

# newsl<sup>ine</sup>

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



Pg3

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



Pg4

# VICTORY IN FIGHT TO SAVE GARDEN HEY GREEN BELT

With the Town Hall's ongoing failure to protect Wirral's Green Belt, there was some good news last month. The campaign by local councillor Steve Williams to stop houses being built on Green Belt land in Saughall Massie was upheld on appeal.

The site of the former nurseries on Garden Hey Road has seen a long-running battle between developers and the local community.

After the latest appeal against refusal, the planning inspector highlighted a change in Government policy, giving extra protection to Green Belt, as a key consideration in throwing out the appeal, adding: "The proposal would significantly harm the character and appearance of the area."

Steve said: "You only have to look at

the monstrosity being built on Saughall Massie Road to see what this council thinks of our precious Green Belt."

"The fact the independent Planning Inspector agreed with us on this site in Garden Hey Road is fantastic news and sends a clear message to both the Labour Council and developers."

"Thanks to all those residents who worked with me, Chris and Bruce."

Have your say on the Green Belt: [www.wirralconservatives.com/](http://www.wirralconservatives.com/)



Local Councillor Steve Williams is delighted with the decision to protect the Green Belt on Garden Hey Road.

TELL US YOUR VIEWS

## 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 Brighthouse 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:

Your three local Councillors for Moreton and Saughall Massie are fighting for a fair share of Wirral Council's budget as well as keeping residents informed about issues in our community. Since our last newsletter:

### MORETON HILLS GOLF:

Planning permission has been granted for an 18 hole adventure golf course at Moreton Hills Golf Centre in Tarran Way South.

### FLY TIPPING:

Fly tipping is still taking place in our town. The latest incidents have both been in Carr Lane. The Council has been provided with evidence and asked to take action. More than 20,000 people saw the pictures that we posted on our Facebook page of the dumped rubbish.

### BYE, BYE BILL!

Labour's latest candidate for Moreton and Saughall Massie is now standing for election in Tranmere instead. Bill McGenity was the 10th candidate that Labour has put up. None have stuck around.

### MAGHULL FIRST...

In spite of massive support for a new station at Town Meadow (between Moreton and Meols), Labour-run Merseytravel decided instead to build a new station at Maghull. The new station looks great but we would have preferred to see it here!

### MERSEY TUNNEL TOLLS:

Thank you to those residents who have been in touch following Steve's recent comments in the Liverpool Echo, supporting the removal of the tolls. All parties have promised this (except the Greens!), but none have yet delivered on it!

### OAK AVENUE:

A planning application has been submitted to build five houses in the rear of 18 Oak Avenue, Saughall Massie. Your councillors have asked for this application to be heard at a meeting of the Council's Planning Committee.

## CHRISTCHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to the PTA, staff and children who made this year's Christmas Fair at Christchurch Primary School such a great success.

Local councillors Steve Williams, Chris Blakeley and Bruce Berry are big supporters of our local primary schools and always try to support events such as this.

There are currently vacancies for school governors at some schools in Wirral: [www.wirral.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-governors](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-governors)



# 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 Councillor Chris Blakeley 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?

Steve, Chris and Bruce are 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.

What do you think? Steve, Chris and Bruce support work to make this a welcoming and friendly area and we'd like your views. Our contact details are on the back page.



# 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.

## £1.4 MILLION CASH BOOST FOR WIRRAL ROAD REPAIRS

In November's Budget, the Chancellor announced the biggest-ever investment in roads.

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

Wirral Council is being given £1.46 million, on top of extra grants in previous years.

At December's Council meeting, we asked Labour's Cabinet Member for Highways why Councillors had not been asked to nominate roads in Wallasey for repair.

This has previously happened in September each year.

Last year, Steve, Chris and Bruce secured more than £144,000 for repairs to roads in Moreton and Saughall Massie.

The day after the Council meeting, the Director of Highways emailed us asking for roads in this area but with a deadline of 7th January!

We have now nominated many roads in our community and residents also responded to the article on our Facebook page with their suggestions.

We'll report back in the next issue and on our Facebook page 'News for Moreton and Saughall Massie'.

# YOUTH JOBLESS IN MORETON & SAUGHALL MASSIE 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 Moreton and Saughall Massie, just 30 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.

## 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.

Sponsor a lamp post in loving memory of a special someone or business, road, or group of friends. This costs £80 per lamp post, including a plaque.

Or, if it's easier, send a cheque payable to 'Moreton Christmas Lights' using our Freepost address: Moreton Christmas Lights, FREEPOST RSLG-GUEX-KKYE, 15d Spital Road, Wirral CH63 9JP.

See more on their Facebook Page

Meanwhile, thanks to the landlord of the Willows Pub, Ray Parker, for this year funding festive lights on Saughall Massie Road and for your great efforts in making this inaugural lights the success they were.

Also, thanks again to the residents of Amberley Close for lighting up their homes in aid of Claire House. They have raised more than £20,000 in recent years. We are already looking forward to November 30th 2019 for the next switch on!

## 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. Moreton and Saughall Massie have three Conservative Councillors: Steve Williams, Chris Blakeley and Bruce Berry.

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.

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 your local Conservative Councillors, our 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.

Councillor Bruce Berry 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."

A planning application has been made for 15 houses on the site of Dodd's builders on Bermuda Road.

People living nearby have been in touch with Steve, concerned about overlooking from the houses as well as drainage and potential flooding.

Steve has asked for the application to be decided by councillors on Wirral's planning committee, in public.

A decision is expected either in February or March. If you live nearby and have a point to make, let Steve, Chris or Bruce know. Our details are below.



# 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 Saughall Massie.

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."



**COUNCILLOR STEVE WILLIAMS**  
stevewilliams@wirral.gov.uk  
677 8848 or 07974 717666  
Twitter: @cldr\_s\_williams  
Write: 34 Beech Avenue,  
Saughall Massie CH49 4NJ



**COUNCILLOR CHRIS BLAKELEY**  
chrisblakeley@wirral.gov.uk  
677 9040 or 07803 614418  
Twitter: @cldrblakeley  
Write: 74 Grampian Way,  
Moreton CH46 OPZ



**COUNCILLOR BRUCE BERRY**  
bruceberry@wirral.gov.uk  
678 8139 or 07733 012414  
Twitter: @bruceberry22  
Write: 6 Merlin Close,  
Saughall Massie CH49 4PZ