

newsline

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



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



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.

Councillor Steve Williams said: "The Town Hall is allowing developers to

'cherry pick' the best sites around Wirral. In doing so, Labour 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



SUCCESS! COASTAL PARKING CHARGES DROPPED AFTER OUTCRY

Bruce Berry and Chris Blakeley at Leasowe Lighthouse - one of Labour's chosen sites for parking charges that has now been 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 Bruce Berry said: "Thank you to everyone who worked with us to force Labour to think again.

"Our Promenades and embankments were built for everyone to be able to enjoy - the many, not the few!"

The decision is also good news for the volunteers who now look after Leasowe Lighthouse. They feared that parking charges would deter visitors. They rely on donations to help with its upkeep.

Action in our community:

The three local Councillors for Moreton and Saughall Massie are fighting for a fair share of Wirral Council's budget for our community:

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, your 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.

Road resurfacing:

Many of the roads we have nominated are being resurfaced, using the £144,000 we secured from the Town Hall in March. We've published the list of all roads scheduled for resurfacing this year on our website: www.wirralconservatives.com/roadrepairs. The Council has been given a further £186,000 to tackle pot holes and we're keen to obtain a share of that cash for our community as well.

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 owners failing to 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.

Councillor Chris Blakeley said: "Thank you to all those residents who contacted me, Steve and Bruce on this issue, including those we met during the protest at Moreton Shore.

"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."

"Instead of making life easy for Kingdom, it's about time the Town Hall tackled the dog mess on many of our streets," added Chris.

A special thanks to organisers Amanda Lancaster and Sara Alexander-Ashworth for their work to bring this plan to the attention of the wider public.

A final decision on the plan is due in October and we'll report back in the next issue.

In the meantime, keep up to date on the 'Wirral Good Dogs' page on Facebook.



Councillors Chris Blakeley and Steve Williams were among those taking part in one of the peaceful protest dog walks - seen here at Moreton Shore.

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 and avoid being stolen.

'Wirral Bikers Against Bike Theft' has been set up after concerns that bike thieves were getting away with it.

The Group asked Wirral's Conservative Councillors 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.

Councillor Steve Williams said: "Many of the people depend on their bikes to get to work or just to get around but the thieves who are stealing the bikes, often to order, couldn't care less."

If you would like to be kept up to date on this issue, Wirral Bikers Against Bike Theft are on Facebook.

LOCAL NEWS FROM AROUND MORETON AND SAUGHALL MASSIE

UPTON WOODS:

Local residents still have concerns over the actions of one of the landowners in the woods. Apart from the felling of trees, the landowner has now fitted gates to the woods off the Upton Bypass slip road and has starting to erect what looks like a frame for a shelter. We have contacted the Council's Planning Department and asked if they have permission and, if not, to take the necessary enforcement action.

FLY TIPPING:

Once again, Carr Lane has been blighted by fly tippers who have dumped, what appears to be mainly garden waste. We have asked the Council to remove and again to consider the use of covert CCTV at this location. This type of environmental crime needs to be dealt with once and for all.

'MORETON HILLS'

An application has been submitted to build an adventure golf course at Moreton Hills Golf Centre including an extension to existing buildings, creation of 50 car parking spaces, introduction of 18-hole adventure golf course, relocation of putting green and use for foot golf.

RONE CLOSE:

Planning permission has been granted to build six homes on the land adjacent to 8 Rone Close off Borrowdale Road.

WASTE BINS:

One of the biggest complaints we are currently receiving is about the failure of the Council to regularly empty the waste bins around Moreton and Saughall Massie. We have contacted the Council and requested that our contractor is asked to ensure no bins are missed.

THANKS CARR FARM!

Thanks, once again, for the generous support of Carr Farm Nurseries to supply and plant the floral displays around Moreton which were, once again, a highlight of the summer.

Got a problem? Need or help? Use the Feedback form on the back page.

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

ROW OVER GIRTRELL COURT LAND SALE

It has been revealed that the 'cash strapped' Council intends to sell the land at Girtrell Court, valued at £900,000 to Alpha Living for a cut price figure of £650,000.

Alpha want to build a three Storey extra care facility which will comprise a block containing 60 one bed and 18 two bed apartments, along with a wellness centre, café and other community facilities.

Alpha held a public consultation event at the end of May and many people from across Saughall Massie attended.

Most of the concerns raised were about the height of the building.

Sadly, apart from some minor changes, Alpha intend to continue with the plan for three storeys.



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 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.

Councillor quits Labour: Cllr. Mike Sullivan, a Labour councillor for Pensby, has quit the Party, blaming 'bullying, harassment and intimidation'.

Action on air quality: It's been announced that Wirral will benefit from a share 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:

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.

2. SUPPORT FOR APPRENTICES:

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 their transition into the workplace.

3. SPECIALIST STUDIES:

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.

BORROWDALE AND OVERCHURCH SPEEDS

Results from the speed survey we requested showed that just over 30% of vehicles are speeding.

Councillor Steve Williams, pictured, said: "Now we have these results we will be exploring with Council Officers what action could be taken to improve safety. We have been informed that speed bumps would not be considered as both roads are classed as primary routes by the emergency services, however we could look at other options, such as better signage, road markings or chicanes."



Councillor Steve Williams is pushing for action to improve safety on Overchurch Road and Borrowdale Road.



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:

Councillor Steve Williams, Chris Blakeley and Bruce Berry, Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey CH44 8ED

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