

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.

Councillor Paul Hayes 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 puts much-loved local green spaces 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



More than 160 people opposed a plan to build houses on land next to the Lighthouse Pub car park and Councillors Paul Hayes and Ian Lewis spoke against it at a meeting of the Planning Committee, highlighting concerns over access from Wallasey Village. Sadly, a majority of Labour Councillors on the Committee voted it through.



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 Wirral Labour to think again.

"Kings Parade was built for everyone to be able to enjoy - the many, not the few!"

The Town Hall has also (finally!) agreed to introduce a 'Traffic Regulation Order' to ban on overnight parking on the Prom following complaints about the number of camper vans.

Action in our community:

The three local Councillors for Wallasey 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.

Harrison Park vandalism:

Work is about to start to improve the football pavilion, after Paul Hayes obtained money for improvements for here, and the pavilion at Wallacre Playing Fields. Sadly, a recent attack by vandals means the work will take longer, and cost more. If you see vandalism taking place in our parks, call the Community Patrol on **0151 666 5265** at any time.

Christmas Lights:

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without lights would it? Hopefully everyone enjoyed seeing our village lit up last year? Well unfortunately this could be the last year that we see them unless we all get together to ensure that we raise enough money to keep our village lit. In previous years the council has kindly paid for the lights, installation and storage. From 2018 onwards we need to raise approximately £3,800 this year to have the same display that we have had previously. To extend and increase the lights (in more trees and further along the road) this also would be at added costs. The organisers are still thinking of the best way of raising the money and suggestions would be welcome. Donation boxes are in local shops and a 'Go Fund Me' page for donations can be found at: www.gofundme.com/light-up-wallasey-village.

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. A final decision on the plan is due in October.

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 Lesley Rennie said: "Thank you to all those residents who

contacted me, Paul and Ian on this issue, including those we met during the protest in Harrison Park.

"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 Lesley.



Well done, and thanks, to the volunteers at Wallasey Village in Bloom for all their work this summer. The 'bloomers' are seen here at Wallasey Village Library with the chair of the Library Friends, Councillor Paul Hayes, members of the Wallasey Gardening Club and judges for 'Britain in Bloom' from the Royal Horticultural Society

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 Ian Lewis, who arranged the meeting, said: "Many of the people depend on their bikes to get to work or just to get around but the jabs who are stealing the bikes, often to order, couldn't care less.

"I'm grateful the Commissioner attended and hope by better use of information we can catch more of those responsible."

LOCAL NEWS FROM AROUND WALLASEY

ST GEORGE'S PRIMARY:

Thank you to all those parents who returned our road safety survey. We've now met with the headteacher and will be taking up the issues with the Council's Road Safety Manager.

LEASOWE ROAD:

Sticking with road safety, 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...

MOUNT ROAD:

After a boundary wall between a house and the school collapsed, the Council denied responsibility, meaning the resident was faced with bills of several thousand pounds! Now, following intervention from Paul, the Council has agreed it is their wall and will have it repaired.

SEA ROAD JUNCTION:

Following a meeting with residents about the congestion at the junction of Sea Road and Grove Road, the Town Hall promised to act. The delay in introducing a plan has been blamed on several staff leaving the Highways Department. We'll keep pushing for action.

ANNUAL SURVEY:

This year's Annual Survey from Paul, Ian and Lesley is being delivered to 11,000 residents over the next few months. We're asking for views on local issues and for any problems that we can help with.

VILLAGE FLATS:

Following our meetings with Magenta Homes and residents of the flats in Wallasey Village (opposite the Cheshire Cheese), Magenta have carried out some works to improve the communal areas. The next stage will see builders invited to bid to carry out the bigger parts of the works and we'll let residents know.

AIR TRAINING CORPS

Congratulations to the newly-enrolled members of 273 Squadron. The enrolment and Service of Remembrance for the Battle of Britain took place at St Hilary's Church. We were delighted to attend and support the local Squadron.

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

LOCAL ROAD REPAIRS UPDATE

Earlier this year, your three local councillors secured £344,000 for repairs to roads here in Wallasey.

We're pleased to report that many of the roads we nominated have now been resurfaced - including Leasowe Avenue; Stanley Avenue; St George's Road (including the anti-skid surface outside the school); Groveland Road and the stretch of road between the Derby Pool pub and the recently-refurbished shelter at the start of the prom.

Paul, Ian and Lesley also persuaded the Constituency

Committee to use some of it's budget to resurface Winchester Drive and Newland Drive, as well as anti-speed measures.

We've published the list of all roads scheduled for resurfacing this year on our website: www.wirralconservatives.com/roadrepairs

One of the roads that needs resurfacing is Seaview Road - especially the stretch of road from the Asda junction up to Hose Side shops. We asked for that to be done this year but the Department said other roads are a priority. While we have managed to have a

few of the pot holes fills, we'll be asking for it to be included in the next programme of repairs.

If there are any roads in your area that need attention, please let us know.

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.

Don't forget - in next door Leasowe, the three Labour councillors didn't secure a single penny for road repairs this year!

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.

Wallasey has three Conservative Councillors (Paul Hayes, Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie) and nine Labour Councillors.

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.

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:

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 them transition into the workplace.

3. SPECIALIST STUDIES:

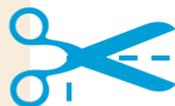
Young people in Wirral who wish to continue studying subjects such as maths and physics are set to benefit from a new world-leading maths education with a brand new specialist school backed by a top university.

Why is it that Wirral struggles with 'big' engineering projects?

The traffic signals promised for Junction 1 of the M53 by March 2018 are finally being installed.

Councillor Paul Hayes has also been contacted by people who have been forced to take alternative routes to work, due to the delays at the docks bridge.

The Council didn't include any 'penalty clauses' for delays in the contract either...



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 Paul Hayes, Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie, Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey CH44 8ED

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Join as a member for £25 a year: www.conservatives.com/join - every member makes us stronger!

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