

newsline

Following an increase in thefts of motorbikes, meetings are taking place with bikers and Merseyside's Police Commissioner.



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Tenants in Wirral are set to benefit from changes announced by the Conservatives as new figures show almost five million now rent...



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TOWN HALL GREEN BELT THREAT EXPOSED

Local Plan to protect Green Belt starts 14 years late!

Wirral Council has been condemned by Green Belt campaigners for failing to produce a legally-required plan to protect the Borough's environment. Almost every other council in the country has managed to comply with the 2004 Act of Parliament.

Having finally lost patience with the excuses from the Town Hall, the Government has demanded Wirral produces a timetable to have a Local Plan in place.

A Local Plan would not only protect Wirral's Green Belt from unwanted development, it would also show those sites in the Borough that could be redeveloped and need investment.

Debbie Caplin said: "The Town Hall has allowed developers to 'cherry

pick' the best sites first and, in the process, is failing to redevelop the run down and neglected parts of the Borough that really need it.

"This also puts much-loved local amenities at risk. No wonder the Government has had enough of this nonsense!"

For more information and to have your say, visit our website: wirralconservatives.com/greenbelt



Promises by the Town Hall to 'defend' our green spaces have been dismissed as 'meaningless' by campaigners who fought to save Fernbank Farm on Sandbrook Lane. Debbie is seen here with Ian Lewis.

Debbie, seen here with Councillor Chris Blakeley, at Leasowe Lighthouse - one of the sites where Labour wanted to introduce parking charges.



SUCCESS! COASTAL PARKING CHARGES DROPPED

Following petitions, public meetings and demands at Council meetings, Labour has been forced to drop plans to introduce parking charges at coastal areas and promenades but are keeping charges in our country parks.

The plan for charges, pushed through by Labour Councillors in March, saw an angry backlash from residents and calls by Conservative Councillors to cut the £2.6 million bill for private management consultants instead.

Councillor Ian Lewis said: "Thank you to everyone who worked with us to force Labour to think again.

"The embankment and open spaces at Leasowe are there for the many, not the few!"

There were also fears that charges would discourage visitors to Leasowe Lighthouse, which is now maintained and run by volunteers. If you've not been, it's well worth a visit and it's still free to park!

Action in our community:

Debbie Caplin and the local Conservatives are fighting for a fair share of Wirral Council's £800 million budget for our community:

Library services:

At the last Council meeting, we asked whether the £300,000 spent on 'reviews' of the library service was money well spent. Labour says it was!

Scrambler bikes:

Following our calls last year for tougher action, Merseyside Police has announced a crack down on the menace of scrambler bikes. So far, more than 300 bikes have been seized. Increased patrols in 'hot spot areas' are also underway and warrants are being executed at the places where the bikes are being stored.

Grass verges and weeds:

As promised, Wirral's local Conservative Councillors called a special meeting at the Town Hall to question the poor performance of weed spraying this year. We questioned a number of senior officers who blamed the weather for the delay on the first round of scheduled weed spraying, enabling the weeds to reach knee height in many places. The second scheduled spray wasn't enough to deal with the extra growth.

Moreton Christmas Lights:

The fantastic volunteers at Moreton Christmas Lights are once again raising the £5,500 needed to provide lights around Moreton Cross. Can you help them with a donation, no matter how small? Donate safely online at www.gofundme.com/moreton-lights-2018

Housing adaptations:

Wirral Council has recently been given £306,000 by the Government to help to pay for works including level access showers and conversions of properties, helping more elderly or disabled people to carry on living in their own homes. Details of how to apply for help can be found on the council's website www.wirral.gov.uk or at a council One Stop Shop.

Pasture Road land:

The land that is now lying derelict behind the library is being considered for a new development for older residents by the Council. The site, previously occupied by the Moreton Day Centre, has become an eyesore.

DOG BAN PLAN SPARKS MASSIVE BACKLASH

Responsible dog owners across Wirral have reacted angrily to plans by Labour Councillors to ban ALL dogs from many parts of the Borough as part of a 'Public Spaces Protection Order'.

The order would also see private security company, Kingdom, enforce the ban, issuing heavy fines for any

owner who did not comply with the new rules, even if they cleaned up after their dog.

While measures such as keeping dogs on leads in cemeteries are to be welcomed, a 'blanket ban' does not deal with those owners who do not pick up after their pets elsewhere.

Debbie Caplin said: "Thank you to all those residents who contacted me about this issue. As a dog owner, I know the vast majority of us are responsible and do pick up."

"Labour made no mention of their Dog Plan Ban in the recent elections and now we can see why! They are already u-turning on parts of it, following the massive outcry."

"Their plan will generate a windfall of fines income for Kingdom Security but won't do a thing to make our residential roads free of dog mess," added Debbie.

A final decision is expected to be made by the Town Hall's 'Cabinet' sometime in October.

TOP AWARD FOR 'THE LITTLE COLLECTOR'

Seven-year-old Elizabeth Gadsdon from Leasowe, has been recognised as a national 'Points of Light' Award winner for the work she and her 'crew' put in to collect litter.

Elizabeth said: "In April 2017 I saw a man throw litter out of his car window, this really upset me, so I had to do something about it and teach people to stop dropping litter."

Debbie Caplin said: "Elizabeth's fantastic work to keep our community clean sets an example to everyone that we can all make a difference."

Elizabeth was nominated by former Councillor Ian Lewis, after she, and her mum, helped out on a Coastal Clean Up at Leasowe Common and told us of her work.



Leasowe resident, Elizabeth Gadsdon (7) is the latest 'Points of Light' Award winner, for her work to tackle litter.

DEMANDS FOR ACTION ON MOTOR BIKE THEFT

Do you use a motorbike or know someone who does? A new Facebook group could help to keep the bike safe.

'Wirral Bikers Against Bike Theft' has been set up after concerns that those responsible for the thefts were getting away with it.

The Group contacted Wirral's Conservative Councillors to ask for help. We immediately contacted the Police & Crime Commissioner, Jane Kennedy.

The first meeting saw 30 bikers from across Wirral meet the local police and Commissioner to outline the scale of the problem and to put forward suggestions to tackle it.

Debbie Caplin said: "Several people in Moreton and Leasowe have had their bikes stolen over the last few months. The bikers are increasingly organised and able to identify those responsible.

"They depend on their bikes to get to work or just to get around but the yobs who are stealing the bikes, often to order, couldn't care less."

LOCAL NEWS FROM AROUND MORETON AND LEASOWE...

LEASOWE ROAD:

The Council has said the lights at the Cross Lane junction can't be re-phased to improve safety. We're not convinced and have asked for a meeting 'on site' to show us why...

CARNSDALE ROAD:

Road safety is a top issue for many residents. People in Carnsdale Road contacted Debbie and asked for 20 mph signs, warning drivers to slow down. These have now been installed after Debbie contacted the Road Safety Team at the Council. We've also asked for an update on measures promised for Croft Drive.

ANNUAL SURVEY:

This month sees the start of a residents' survey delivered by Debbie Caplin and the team to around 10,000 people across Moreton and Leasowe. We're asking for views on local issues and for any problems that we can help with.

GRAMPIAN WAY:

During a recent door-to-door survey by Debbie and the team, several residents of Grampian Way complained about the number of faulty street lights in the area. We've been promised that ALL street lights in the area will be replaced with low-energy units, using a grant from the Government. In the meantime, we have asked for the lights in the area to be inspected and repaired.

DITTON LANE:

Since the boulders were installed at the junction with Pasture Road, there has been a big drop in fly tipping on this partly unadopted road. Following requests by residents, Debbie contacted the Town Hall and the overgrown foliage has now been cut back as well.

CROFT DRIVE:

Residents have asked Debbie if the faded road lines can be repainted, particularly at the junctions when visibility isn't always great. The Highways Inspector agreed with us and the job to repaint the lines will be issued to the crew.

Keep up to date with the news: www.wirralconservatives.com

LOCAL ROAD REPAIRS UPDATE

Earlier this year, we reported how the three Labour Councillors for this area had failed to secure a single penny from the Town Hall's 'Structural Maintenance Programme' of road repairs this year.

Many residents have been in touch over this issue, giving examples of local roads that need resurfacing.

Conservative councillors in nearby Moreton West & Saughall Massie secured £144,000 for road repairs there, while the three Conservative

Councillors for Wallasey Ward also ensured a massive £344,000 will be spent in their ward.

Debbie Caplin said: "This is about making our voice heard in the Town Hall and to ensure our community receives a fair share of the Council's £800 million budget, not least on fixing our roads."

Wirral Council has also now been given an extra £184,000 by the Government to tackle pot holes.

If there are any in your road that need action, let Debbie know! Use the slip on the back page.



This damaged street sign on Stavordale Road will be removed and a new sign has already been installed, following a request by Debbie. Thanks to those residents who got in touch.

DO YOU RENT? EXTRA HELP IS ON THE WAY

Figures released by the Ministry of Housing have revealed that the number of people privately renting their homes has grown from two million households 20 years ago, to almost 4.7 million households today.

Now, councils are to be given tough new powers to tackle the small minority of rogue landlords who rent out overcrowded properties and to impose fines of up to £30,000 for

those landlords who do not comply.

From October, councils will be able to set minimum bedroom size standards and also introduce limits on how many people can live in each bedroom of a licenced multiple occupancy home.

At the same time, rogue landlords who rent out substandard properties will face being forced out of the sector as new banning orders are brought in.

The national database of rogue landlords was introduced in April. The law is also being changed to end

to costly letting fees and save tenants around £240 million a year.

Tenants will also get greater assurances that the deposit they pay at the start of the tenancy cannot exceed six weeks' rent.

We've also published a new guide 'How to Rent' to help tenants and landlords make the best choices when renting a home.

For more information, visit our website www.wirralconservatives.com/renting

TENANT TIMETABLE FOR ACTION:

April 2018:

National database of rogue landlords came into force.

July 2018:

New guide published 'How to Rent' for tenants. This is available online at: www.wirralconservatives.com/renting

October 2018:

Councils will gain power to set minimum bedroom sizes to prevent tenants having to live in cramped and overcrowded properties.

April 2020:

All private rented properties must achieve at least 'E' standard of energy efficiency.

AS FRANK FIELD LEAVES THE LABOUR PARTY...



'My local Labour Party is hijacked by thugs'

...LOOK WHO'S COMING BACK...



Derek Hatton: 'I'm about to join the Labour party again.'

Wirral Labour: too busy fighting themselves instead of fighting for you

TOWN HALL REPORT:

Wirral currently has a Labour-run Council - Labour has 38 of the 66 seats; Conservatives 21, Liberal Democrats 5 and the Green Party and Independent 1 seat each.

Domestic violence cash: Conservative Councillors have urged the Town Hall to apply for a share of cash from a new £19 million Government fund to help tackle domestic violence.

Poor value for money: For the third year in a row, Wirral Council's auditors, Grant Thornton, have said the Town Hall is not providing value for money. Wirral's Conservative Councillors have again called for measures to tackle the money wasted on management consultants, senior director salaries and the failing 'Wirral View' newspaper.

Blue Badge scheme: Wirral residents with 'hidden' disabilities such as autism or mental health conditions are set to benefit from Government reforms to the 'Blue Badge' scheme. We have written to the Town Hall to urge speedy implementation of the changes.

Anti-fraud scheme works: The independent Electoral Commission has judged that new measures to tackle fraud at election time, including asking voters for ID 'worked well'. Sadly, Wirral's Labour Councillors blocked moves to include our Borough in a test for the new measures.

Food bins back on agenda? A senior Labour Councillor has renewed calls for Wirral to issue extra wheelie bins to every home for food waste.

Action on air quality: It's been announced that Wirral will benefit from a shared of a £260 million Government fund to improve air quality and tackle pollution in the worst affected areas of the country.

Tackling anti-Semitism: Conservative Councillors recently voted for Wirral to adopt the international definition of anti-Semitism, as requested by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

BETTER OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

School leavers in Wirral are set to benefit from three new initiatives announced by the Conservatives to improve advice, options and further studies:

- 1. IMPROVING CAREERS ADVICE:**
- 2. SUPPORT FOR APPRENTICES:**
- 3. SPECIALIST STUDIES:**

Careers advice is set to be improved for school leavers as Wirral is included in among 20 areas for new 'Careers Hubs' of schools and colleges working with universities and employers to improve careers education.

From August this year, care leavers in Wirral who choose to start an apprenticeship, have been eligible for a new £1,000 bursary to help them transition into the workplace.

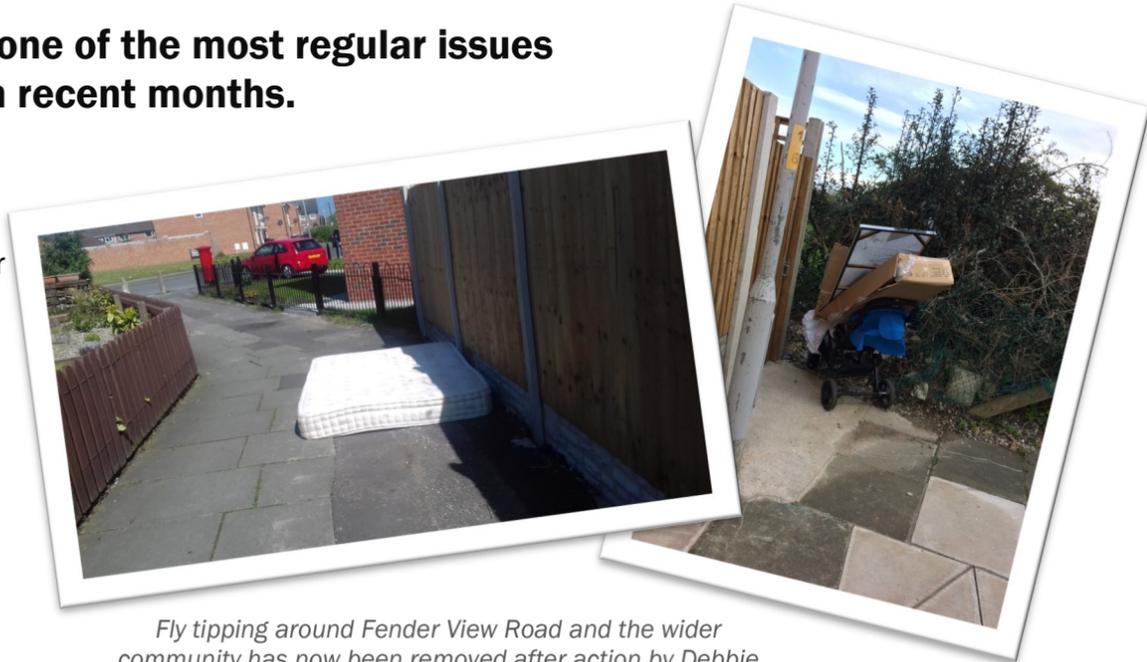
Young people in Wirral who wish to continue studying subjects such as maths and physics are set to benefit from a new world-leading maths education with a brand new specialist school backed by a top university.

Fly tipping has been one of the most regular issues raised by residents in recent months.

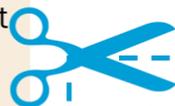
Debbie has arranged for rubbish, including an old mattress, to be removed from roads, including Fender View Road and Hayfield Place.

Complaints have also been received about rubbish dumped near the garages at Almond Place

If you want to report a problem of fly tipping near you, visit the council website or call 606 2004.



Fly tipping around Fender View Road and the wider community has now been removed after action by Debbie



LOCAL PROBLEM, ISSUE, IDEA?

Tell us about it...



Your name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Tick if you would like to:

- Join us as a member
- Help our local campaigns
- Help to deliver this newsletter

Return this slip to:

Debbie Caplin at
FREEPOST RSLL-GUEX-KKYE,
15d Lancelyn Precinct, Spital Road,
Wirral CH63 9JP

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