

newsline



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SUCCESS! POST OFFICE RE-OPENS

A popular Post Office in Wallasey has re-opened, after a campaign by Councillor Paul Hayes and more than 1,000 residents persuaded the Head Office to think again. The branch, in Wallasey Village, was one of several that had been closed after problems with the company's 'Horizon' software system.

The Grove Road Post Office serves a wide area of the community and the Postmasters, Peter and Minh Murray are popular and well-liked.

The closure led to residents contacting Paul, Ian and Lesley asking for help to have it re-opened.

Paul immediately contacted the Post Office in London, and started a petition locally.

Sadly, an attempt to secure all-Party support in the Town Hall for the campaign was vetoed when Labour Councillors voted against the call.

Paul, pictured here with residents and campaigners, said: "Because of the support given by residents and the Communication Workers Union, the Post Office agreed to re-open.

"Thank you to the 1,000 people who signed our petition online or in our last leaflet. It's great to see our Post Office open again and serving our community."

Nationally, the Government has invested an extra £2 billion in the Post Office network since 2010 and, recently, £210 million to enable extended opening hours.



"Thank you to residents for backing our campaign. With more than 1,000 names on our petition, it meant the Chief Executive of the Post Office saw the strength of feeling about this branch."

- Councillor Paul Hayes

See inside:

Kingdom's contract extended by Labour

There has been an outcry from small businesses and shop keepers after Labour councillors extended the contract to controversial enforcement company, Kingdom. We report on the latest: [Page 3](#)

New powers to tackle illegal sites

Wirral Council will soon have new powers to prevent illegal traveller sites, following problems in 2017 and 2018, after the Government agreed that existing laws are not strong enough: [Page 4](#)

Wirral Council buys cinema for £7m!

Following a campaign against the Town Hall lending money to other councils, Labour has, instead started buying up commercial property, starting with the Vue cinema in Birkenhead: [Page 2](#)

Big boost for local fire services

The new Chief Fire Officer of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service has ditched plans by his predecessor to cut services and will, instead, be recruiting 60 more firefighters and buying new fire engines: [Page 2](#)

How would you improve our parks?

Councils such as Wirral have been asked to submit bids for a share of a new, £13 million government fund to improve local parks, children's play areas and green spaces. Local Conservative Councillors in Wallasey are urging the Town Hall to apply and are asking residents in this area to nominate areas that need attention: [Page 3](#)

Action in our community:

Your three local Councillors for Wallasey are fighting for a fair share of Wirral Council's budget. Here's how:

SEAVIEW ROAD:

We have requested that this road be resurfaced. We also learned that money set aside for Grove Road has now been used to fix a road in Birkenhead instead! At the time of going to print, the list of roads the Town Hall has agreed to fix in 2019/20 is due to be published, using extra money given by the Government.

THE 'LIDL' JUNCTION:

Paul, Ian and Lesley requested to meet with Highways Managers at the Leasowe Road/Cross Lane junction, after residents contacted us about the timings of the lights. After the meeting, the Town Hall has agreed to rephase the lights.

SCHOOL LANE:

We have recently had faulty street lights in the Lane, near to pensioner bungalows, fixed. We have also asked for other repairs including Breck Road, Gainsborough Road and Wallasey Road.

WALLASEY CEMETERY:

We have asked for the litter 'hot spot' near the Seaview Road entrance to be cleared up and a litter bin provided.

BAYSWATER ROAD:

The Highways Department has said the volume and speed of traffic on this road does NOT warrant additional measures, in spite of traffic surveys showing a big increase since New Brighton Marine Point was developed.

WARREN GOLF CLUB:

Paul, Ian and Lesley met with several members of the clubs that use The Warren and The Grange, after Labour announced plans to transfer this, and Arrowe Park Golf Course, to a private operator.

FOLLY LANE:

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent 'community clean up' arranged by Councillor Paul Hayes in the Folly Lane and Stonehouse Road areas. Bags of litter were collected and two skips provided to enable people to dispose of bulky items and, hopefully, avoid dumping.

SHOCK AS WIRRAL COUNCIL BUYS BIRKENHEAD CINEMA FOR £7 MILLION!

Last year, we revealed how Wirral's 'cash strapped' Council had lent £51 million to other councils, often at 'mates rates'.

Now, after a public outcry against the loans, the Labour Council is, instead,

going on a spending spree to buy up commercial property.

One of the first sites they've bought is the Vue Cinema at Europa Boulevard for a staggering £7 million.

Councillor Lesley Rennie said: "What is it that Labour doesn't understand? We pay our Council Tax to be used for

services we all rely on, not for loans to other councils or for these kind of speculative property deals."

It's now been revealed that the Council will demolish the cinema, as soon as it's paid yet more money, this time to Vue for surrendering their lease on the town centre site.

COUNCIL GETS IT WRONG, AGAIN, ON GREEN BELT

The Ministry of Housing has slapped down claims by Wirral Council that London has set a target for housebuilding on the Borough's Green Belt.

In a letter to the Leader of Wirral's Conservatives, the Secretary of State for Housing, James Brokenshire, makes it clear that the biggest threat to the Borough's Green Belt is the 14 year failure by the Town Hall to produce a Local Plan to protect it.

In January, the Government made it clear that Wirral was the WORST council in the country for making progress on having a Local Plan.

The Government demanded that Wirral make a senior, named director responsible for the Local Plan and to report monthly on progress.

The Director Wirral appointed then 'left by mutual consent'. The Town Hall then announced they were appointing someone who had



previously been a consultant paid £13,000 a MONTH by the Council!

Then, that plan was scuppered when Conservative Councillors discovered his company had been compulsorily wound up but had continued to invoice the Council and be paid!

Local Councillor Ian Lewis said: "The whole thing is a mess and Labour has nobody to blame but themselves. They ignored a law passed by their own Government and thought they could build on our Green Belt in the meantime. They are wrong on both counts."

MORE FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRE ENGINES...

The new Chief Fire Officer at Merseyside Fire has ditched his predecessor's plans to cut services at the Labour-run Merseyside Fire Authority.

Instead, we will soon have 60 more firefighters and will make more fire engines available. Cllr. Lesley Rennie voted in favour of the plan.

In the last edition, we also reported how the number of fires across Merseyside has fallen, thanks, partly, to more prevention work by the service.

To check if you are eligible for a free home safety check by the Fire & Rescue Service call 0800 7315958

23,348 fires in 2001/2 in Merseyside



7,054 fires in 2018 in Merseyside

WIRRAL URGED TO BID FOR PARKS AND PLAY AREA CASH

EXCLUSIVE

Parks and children's play areas in Wirral could benefit from a share of a new £13 million fund announced by the Government in February.

The Town Hall has a poor record when it comes to applying for, and using, cash for important projects. In the last newsletter, we revealed how Labour Councillors had failed to use £121,000 given to them to help tackle homelessness.

Now, councillors in Wallasey are urging residents to submit ideas and suggestions for parks, green spaces in our community.

Councillor Paul Hayes said: "We're lucky that so many of our local parks and open spaces have 'Friends' groups, comprising volunteers, who do so much to



Councillor Paul Hayes: "17 years ago, Conservative Councillors worked with residents to raise the money to refurbish Wallace Play Area. Let's see if we can persuade the Town Hall to invest in it again."

make sure that our parks are so popular. But, too often, the Council has not prioritised investment in new equipment.

"We need to make sure the Town Hall submits a bid for a share of

this £13 million and I'm really keen that any bid includes our parks and play areas here in Wallasey.

To submit your ideas, visit www.wirralconservatives.com/parks

WIRRAL LABOUR EXTENDS KINGDOM CONTRACT

It's been revealed that Wirral Labour has extended Kingdom's contract with the Council until 2021, and widened the range of activities they can now enforce.

The tactics used by Kingdom to issue Fixed Penalty Notices have been widely criticised and, during a stormy meeting at the Town Hall, the head of the company revealed that the Council had been given four options over the kind of contract. Wirral chose the most hard line - and controversial.

The additional powers that have now been given to Kingdom resulted in Fixed Penalty Notices of £300 being issued to shops and small businesses if they could not provide evidence of how they dispose of their waste.

The Environment Protection Act of 1990 requires businesses to have arrangements to dispose of their waste. Many small businesses, that produce negligible or low levels of waste, had made informal arrangements to dispose of it at the tip; in their home wheelie bins or to share facilities with other businesses. Wirral Council had, until December, never questioned this.

Kingdom, spotting the opportunity, started issuing fines in January and February, until a public outcry, and petition by Wirral's Conservatives, forced the actions to be suspended.

Councillor Paul Hayes said: "The Council should be supporting our small businesses and the shops on our high streets. They are vital to thriving communities and pay millions in Business Rates to the Town Hall. For Labour to grant powers to Kingdom to punish these businesses is a disgrace."

The reaction to Labour's extension of the Kingdom contract may have caused it to backfire - opposition councillors are calling for the entire contract to be scrapped and the service brought back in-house.

our

for Wallasey

plan

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch with us since the last council elections. As well as asking for help with local issues and problems, many residents have also given us their ideas and their views on how the services the Council provides could be improved. We've listened to what you've said. Here's Our Plan for improving life for everyone here in Wallasey:

1. SAVE OUR GREEN BELT:
Thousands of residents oppose Labour's plans to build on it. We will support development of Wirral's 'Brownfield' sites instead to provide the homes that Wirral needs.

2. EXPOSE COUNCIL WASTE:
Too much of your Council Tax is being wasted by Labour on things we don't need, such as the Wirral View newspaper. We'll put more money into the services that we all rely on instead.

3. PROTECT OUR COAST:
We will do more to keep our beaches clean and tackle pollution. And, working with residents, we stopped Labour's coastal parking charges and will do the same if the plan returns.

4. GROW OUR LOCAL ECONOMY:
There are 1,800 more businesses in Wirral than in 2010. We will do more to support our High Streets and small businesses to create the jobs and thriving local communities we need.

5. IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE:
Labour's Dog Ban Plan penalises the many responsible owners because of the actions of the few. So, we'll scrap the plan. We will also do more to tackle animal neglect and abuse.

6. BETTER COUNCIL SERVICES:
We will fight for Grove Road, Seaview Road and others to be fixed and for old street lights in our area to be replaced with the new LED lights, with the £4.6 million given by the Government.

NEW METRO MAYOR TAX BUT £80m UNSPENT

This year, Council Tax bills in Wirral will, for the first time, include a new tax to fund Labour's 'Metro Mayor' covering the 'Liverpool City Region'.

The new Metro Mayor Tax will be collected by Wirral Council and given to Mayor Rotherham for him to spend anywhere he chooses.

Now, in a further twist in how the Metro Mayor and the 'Combined Authority' work, the Liverpool Echo revealed that the region was given £460 million by the Government, but that £80 million has been left unused.

One of the Directors of the Combined Authority, in commenting on the unused cash even said: "It undermines the argument we are making to government about austerity."

Councillor Lesley Rennie said: "Same old Labour - always complaining they don't have enough money to justify higher taxes but, at the same time, unable to use the money they have effectively. What a disgrace."

Look out for the new Metro Mayor Tax on your Council Tax bill and ask a Labour Councillor for an explanation when they come knocking for your vote!

GOING, GOING, GONE...

Wirral Labour politicians are quitting, defecting and being deselected. Allegations of bullying, intimidation and anti-Semitism are being blamed by many of them. So far in Wirral, since May last year, this includes:



Phil Davies
Leader of the Council

Moira McLaughlin
Rock Ferry

Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Birkenhead

Bernie Mooney
Liscard

Chris Meaden
Rock Ferry

Labour's Town Hall majority cut to just three seats:

The next Council elections in Wirral are set to be the closest for years.

Residents in Wallasey are being urged to make sure they are registered to vote for the May 2nd election and to sign up for postal votes.

Wirral Labour has seen their majority cut to just three seats (out

of 66) in the Town Hall, as councillors left the Party to sit as Independents or quit altogether.

The Conservatives, with a new Leader in the Town Hall, as well as strong local councillors and new candidates, are also expected to gain some seats.

Councillor Paul Hayes said: "With Labour in disarray locally, and with growing influence from the hard

left, including people like Derek Hatton, every vote here will count and could make all the difference on May 2nd. We can't let the extreme local Labour Party do to Wirral what they did to Liverpool in the 1980s."

Call the Town Hall's Electoral Services on 0151 691 8046 to make sure you are registered to vote or to vote by post.

500 BACK STATION PLAN:

So far, 500 residents have signed up to back our campaign for improved access at Wallasey Village Station.

Labour promised to act four years ago, but nothing was done. Now, a new Government fund has been set up to help access at stations like ours. We are asking Merseytravel to include Wallasey Village Station in the bid.



NEW POWERS TO TACKLE ILLEGAL TRAVELLER SITES

Following Wallasey's problems with illegal traveller sites at The Dips in 2017 and 2018, the Home Office has announced plans to give councils new powers to act to prevent them.

The changes proposed to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 would lower the number of vehicles needed to be involved in a legal camp, give police powers to direct travellers to sites in neighbouring authorities and increase the time during which travellers are not allowed to return to a site that they have already been removed from.

Wirral Councillor welcomes plans for tougher measures on traveller camps

NEW Government proposals to enforce tougher measures on illegal traveller sites have been welcomed by a Wirral councillor.