

November 2018

Reporting back...

by Councillor Paul Hayes

MASSIVE RESPONSE TO SURVEY

There has been a massive response to the survey delivered last month to 2,760 people in this part of Wallasey.

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

Paul said: "It's really important to me, Ian and Lesley 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 Paul Hayes - we are working our way through the issues people raised.



Claremount Road:

Mr L in Rosclare Drive told us that 'Claremount Road is always breaking up'. We had part of the road resurfaced two years ago and, following Mr L's comments, we've asked for Highways Inspectors to check out the rest and we'll ask about having it included in the next annual maintenance programme.

Fieldway:

A resident in Brookway asked what can be done about anti-social behaviour in the Fieldway, Belvidere Road area. The Town Hall disabled the CCTV camera near the playing fields, which hasn't helped! We have contacted the Neighbourhood Inspector to see what can be done.

Vyner Road:

Sticking with crime, Mr E in Vyner Road asked if more information could be shared about car damage, car theft and break ins. We agree. While crime overall is DOWN, the new police website www.police.uk gives details of all reported crimes, the location, and says if arrests have been made. @merseypolice on Twitter also gives information. See page two for details of how to set up a HomeWatch.

Winchester Drive:

Mrs M told us she is still concerned over pavement parking. We agree but in narrow roads, there is often very little that can be done - we did arrange for 'Access Protection Markings' for residents in the road and the new speed humps will slow the traffic but, as many homes now have two cars or more, we don't have a solution...yet!

SURVEY RESULTS IN BRIEF:

- 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:** Paul, Lesley and Ian 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/paulhayes



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.

Mayfield Road:

Mrs M in Leyburn Road, Mr and Mrs D in The Laund and Mr P in Clarendon Court all told us about pot holes in this road. We have reported this to the Highways Department and await a report back from the Highways Inspector.

Hoselide Road:

Mr N in Clarendon Court told us 'it's been years' since this road was done. We agree, that's why, last year, we asked for it to be resurfaced. It's been included in this year's programme and so should (hopefully) be done by April.

St George's Road:

Following a meeting with the Headteacher at St George's Primary, we secured some extra cash to resurface that end of the road, including installing a better safety surface near the school.

Leander Road:

During our doorstep survey in 2017, residents in this road showed us the poor state it was in. We agreed and it has now been resurfaced.

Seaview Road:

We asked for this road to be added but it wasn't included in this year's programme. Almost immediately after, several large pot holes developed. We've had most of those filled but will be asking for this road to be included in next year's resurfacing programme.

Kingsway:

Thumbs up to the Council for agreeing to our request to resurface this road. But thumbs down for not fixing the pot holes that lead into Princesway. Mrs C in Princesway agrees. We've asked again...

Wallasey Road:

Mr H in Uppingham Road says simply: "Do not use the same contractor who did Wallasey Road." We agree - the junction with Belvidere looks worse than before. We've told the Highways Department and hope that the methods won't be repeated.

Broadway Avenue:

Mr R raised several issues, including overflowing litterbins. We've asked for several of the old style 'open top' litterbins to be replaced with the new style, larger bins, that don't allow litter to blow away and take longer to fill up.

Wallasey Road:

Several residents asked what is happening about the flooding at the pedestrian crossing near the Post Office. We first raised this issue after the botched resurfacing of the road. We've been told it is being 'investigated' by Highways Officers. Perhaps Miss Marple would have found the answer quicker...

Dominick House

Ms B in Seaview Road asked what is happening with the vacant Dominick House in Liscard, suggesting it is turned into residential flats. The Ministry of Housing is supporting the

conversion of former flats and offices and we've asked the Council whether a gentle 'shove' to the owner can be given...

Leyburn Road:

Mr T asked us to 'ensure that general waste collection does not go from a two week collection to a longer period'. We will do our best! We submitted a petition against this last year, however, at a recent council meeting, a Labour Councillor from Birkenhead again called for three weekly collection!

Plastic recycling:

Talking of rubbish, Miss M in Princesway isn't too impressed with the limited plastic recycling in the Borough. We know that the Waste Authority in Liverpool is looking to improve recycling rates and that manufacturers are being pushed to use less packaging.



Liscard taxi rank:

Mr P in Clarendon Court isn't happy at the fumes from taxis standing idle on the taxi rank. The evidence proves he's right - this road exceeded the national air pollution limits. As a result, vehicles left idling can now be fined £20. We've asked the Town Hall's Licensing Department how many have been!



Highways Inspectors have now marked up some of the pot holes in the road, following our requests to use some of the extra money the Council has been given by the Government. We'll be asking for Mayfield Road to be considered for full resurfacing.

WHY WE DO THE SURVEY:

There are around 11,600 residents in the 'ward' covered by Councillors Paul Hayes, Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie.

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 PENSIONERS IN WALLASEY 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:

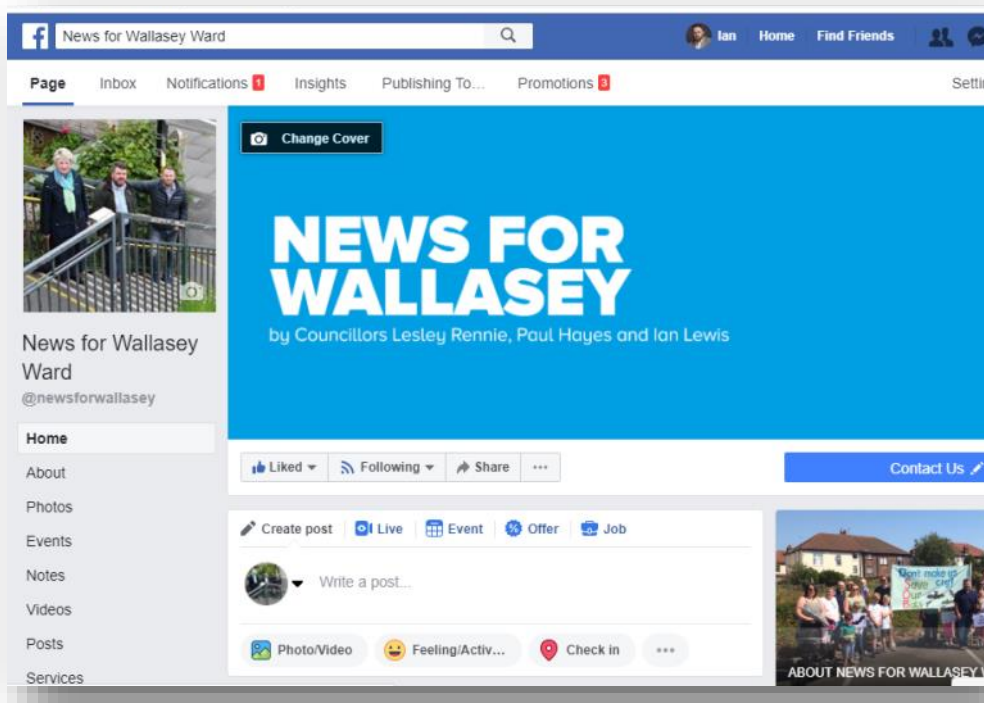
Residents in Wirral who want to improve their home's insulation and energy efficiency may also be able to get help with interest-free 'Cosy Loans'. Call 0151 647 5471 for details.

FACEBOOK PAGE IS A HIT WITH RESIDENTS

615 'LIKES' SO FAR...

'News for Wallasey Ward' is the Facebook page set up by Councillors Paul Hayes, Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie to keep residents up to date with local news, events and alerts.

Search for 'News for Wallasey Ward' and like, share and comment!



St Albans Road bus stop:

Mrs A in Brookway asked why the bus shelters at St Albans Road, Liscard have 'no ends' to protect you from the wind and rain. We contacted Merseytravel and their answer is: 'the pavement isn't wide enough' and an enclosed bus stop would make it difficult for buggies and wheelchairs.

A weekly newspaper:

Mrs D in Kingsway told us she would like to receive a weekly newspaper. Sadly, that's not something we can help with as it's down to the Wirral Globe. We did try to stop the Wirral View though, the Council's own monthly paper, that was blamed for the closure of the Wirral News.

Affordable housing:

A resident of Newland Drive asks for more affordable housing in Wallasey. We agree - it's one of the reasons we are pushing the Town Hall to have a Local Plan - showing the areas that can be developed and those, like the Green Belt, that should not. The resident also tells us he votes Labour but likes our newsletters and to 'keep it up'. We will!

Coastal parking charges:

Mrs M in Rosclare Drive said 'coastal parking charges'. We hope she's against them - as the plan to introduce them has been scrapped following our campaign.

Harrison Park toilets:

Mrs G in Shrewsbury Road and Mrs K in Belvidere Road would like toilets in Harrison Park. There has been a proposal for a café, with toilets, but it depends on the costs to the café and if the whole project is feasible.

Belvidere Road:

Ms C is one of the residents who has raised the parking problems near the shops and vehicles parking on double yellow lines, making visibility poor for drivers. Mr H in Kingsway told us about the same problem opposite Stanley's on Seaview Road. The Council's Parking Wardens are increasing activity in areas such as this. You've been warned! Vehicles causing an obstruction can be moved by the police.



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.



£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:

Rosclare Drive and Uppingham Road are two of the roads where residents have told us trees need pruning. The Council's contractor tells us they are only pruning trees that are a danger. We did manage to get two overgrown trees on Belvidere Road cut back (eventually) but a site meeting with the Council's manager in Rugby Road last year was less than useful - he simply refused, even though damage is being caused to a wall.

Campervans on the prom:

Mrs M in Leyburn Road was one of several to raise this. We can advise that, later this month, a new traffic regulation will stop overnight parking.

Cars on pavements:

Mr N in Claremount Court and Mr R in Broadway Avenue both raised this. 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.

Grass verges:

We have asked for grass verges in Broadway Avenue, Brookway, Belvidere Road, Fieldway, Meadway and Rosclare Drive to be 'spade edged' this winter.

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.

Even before the recent Budget, Arrowe 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 Arrowe Park Hospital.

The changes, if agreed, will see some services at Walk In Centres transferred to Arrowe 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.

THREE 'FRIENDS' GROUPS THAT NEED YOUR SUPPORT..

[Harrison Park](#) [Birkenhead Kennels](#) [Wallasey Village Library](#)



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

Harrison Park

The Friends of Harrison Park meet monthly at Community Soul café in Wallasey Village and also organise litter picks and events, such as the recent Hallowe'en night. You can find out more on Facebook or look for details on the park noticeboards.

Birkenhead Kennels

Councillor Ian Lewis got more involved in the Kennels than he

imagined, as he soon after adopted Tyson, seen here, on a visit to the library. The kennels are run by volunteers and the Council maintains the building. To find out more, call 0151 556 1220 or visit www.fobk.org.uk if you'd like to know more.

Wallasey Village Library

Barbara, and the Friends, are doing a fantastic job to support the library, including making better use of the building for community groups and hosting regular talks and events. You'll find the Wallasey Village Library Friends on Facebook or pop in for details.