

newsl**ine**

Wirral's Labour Council has been criticised after it was revealed a special fund to help the homeless has been left untouched...



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The Government is about to consult on plans to ban councils such as Wirral from charging for waste collection...



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£1.4 MILLION BOOST FOR ROAD REPAIRS

There's good news for Wirral's roads this month after it was confirmed the Council will receive a £1.465 million boost for repairs and resurfacing.

Nationally, £29 billion will be spent, including £420 million for pot hole repairs this year.

In December, the Director of Highways asked Councillors to suggest roads that need repair.

Last year, the three Labour Councillors failed to have a single road in our area included in the Structural Maintenance Programme.

Local campaigner Debbie Caplin has also nominated many roads in

our community.

Residents also responded to the article on our Facebook page with their suggestions.

One of the top roads for repair, according to residents is Leasowe Road, near the junction of Reeds Lane.

If your road has a pot hole, let Debbie know! Use the contact details on the back page or www.wirraconservatives.com/potholes



Debbie has reported the poor condition of the road surface on Leasowe Road, near the junction with Reeds Lane.

More news in brief:

1. First free school for Wirral?

The Frank Field Education Trust has announced an application to open **Wirral's first 'Free School' to help more students reach their full potential.** Conservative Councillors voted to support the application.

2. Local NHS rated as 'Outstanding'

The Care Quality Commission rated mental health, learning disability and community physical health services provided by the Cheshire & Wirral **NHS Partnership as 'outstanding'** after their latest inspection.

3. New cap on costs for 'rent to own' schemes

The credit costs from companies such as Bighthouse will be capped at no more than the cost of the product. The move will stop people being charged over the odds for things like washing machines and fridges.

4. United Utilities to cut water bills (and leaks)

The North West water company has announced that bills will be reduced by more than 10% over the next few years. The company has also announced extra measures to reduce the number of water leaks.

Action in our community:

Since our last newsletter:

RIVER BIRKET:

We have again asked for overgrown hedgerows along the Birket to be cut back.

SUNFIELD ROAD:

The footpath to Reeds Lane and the station is frequently littered, even though there is a bin at the end! Debbie has asked the Town Hall to see if the area can be swept more regularly.

CROFT DRIVE:

The faded junction markings and lines at Upton Road have been raised several times - Debbie has asked the Highways Department for action for a third time...

PINETREE GROVE:

The replacement of streetlights, following a £4.6 million grant from the Government was reported in our last newsletter. Since then, residents in Pinetree Grove and Haig Avenue have asked for action.

RAVENHILL CRESCENT:

We have reported various pot holes and also requested action on the uneven pavements. Let's hope this road gets a share of the £1.4million for road repairs!

HAYFIELD PLACE:

Several residents in Hayfield Place have contacted Debbie about the poor street lighting in their road. Their previous requests to the Council didn't even get a response! Debbie has contacted the Department to ask what is happening and is following it up with calls to make sure the road is not forgotten.

GRAMPIAN WAY:

The uneven pavements and broken flags along parts of Grampian Way have been reported by Debbie for action.

CHRISTCHURCH:

Well done to the PTA, staff and volunteers who made the school Christmas Fair such a success.

SCOUT POST:

Thank you to the Wirral Scout Post for delivering Debbie's Christmas cards to residents this year. Debbie's were among more than 400,000 delivered!

TELL US YOUR VIEWS ON THE BUDGET

November's Budget included a big increase for money for the NHS, as well as an increase in the National Living Wage and tax cuts for the lowest paid.

Debbie Caplin is carrying out a survey of 600 residents to ask for their views on the changes and for suggestions for the next Budget. If you receive one in the post, please fill it in and post it back.

Take part online: www.wirralconservatives.com/budget2018



TIMETABLE FOR GREEN BELT PLAN REVEALED

In our last newsletter, we reported how a 2004 Act of Parliament, passed by Labour, requires all local councils to **have a 'Local Plan'**. As well as showing which areas should be developed, the Local Plan also shows which areas are protected, such as Green Belt.

For the last 15 years, Wirral's Labour-run Council has failed to comply with the law and no Local Plan is in place.

Only after the Government finally lost patience with their excuses has the Town Hall finally started work on the Local Plan.

We have now obtained the Town Hall's timetable for the adoption of the Local Plan.

July 2019: the draft Local Plan will be voted on by the Council

Late 2019: the Ministry of Housing will carry out a 'Local Examination' of the Plan, in public.

2021: the Local Plan will return to the Council for adoption.

Local campaigner Debbie Caplin said: "By the time the Local Plan is in force, 17 years will have passed since the original Act of Parliament. "How much of our Green Space will have been lost by then?"

"We must do all we can to protect Wirral's valuable Green Belt and push development into those areas that really need it."

BIG DECLINE IN FIRE INCIDENTS

The latest figures show the work to prevent fires in homes is paying off.

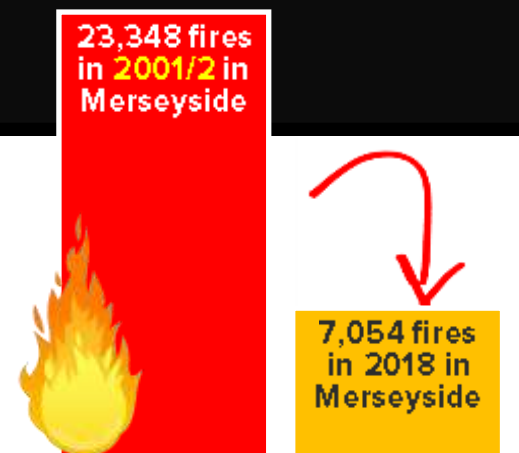
Back in 2001/2, there were 23,348 fires attended to by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service.

The latest figures released by the Home Office showed this has been reduced to 7,054.

That's 16,000 fewer homes and properties damaged by fire.

Merseyside Firefighters carry-out pre-arranged visits to properties, made by appointment with the homeowner/occupant, to carry out Home Fire Safety Checks.

To check whether you are eligible for a visit call 0800 7315958.



Source: Home Office, Fire Statistics Data Tables, November 2018

Have you noticed the improvements close to and around the Green Hut at Moreton Shore?

Councillor Steve Williams, representing the neighbouring ward of Moreton West & Saughall Massie, is working with Ian and Gill McGinn, leaseholders of the Green Hut, to see what else can be done to make the area more of a community space.

Council officers have some concerns because any work done must fit in with the keeping of the North Wirral Coastal Park.

Debbie supports work to make this a welcoming and friendly area. The area has been transformed in recent months by Ian and Gill and volunteers from the Friends of the Coastal Park.



WIRRAL SLAMMED FOR STASHING HOMELESS CASH

EXCLUSIVE

Figures obtained by Wirral's Conservatives show the Council has been sitting on £122,000 for the homeless.

The cash was set aside in March 2017 but has been untouched, gaining interest for the Council.

A year later, the Government announced a further £1.2 billion to help the homeless and tackle rough sleeping.

The Ministry of Housing is also providing extra support to local councils for those most at risk of homelessness, including victims of domestic violence as well as people with poor mental health and addiction problems.

DEBBIE GETS CHAPELHILL ROAD GRAFFITI CLEARED

One of Debbie's friends living in the Sandbrook area asked for her help to have graffiti removed from the walls near her home, after requests to the Town Hall were ignored.

Debbie called round to see it for herself and immediately contacted the Town Hall to ask why it hadn't been actioned. Soon after, it was!



MORETON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS APPEAL

Many people will be aware that Moreton has been lit with festive lights for the last 15 years or so, much of this is down to the hard work of Angela and Steve Pouncey who have to raise funds year on year to fund them.

The Council do not pay anything towards the lights. all the money has to be raised locally.

We need a minimum of £4,000 to ensure we have lights for Christmas 2019. Angela and Steve have already started to raise funds for next year.

CAN YOU HELP?

Any donation large or small would be really appreciated.

You can donate in a variety of ways:

Directly to Moreton Christmas Lights community bank account:

- Sort code: 20-50-36
- Account number: 60798975

Donate via the collection boxes in a variety of shops in Moreton with the Christmas Lights logo.

See more on their Facebook Page

YOUTH JOBLESS IN MORETON & LEASOWE AT RECORD LOW

With more people in full time, permanent jobs than ever before, the latest employment figures have revealed that the number of young people out of work is down.

Six years ago, 2,540 young people in Wirral were out of work and claiming benefits.

Now, that is down to 1,390 and, here in 'Leasowe and Moreton East', 80 young people are out of work and claiming benefits.

We are helping more young people in Wirral get the skills that employers need to compete:

- 1.** The biggest-ever increase in apprenticeships with more skills and qualifications.
- 2.** For the first time, we've included apprenticeships in the Minimum Wage laws.
- 3.** Backing the Merseytravel Apprentice Travelcard to slash the cost of bus travel.

NATIONAL LIVING WAGE GOING UP IN APRIL

Hundreds of people across Moreton and Leasowe are set to benefit from a pay rise from April.

The National Living Wage rises by almost 5% to £8.21 an hour.

Meanwhile, the basic State Pension will be going up by £169 a year and the New State Pension by £221 a year.

TOWN HALL REPORT:

Wirral currently has a Labour-run Council - Labour has 37 of the 66 seats; Conservatives 21, Liberal Democrats 5, Independent ex-Labour 2 and the Green Party 1 seat. Leasowe & Moreton East has three Labour Councillors and a Labour MP.

Recruitment consultants: The cost of Town Hall senior directors and how they are recruited has again been slammed.

Following the sudden resignation of the recently-appointed 'Corporate Director for Economic and Housing Growth', on £115,000 a year, we've discovered the Council paid recruitment consultants £14,000 to recruit him.

Wirral's Conservatives have called for this money to be repaid to the Council.

Electric vehicle points: Last year, it was revealed that Wirral Council had failed to bid for a £4.5 million Government fund to install more electric vehicle charging points in the Borough.

As well as being better for the environment, many of our local motor manufacturing jobs are increasingly dependent on the growth of electric vehicles.

The Town Hall finally acted in December and carried out a survey!

If you need the help of Debbie Caplin and the Action Team our contact details are below:



BROWN BIN CHARGES TO BE BANNED?

PLUS: A recent Town Hall report revealed how their plans to sign up another 4,000 households to the Garden Waste charge had flopped.

In a further blow to Labour's plans, the Government has announced it is going to overhaul the country's collection and recycling of waste.

The plans, announced by the Department of the Environment, would BAN councils from charging for collection of garden waste and

also oblige them to offer weekly collections of waste.

The proposals will be subject to consultation and are designed to reverse the decline in recycling and also force producers to use less packaging such as plastics.

Debbie Caplin said: "Since Labour imposed a charge for garden waste in Wirral, recycling rates have slumped.

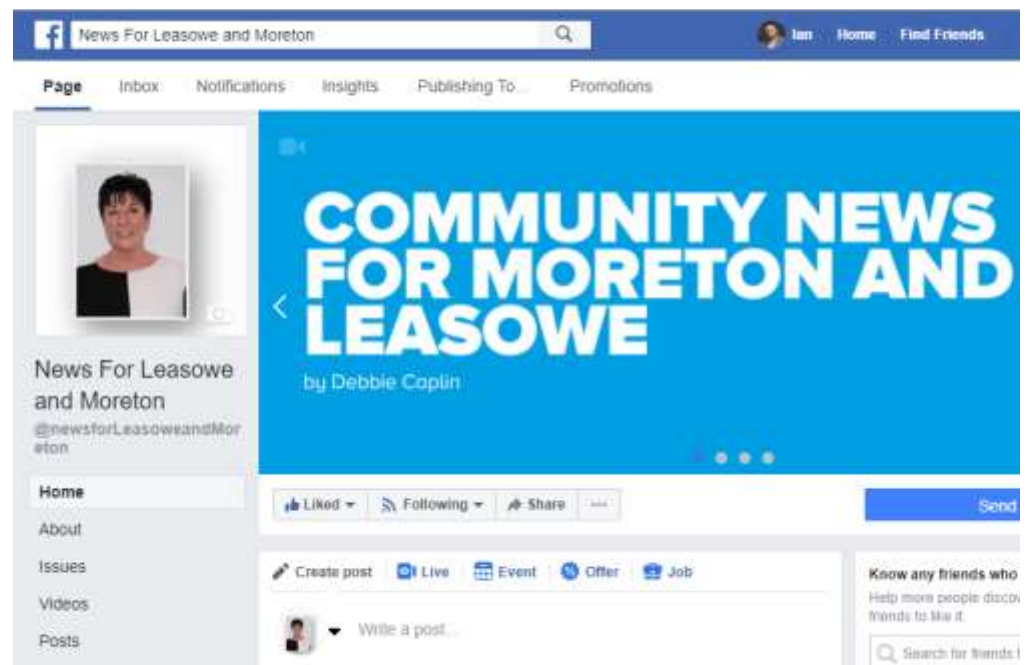
"They won't like what the Government is now proposing but the plans will help residents and also boost recycling."

SCHOOLS IN MORETON AND LEASOWE SHARE IN CASH FOR EQUIPMENT

The Budget in November also announced extra cash that would be given direct to schools and, in our area, this includes:

- Sandbrook Primary: £5,600
- Christchurch CE Primary: £8,706
- Eastway: £6,551
- Castleway Primary: £5,530
- Leasowe Primary: £5,823
- Leasowe Nursery: £4,770
- Holy Spirit: £6,694
- Sacred Heart: £9,433

A full list of all the schools in Wirral and the amounts they are receiving can be found on our Facebook Page: 'News for Moreton and Leasowe'



ANOTHER LABOUR COUNCILLOR QUILTS

'Hard left takeover of Labour Party almost complete'

1. Labour Councillor Mike Sullivan quits, blaming hard left bullies and 'parasites'.

2. Frank Field MP quits, blaming a culture of ' nastiness ' in Wirral Labour

3. Former hard-left Wirral Council Leader Yvonne Nolan to stand again.

In the last issue, we reported how Frank Field MP had left the Parliamentary Labour Party, while former Militant Leader, Derek Hatton, was on his way back. We had a massive response from residents, including many traditional Labour voters here in Moreton and Leasowe.

Now, in a further blow, senior Labour Councillor Moira McLaughlin has also quit the Party.

In her resignation statement at the last council meeting, Councillor McLaughlin said; "I have no confidence that the Labour Party has the will or the means to resist the hard left takeover of the Party here on Wirral, which is now almost complete."

TELL US YOUR VIEWS

Debbie and the team are out and about calling on residents all year round, not just at election time. If you have an issue or an idea to make our community better, contact us or take part in our survey online www.wirralconservatives.com/debbiecaplin

CONTACT DEBBIE CAPLIN:

Email: debbielynsaycaplin@gmail.com

Phone/text: 07436 799967

Twitter: @caplindebbie

Write: 39 Alnwick Drive, Moreton,

Wirral CH46 6ET