

newsline

Wirral Council has been given an extra £184,000 by the Government after figures revealed 299 pot holes in the Borough have yet to be tackled.



As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the NHS, new investment in cancer treatment has been announced for Wirral.



BRUCE BERRY RE-ELECTED AS LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Support for Wirral's Conservatives surges by 7,117 votes

The Council elections in Wirral saw a swing from Labour to the local Conservatives. Across the Borough, 7,117 more people voted Conservative than at the last council elections in 2016.

Here in Moreton West & Saughall Massie, Bruce Berry was re-elected - with 2,711 votes - 1,247 more than Labour's candidate.

Among the 7,117 new votes for the Conservatives were people who vote Labour nationally. Many told Bruce that they wanted to send a message to the Labour Councillors running the Borough.

Coastal parking charges, Wirral View, management consultants and food waste bins were among the top issues raised in the campaign.

Bruce said: "Thank you to those 2,711 residents who voted for me to continue our work here in Moreton and Saughall Massie.

"Steve, Chris and I will continue to speak up for our community in the Town Hall."

Elsewhere in Wirral, Labour failed to win their 'number one target' of Birkenhead and Tranmere; came within 23 votes of losing Pensby and saw the Green Party slash their majority in Prenton.

2,711
BRUCE BERRY
Local
Conservatives

MORETON WEST & SAUGHALL MASSIE ELECTION AT A GLANCE:

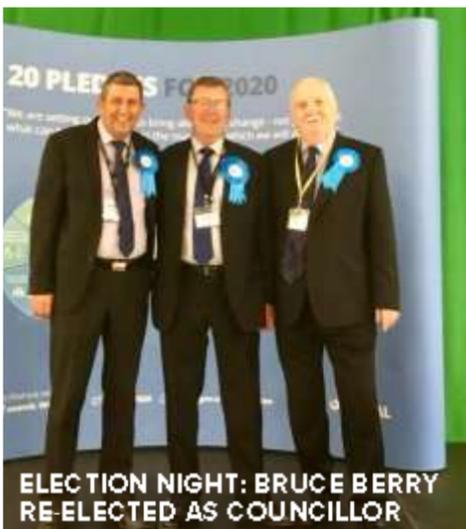
- Bruce Berry re-elected councillor
- Swing FROM Labour to Conservatives: 3%
- Lowest Labour share of the vote for 10 years

1,464
BILL
McGENITY
Labour Party

135
HELEN
O'DONNELL
Green Party

92
AMANDA
CROWFOOT
Liberal
Democrats

Result of the 2018 council election in Moreton West & Saughall Massie: 4,402 votes cast. Turnout 41%



BRUCE: "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!"

Councillor Bruce Berry says: "With the council elections now behind us, I'm working with Steve Williams and Chris Blakeley on issues that were raised by residents during our campaign. Thank you to everyone who has been in touch already!"

If you have an issue or a problem you'd like to raise with Steve, Chris or Bruce, we've listed their contact details on the back page.

Councillor Steve Williams said: "Well done to Bruce on this great result. We work hard on local issues and, from the conversations we had with residents locally, people appreciate that."

COUNCIL SURVEY CONFIRMS: 'WIRRAL VIEW' HAS FLOPPED...

A survey by Ipsos Mori, which cost Wirral taxpayers £30,000, has confirmed the 'Wirral View' newspaper has failed.

The survey found just 3% of residents used it. More people used the Wirral Globe (54%) and even community newsletters such as this one!

Action in our community:

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

Borrowdale Road:

The speed and volume of traffic along Borrowdale Road and Overchurch Road was the top issue raised by residents in both roads during the election. We have commissioned new traffic surveys as a first step to seeking action from the Town Hall.

New street lights:

Thank you to those residents who have been in touch with us about faulty street lights. The Town Hall has been granted £4.6 from the Government's energy efficiency funds to install new energy-efficient units over the next three years. Many of the lights in the Lingham Park are, once again, not working, either due to faults or vandalism. We have asked for urgent repairs.

Tree maintenance

We continue to receive complaints from residents that trees are not being maintained by the Council. A new contractor was appointed last year. The Council has said that only trees which are dangerous or an obstruction will be cut back.

Overflowing waste bins:

We have asked for action on many of the litter bins around our community that are either too small for the volume of rubbish or are left unemptied for weeks, leaving rubbish overflowing onto the streets.

Parking on dropped kerbs

Over the last few years, Conservative Councillors have been working with residents to have more 'dropped' kerbs installed at junctions to help people with prams, buggies and wheelchairs. Drivers need to be aware that parking across a dropped kerb can result in a parking ticket from the Council.

Grass verges and weeds

Many of our grass verges are being neglected. We have asked for an urgent meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to challenge the Council's contractor over the poor performance and to seek improvements.

TOWN HALL REVEALS COASTAL PARKING PLANS

Within days of the council elections, Labour Councillors have moved to the next stage of their plan for parking charges at Wirral's Promenades and coastal areas.

The Borough's most popular visitor destinations are being targeted as part of a plan to raise £250,000.

The Town Hall is legally obliged to consult but has said that the plans will be on display at just three locations - Hoylake Community Centre, West

Kirby Concourse and the Floral Pavilion Theatre.

Labour's plans were thrown into disarray after they learned that the area near Leasowe Lighthouse and the shore is 'common land' and so couldn't be included in the list of areas where charges are to be introduced. They are now seeking a way to overcome this legal hitch.

Local Conservative Councillor Steve Williams said: "These charges are unnecessary. Instead of raising an extra £250,000, we have called for the Town Hall to reduce the £2.6 million they are spending on private

management consultants."

"We believe these charges will have the same effect on our fantastic coastal areas as they have in our country parks. People will either stop visiting or park in nearby residential roads for free, causing problems for people who live there."

Residents who wish to make their views known to the Council can do so in one of three ways listed below.

The consultation closes on Friday 22 June. Steve, Chris and Bruce also notified many people by email and social media.

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY:

1 Email: steveatkins@wirral.gov.uk and include your name and address.

2 Write: Steve Atkins, Parking Services Manager, Brighton Street, Wallasey CH44 8ED

3 Online: We've included links at: www.wirralconservatives.com to the online survey



Councillors Bruce Berry, Chris Blakeley and Steve Williams worked with campaigners trying to save our last local respite centre. Now, neighbours are unhappy with what has been proposed for the site

A plan for a three storey, 78 room building on the site of Girtrell Court has led to calls for changes to reduce it's size.

A housing company, Alpha Living, wants to build a £12 million 'extra care facility' on the site of the former respite care centre in Saughall Massie. The Town Hall is selling the land for £250,000 less than the market value.

The development is being funded with a further grant of £439,000 from the Council. Local Councillors are backing residents in asking for a proposal that is more in keeping with the immediate surroundings.

POT HOLE CASH BOOST £184,000

Wirral Council has been given an extra £184,000 from the Government to tackle more pot holes on the Borough's roads.

The cash coincided with a report by Cycling UK that revealed that 299 pot holes in Wirral had yet to be tackled by the Council, causing danger to road users and damage to vehicles.

FACT: last year, the Town Hall paid out almost £1,000 to road users, following four successful claims for vehicle damage caused by pot holes in the Borough.

The average depth of pot holes is around 40mm - big enough to damage tyres, alloy wheels and car suspension and likely to cause accidents if ridden into by cyclists and motorcyclists.

Janet Connor, the AA's director of insurance, said: "In most cases the damage caused by a pothole - a ruined tyre or even two tyres and perhaps a wheel rim - does not justify making an insurance claim given that it is likely to lead to the loss of your



excess and no-claim bonus. So the claims we are seeing are clearly much worse than that.

"Drivers are hitting potholes and ruining their suspension, steering, the underbody of the car, breaking axles and occasionally being knocked off course and hitting other vehicles, kerbs or a lamp-post."

Wirral Council has, for several years, received a share of the Government's annual £50 million Pothole Action Fund set up to pay for repairs.

The latest allocation, of £184,000, is in addition to the money secured by local councillors for resurfacing of roads in our area (see box).

Councillor Chris Blakeley said: "Wirral was slow to use last year's share of the fund - meaning potentially more

damage to vehicles and claims against the council.

"Instead of sitting on this cash, we want it to be used to tackle those pot holes that we know about already and to reduce the potential for accidents, damage to vehicles and claims in the future."

If your car is damaged by a pot hole on a road and you believe the Council has been negligent, financial expert Martin Lewis has produced a guide on what to do next.

Visit his website:
www.moneysavingexpert.com/travel/pothole-claims

If you know of a local pot hole that needs action, contact Steve, Chris or Bruce - details can be found on the back page.

LOCAL ROADS LISTED FOR REPAIR IN 2018/19:

Towards the end of last year, our three local councillors submitted a list of roads in Moreton and Saughall Massie that need attention.

This followed suggestions from residents during our door-to-door visits, postal surveys and Newsline.

The Town Hall has agreed to most of our requests and the following roads are due to be resurfaced or repaired between now and April 2019:

1. Hoylake Road:

The latest phase of work will see the stretch from Susan Grove to Ely Avenue resurfaced, at a cost of £102,582. Susan Grove will also be resurfaced.

2. Merlin Avenue:

£5,400 will be spent repairing the road surface from Kingfisher Way to No. 24 Merlin Way.

3. Curlew Avenue:

£5,110 is going to be spent putting down a 'micro asphalt' surface.

4. Jasmine Close:

This small cul-de-sac in Saughall Massie has been repeatedly submitted for action by our councillors. Now, £5,270 will be spent to resurface the road.

5. Belford Drive area:

Belford Drive, Rake Hey, Berwick Close, Otterburn Close and Rake Hey Close will see the roads have a 'dress and lockchip'.

6. Digg Lane:

We have been asking for this road to be tackled for several years. Now, £3,500 will be spent to repair the concrete surface and cracks that have appeared.

JOBLESS FALLS TO LOWEST RATE SINCE 1975

The number of people in Wirral who are out of work and claiming benefits is down by 4,013 since 2010.

Across the country, the unemployment rate has fallen to 4.2%. This is now the lowest rate for 43 years. Youth unemployment is also down.

Over the last 12 months, 396,000 more jobs have been created.

Here in Moreton and Saughall Massie, there are now 160 people out of work and claiming benefits, including the new Universal Credit.

There are currently 3,038 job vacancies advertised on the Universal Jobmatch website, while a total of 6,050 vacancies are within 20 miles.

The cost of travel, however, is a barrier for some people starting work.

The 'Travel Discount Card', from Jobcentre Plus, could help.

The card is free and can be used with all train companies.

It gives a 50% discount on anytime day tickets, off-peak day tickets and season tickets, for up to three months.



Visit www.wirralconservatives.com for more news

TOWN HALL REPORT:

New director jobs created: Wirral's 'cash strapped' Labour Council has created two additional senior director positions: 'Director of Change and Organisational Design' (cost £146,659) and 'Corporate Director for Economic Housing and Growth' (cost £158,300). In the latest 'Rich List' by the Tax Payers' Alliance, seven of the 57 public sector directors in Merseyside earning £100,000+ were from Wirral.

Bike theft: Conservative Councillors arranged for the group 'Wirral Bikers Against Bike Theft' to meet with the Police Commissioner earlier in June, following concerns about the number of motorbikes being stolen in the Borough, including here in Moreton and Saughall Massie.

Loans to other councils: Thank you to everyone who contacted us about the latest list of loans by Wirral Council to other councils. Many readers were shocked that Wirral was lending our money to councils around the UK, often at low interest rates.

The Giants are coming: well done to those Council staff who have been working to bring the world-famous Royal de Luxe street theatre company to the Borough in October. This will be the third, and final, time the giants will visit the region. Around one million visitors came to see the Giants in Liverpool in 2014.

193 FINES FOR DOG FOULING ISSUED

■ Over the last 12 months, almost 200 owners have been issued with fines for not clearing up after their pets. The Council's contactor, Kingdom Security, issues Fixed Penalty Notices of £50.

Most dog owners pick up after their pets and dispose of the bags in the nearest council bins.

Some owners, however, having picked up the mess and tied the bag, then throw the bag on the floor

or in the nearest bush. Not only does this not make any sense, it also won't avoid a £50 fine from Kingdom if caught.

The Town Hall has now announced a further crack down, which will see

a Public Spaces Protection Order introduced, including a ban on dogs in parts of the Borough's coast and parks. We've include a link to the Council's plans, and consultation (which closes on 15th July) at www.wirralconservatives.com

NEW SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS

■ In Wirral, young people leaving care were receiving a service that was rated as 'inadequate' in the last Ofsted inspection. The Town Hall had, among other things, even managed to lose track of 27 care leavers.

Towards the end of last year, Wirral's Conservative Councillors worked with the Children's Society on a plan to exempt care leavers from Council Tax when they move into their own home. The plan received all party support.

Now, in a further move to help the most vulnerable young people, Conservatives have announced that care leavers who choose to start an apprenticeship will be boosted by a new £1,000 bursary payment from August 2018.

The extra financial support will be for those aged 16-24 and help them in the first year of their apprenticeship. We are continuing to press for improvements in the support given to young people leaving the Council's 'care'.

GOOD NEWS FOR LOCAL CANCER CARE

■ Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is one of 42 hospitals around the UK that is having radiotherapy equipment upgraded or replaced as part of a £130 million investment by the NHS.

This means that, by October, all cancer patients, no matter where they live, will have access to the latest radiotherapy treatments.

It's part of a plan that will see an extra 5,000 people survive cancer over the next two years.

Screening tests are also being expanded to help improve prevention and early detection.

A new bowel screening test started in April and a new cervical screening test from April 2019 will benefit three million women.

Nationally, 450,000 more people are having their cancer check up within 14 days.

The Cancer Drugs Fund is also receiving new funding so that the most promising new drugs reach patients faster.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP WITH LOCAL ISSUES

■ Our community has three local Conservative Councillors. It doesn't matter who you vote for in a General Election. Here in Moreton and Saughall Massie, we put our community first and Party politics second. If you have a problem, get in touch with Steve, Chris or Bruce.



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