

November 2018

Reporting back...

by Councillor Steve Williams

MASSIVE RESPONSE TO SURVEY

It's not too late to tell us your views on local issues:
visit www.wirralconservatives.com/stevewilliams

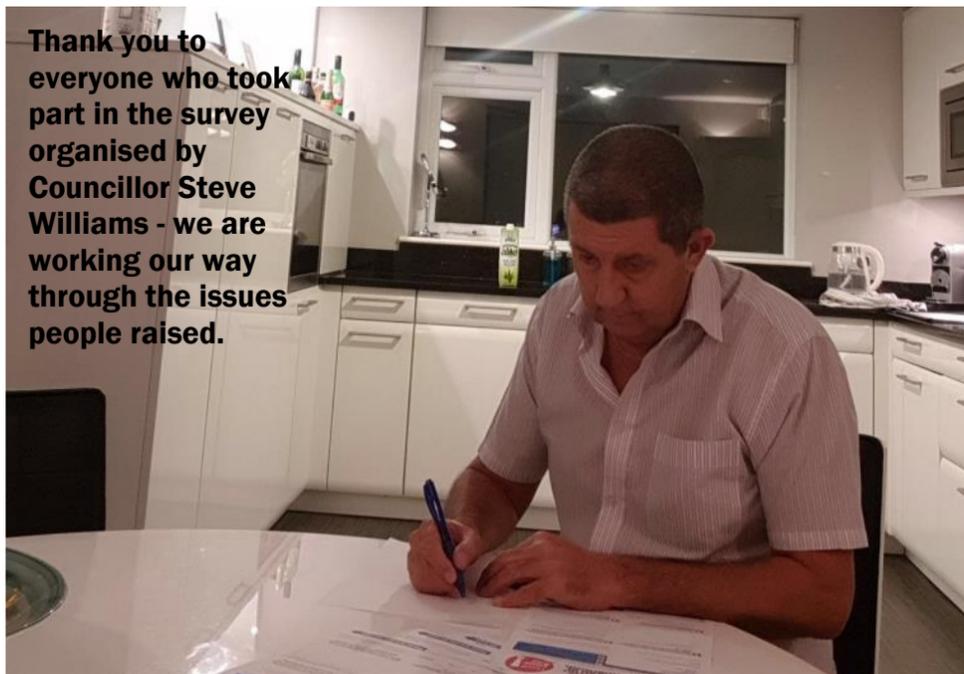
There has been a massive response to the survey delivered last month to 2,180 people in this part of Moreton.

The survey, organised by Councillor Steve Williams, was delivered by volunteers and asked for views on local issues in our community.

Steve said: "It's really important to me, Chris and Bruce that we keep in touch all year round, not just at election time. Our survey is just one of the ways we do this. Thanks to everyone who took part."

In the rest of this newsletter we report back on the issues people told us about and what we're doing to help.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey organised by Councillor Steve Williams - we are working our way through the issues people raised.



Barnston Lane:

Miss J in Barnston Lane tells us about some rubbish that has been dumped by the fence of the Farmers arms and it's been there three weeks! We contacted the Waste Department and asked for it to be removed, and it has been!

Town Meadow Station:

Mr W in Tern Way mentions the long-awaited new railway station to serve the Millhouse and Lingham areas. Sadly, Labour councillors chose to build a new station at Maghull instead but we'll keep pushing.

Lingham Park play area:

Several residents are concerned about vandalism of the children's play area and the often broken bottles that are left behind after the night before. We've asked the Council's Community Patrol and Youth Outreach Teams for extra visits.

Scrambler Bikes:

Mr N in Digg Lane was one of several residents to tell us that scrambler bikes are still a problem in the area, especially Lingham Park. Our petition last year did lead to some extra police patrols and 'Operation Brookdale' has seen more than 300 bikes seized. Proving it's not just teenagers, a 52 year old male is the latest to be prosecuted for using one...

Curlew Way flats:

Mr B in Curlew Way asks when the Council is going to rebuild or replace the flats in Curlew Way. The answer is, they're not! The Council doesn't own them. The landlord is Magenta Living and they have their own programme of refurbishment and repairs....

SURVEY RESULTS IN BRIEF: what people told us.

- 1 56% of people said they don't receive the Council's Wirral View newspaper:**
Labour is spending £140,000 on it this year. The Wirral News also closed down, blaming the Town Hall for publishing it's own, taxpayer-subsidised newspaper.
- 2 Three empty properties were reported by residents:**
Steve, Chris and Bruce want the Town Hall to bring more of the 6,000 empty homes back into use to relieve pressure on our Green Belt and provide decent homes for people to live in.
- 3 The Town Hall's performance was given an average of 4.6 out of 10:**
While some people praised particular services, the overall rating showed there is room for improvement on how the Town Hall uses it's £800 million budget to provide local services.

Tell us YOUR views: www.wirralconservatives.com/stevewilliams



Roads and pot holes

Wirral Council has been given extra money by the Government to fix pot holes. The recent budget announced a further £420 million this year and Wirral will receive a share of that as well.

Many residents used our survey to tell us about local roads that have pot holes and which, in some cases, need a full resurfacing.

Lingham Lane:

Mr T told us about pot holes at the top of Lingham Lane, near the junction with Town Meadow Lane. We have reported this to the Highways Department and await a report back from the Highways Inspector.

Millhouse Lane:

Mr T in Wastdale Drive told us about some pot holes near the site of the former Millhouse Pub, where construction work is taking place. We'll ask for an inspection when the work is finished and see what action can be taken.

Digg Lane:

Several residents, including Mr C in Litherland Avenue and Mr B in Overgreen Grove mentioned Digg Lane. We've been asking for this road to be repaired for a while. The concrete slab construction isn't used any more but we did secure some cash to have the road resurfaced and it's due to be done by April.

Leasowe Road:

A couple of residents told us about the pot hole near the junction with the Leasowe Castle. This is in the Leasowe Ward, with three Labour Councillors. We're not sure if they've done anything about it - so we've reported it as well.

Maryland Lane:

Miss M in Wastdale Drive asked us what can be done about the poor condition of the road that leads to our Community Centre. We've asked for Highways Inspectors to take a look, especially as the centre is used by many of our older residents.

Smilie Avenue:

Mrs W of Town Meadow Lane tells us a couple of pot holes are developing on Smilie Avenue. We've reported those as well. Look out for a Council worker with a can of white spray marking them up!

Curlew Court:

Several residents of Curlew Court have told us about the overgrown trees and uneven pavements near their flats. Steve has visited and will be taking these issues up with the Council and Magenta Living, the landlord.

Pasture Road Library:

Mrs C in Litherland Avenue suggests turning the now vacant land behind the library into a car park. Nice idea but the Town Hall has other plans - they want to see the site developed with new housing.

Frankby Cemetery

Mr R in Glasier Road tells us he recently paid £30 for a garden strimmer to clear the overgrown grass on a grave, adding 'it was either that or a flock of sheep'. This isn't good enough - the Council has a budget for maintaining our cemeteries.

Free newspapers:

Ms M in Berrylands Road isn't happy that she doesn't get a free newspaper anymore. We weren't too chuffed either, when the Wirral News closed down. The publishers said they couldn't compete with the taxpayer-funded Wirral View. You can, however, now buy the Wirral Globe in many newsagents...

Dog fouling on the coast:

Ms J in Digg Lane is one of the many responsible owners who picks up after her dog but isn't happy that others don't. The Embankment needs regular clean ups. We've asked the Council to do see if the signs (for the owners) are adequate and if extra patrols can be provided. Labour's plan for a total ban on dogs in the area is now 'under review' following a massive outcry.



Cadbury field:

A resident has asked what's happening to the plan for new houses on the land on Pasture Road. We understand that land tests are currently being carried out. We raised concerns at the time planning permission was granted that the land is part of the Flood Plain.



Thanks to the residents who told us about overgrown hedges in Berrylands Road. Steve contacted the Highways Department and the hedges have now been cut back.

WHY WE DO THE SURVEY:

There are around 10,700 residents in the 'ward' covered by Councillors Steve Williams, Chris Blakeley and Bruce Berry.

While our councillors call door-to-door each week, we don't get to speak to everyone. That's why we do this survey.

It gives residents who we may not yet have spoken to the chance to tell us about problems in their road.

A number of people who have replied to this survey told us they vote Labour nationally but vote for us at council elections because we work all year round.



MORE MORETON PENSIONERS HELPED WITH WINTER FUEL BILLS

1. Winter Fuel Payments:

The latest figures show that a record 65,080 pensioners in Wirral are getting the Winter Fuel Payments, up from 56,000 under Labour. Payments between £100 and £300 will be paid automatically this winter.

2. Warm Home Discount:

Conservatives have announced that low income families, as well as many pensioners receiving 'Pension Credit', will also receive £140 off electricity bills this winter, including people who have pre-pay meters.

3. Interest-free Cosy Loans:

Residents in Wirral who want to improve their home's insulation and energy efficiency may also be able to get help with interest-free 'Cosy Loans'. Call 0151 647 5471 for details.

FACEBOOK PAGE IS A HIT WITH RESIDENTS

3,623 'LIKES' SO FAR...

'News for Moreton and Saughall Massie' is the Facebook page set up by Councillors Steve Williams, Chris Blakeley and Bruce Berry to keep residents up to date with local news, events and alerts.

Search for 'News for Moreton and Saughall Massie' and like, share and comment!



Berrylands Close:

This quiet area or mainly sheltered bungalows was left in the dark after a street light went out and wasn't repaired. Following concerns raised by residents, Steve has reported it for repair. We'd like to see areas such as this made a priority for the Council's new 'LED' lights, following the grant from the Government.

Pasture Road:

Several complaints about drug use by youngsters in the vicinity. Residents living nearby don't want to have to walk past it and why should they? We've reported it to police.

Eskdale Avenue:

A problem with a tree has been reported by Steve to Magenta Living, as it's on their land.

Coastal parking charges:

One resident simply said 'coastal parking charges'. We hope she's against them - as the plan to introduce them has been scrapped following our campaign.

Broken pavements:

Mr W in Tern Way, answering our question about pot holes in roads, asks 'What about broken pavements as well'. If there are pavements that need attention in your road, let us know and we'll see if we can have them fixed...

Access Protection:

A resident of Meadfoot Road would like the white 'H' markings outside driveways to be repainted. Known as 'Access Protection Markings', these are often paid for by residents. As such, the Council has said they don't replace them until they either resurface or repair roads or replace other road markings.

Green Belt:

Several residents ask what is happening. The Town Hall is finally working on a Local Plan to protect it, 14 years after it was due! In the meantime, Steve, Chris and Bruce continue to work with campaign groups to fight plans that would see it built on. Labour still wants to build expensive new homes on Green Belt at Hoylake...



HOW TO SET UP A NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME IN YOUR ROAD

Several residents indicated that they would like to know more about setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme where they live. In some roads, schemes that were set up years ago have fallen by the wayside as Scheme Co-ordinators move house or pass away. There's a really good page online at www.merseyside.police.uk. Alternatively, phone (0151) 777 8970 or email citizens.in.policing@merseyside.police.uk if you'd like to know more.

BUDGET LOWERS TAXES, RAISES PAY AND BOOSTS NHS AND CARE

1. Personal Allowance up:

Conservatives are increasing the amount you can earn before you pay income tax - to £12,500. Someone who pays basic rate tax will be paying £1,205 a year less than under the last Labour Government.

2. National Living Wage rises:

We are also increasing the National Living Wage to £8.21 an hour from April 2019, up from £5.93 under Labour (for the Minimum Wage). We're also prosecuting more employers who fail to pay it.

3. Biggest ever boost for NHS:

The Budget confirmed that our NHS will receive an extra £20.5 billion EVERY year and, at the same time, local councils are to get an extra £650 million to help with social care and looking after the elderly.

To find out more: www.conservatives.com/budget2018





£2 MILLION BOOST FOR ARROWE PARK HOSPITAL

Weeds on pavements:

Several residents asked why they are no longer sprayed. Are you sitting comfortably? Here's the Council's reply: the weather in the first half of the year delayed the first of two planned sprays. This enabled the weeds to grow so that, by the time of the second spray, it wasn't enough to kill them off. You did ask..

Tree pruning:

The Council's contractor tells us they are only pruning trees that are a danger. We have managed to get some overgrown trees cut back (eventually).

Cars on pavements:

The Council will only issue tickets where parking restrictions are in place and the police will only act when a vehicle is causing an obstruction. Some of the junctions, including Litherland Avenue and Digg Lane, can be difficult for drivers to see.

Willaston Road:

Ms C in Willaston Road tells us some of the roads look like a scene from 'Shameless' at times - with rubbish left strewn across the roads and pavements. As always, it's one or two households who are the tossers - tossing their rubbish and expecting others to pick it up. We've asked for better co-ordination between street cleaners and the bin wagons as well.

Streetlights:

Following a grant of £4.6 million from the Government, all street lights are, gradually, being replaced with the more reliable LED style which also use less energy.

...and finally

Thanks to those residents who told us they appreciate the work that Steve, Chris and Bruce do. We know many people, who vote Labour nationally, vote for us locally because of that.

Even before the recent Budget, Arrowse Park Hospital was given a £2 million boost in September to help cope with extra demand this winter.

Across the country, 900 extra hospital beds will be provided. A further £240 million is to be shared among councils to help them provide more support for people who are leaving hospital and returning home.

Wirral Council has received £1.8 million from this extra cash.

There's good news for the ambulance service as well. They have been given £36 million to buy 256 of the latest vehicles fitted with the most modern equipment.



The NHS Clinical Commissioning Group in Wirral (the 'CCG') has is asking for views on changes to the way urgent care is provided, including a new Urgent Treatment Centre at Arrowse Park Hospital.

The changes, if agreed, will see some services at Walk In Centres transferred to Arrowse Park. Residents can find out more and give their views to the CCG until 12th December at www.wirralurgentcare.co.uk or at one of the public roadshows they've organised - call the CCG on 0151 651 0011 for details.

LOCAL 'FRIENDS' GROUPS THAT NEED OUR SUPPORT...

Christmas Lights Birkenhead Kennels Moreton in Bloom

Several residents responded to our survey question about getting involved in three of the local 'Friends' Groups.

Christmas Lights and Moreton in Bloom

Well done, one again to residents Angela and Steve Pouncey for all their work to ensure Moreton Cross has Christmas Lights once again.

Thank you also to all the local businesses that have sponsored a light column. The cost of the lights is raised through fundraising and the Group welcome any support people can give.

Many residents have also commented on the planters during the summer.

If you're on Facebook, search for Moreton Christmas Lights and Moreton in Bloom for details.

Birkenhead Kennels

Seven years ago, Labour Councillors tried to have the kennels closed down.

Following a big campaign, we supported a Friends Group to run it instead and it's now doing better than ever to help strays, abandoned and abused dogs find new homes.

To find out more, call 0151 556 1220 or visit www.fobk.org.uk if you'd like to know more.

Join us and help us win: www.conservatives.com/join

