Library and Leisure Review: a report by consultants, costing Wirral taxpayers £284,000, **won't be published until AFTER** the Council elections in May. The review looks at how libraries, leisure centres can be delivered 'differently'!

Child grooming report: Conservative Councillors have continued to challenge the decision not to publish the report into the recent cases of child sexual exploitation in Birkenhead, in spite of attempts to silence them. We **want the authorities' failures** to be published, while protecting the victims.

Extreme 'left wing' takeover: Wirral's Labour Party is being taken over by the hard-left Momentum Group. Their Cabinet Member for Finance has, meanwhile, stated she is a Marxist. Nationally, Corbynally, Chris Williamson MP, has called for Council Tax to be doubled!

'No' to voting security plan: Five councils will be in a scheme to improve the security of voting at elections, after the number of cases of impersonation doubled between 2014 and 2016. **Wirral's Labour Councillors** voted against taking part.

M53 Junction 1 lights: The Council has been given £100,000 by the Government towards the cost of introducing traffic controls at Junction 1 of the M53 (the 'B&Q roundabout').

OUR NEW COASTAL CLEAN UP TEAM IS A 'HIT' WITH RESIDENTS



February saw the first meeting of the new, voluntary Coastal Clean Up Team, set **up by Wirral's Conservative** Councillors.

Around 20 people took part and helped to collect bags of rubbish from the embankment along Moreton and Meols. We were also delighted to be joined by seven year old Elizabeth Gadson, 'The Little Collector'.

Our next meeting takes place at the end of March and will cover the area between Leasowe and Wallasey.

To find out more, visit our website at: www.wirralconservatives.com/beaches

FERNBANK FARM DISAPPEARS

While the Upton Park Pony Owners have been relocated to a site on Pasture Road, their former fields on Sandbrook Lane have been lost forever.

In spite of their big campaign, the Town Hall used every trick in the book to secure the eviction of the pony club from the site they had occupied for 40 years.

Moreton resident Debbie Caplin, who used to ride at Fernbank Farm, said: "You can bet your life that most of the money the Council received for selling this land won't be used locally. Extra houses here, and at Cadbury's, will put extra pressure on local services and have an effect on the flood plain."



Debbie Caplin at the former Fernbank Farm with Ian Lewis.



INTRODUCING DEBBIE CAPLIN..

■ **Our community needs a councillor who will put our community first and Party politics second. Many residents have told us how they hardly ever hear from their three Labour Councillors these days.**

Unlike Labour's candidate for Moreton & Leasowe, who lives in Birkenhead, Debbie Caplin lives in Moreton.

She grew up here, her family live here and she went to school here - Eastway, then Moreton Middle and then Oxley Avenue.

Debbie now works as an Environmental Contract Manager.

Debbie said: "I think a good councillor can make a big difference for local residents. We **don't need another councillor** who is just another bum on a seat in the Town Hall."

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