

newsline



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CAREERS BOOST FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

18 more 'Careers Hubs' to be established, as results from the first 20 show improved support for school leavers after just two terms

Careers advice for school leavers and young people in Wallasey is set to be transformed following a cash boost from the Government.

The first 20 new 'Careers Hubs' were launched in September. Each Hub brings together a group of up to 40 schools and colleges to improve careers support for young people in their area.

Now, a further 18 Careers Hubs are being set up, including here in Wallasey, after a further £2.5 million was awarded by the Government.

Schools and colleges in the first wave of Careers Hubs are already outperforming the national average.

After just two terms, most are already providing every student with regular contact with employers including work experience, shadowing or workplace visits.

The biggest improvements in the support offered are found in the most disadvantaged areas.

Before becoming a councillor, Ian Lewis worked to help young people to gain apprenticeships: "For too long, good careers advice and guidance has been neglected. This meant some school leavers were not able to make the right choices for their education and skills."

The new Careers Hubs follow news that the number of people in Wirral without any qualification has been reduced by half since 2005.



Source: Office for National Statistics, Labour Market Statistics, December 2018

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Labour loses control of Council

Paul Hayes was re-elected in Wallasey with an increased majority while the Wirral Council elections in May were a disaster for Labour: **Page 2**

Street lights to be replaced

Streetlights continue to be one of the top issues raised by residents. Following a meeting between councillors and directors, action is promised: **Page 3**

New development update

We report back on the current status of planning applications in Wallasey, including Leasowe Road, Greenleas Close and Pinetree Court: **Page 4**

Road repairs list published

Thank you to everyone who responded to our roads survey in the Autumn. The Town Hall has now revealed which ones are to be repaired. **Page 4**

Allotment waiting list hits 1,599

The number of people waiting for an allotment plot has hit a new high and the Town Hall is being asked to make more land available for plots. **Page 4**

HELP FOR WALLASEY TENANTS COMES INTO FORCE

Private tenants in Wallasey have new protections after the Tenant Fees Act came into force on 1 June.

The last census (2011) revealed there are 7,278 families in private rented homes in Wallasey.

The change in the law means that the maximum tenancy deposits that

renters pay at the start of their tenancy is capped at the equivalent of 5 weeks' rent.

In April this year, Conservatives also announced plans to stop private landlords from evicting tenants from their homes at short notice and without good reason.

At the same time, Wirral Council also now has a range of measures to

enable them to crack down on the small minority of rogue landlords and agents who let unfit properties.

This includes fixed financial penalties of up to £30,000 and banning orders – possibly for life – for the most serious offenders.

For more information and a link to the new Guide for Tenants visit wirralconservatives.com/renting

Reporting back...

Parks and play areas:

Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey on local parks and children's play areas. We'll be meeting with the Council manager shortly to share the results of the survey and to ensure that the extra money that is planned for our parks and play areas is spent on the things people want.

Tree planting:

In May, the Government also announced a new £10 million fund to plant 130,000 trees in urban areas. Ian has asked the Town Hall to ensure that Wirral bids for a share of the cash and that Wallasey receives a share of any new trees received.

Weed spraying:

Many councils have recognised the need to allow more plants to pollinate, to support the bee population, in grassed areas, parks and open spaces. There are, at the same time, concerns that the weed control programme on pavements and entries is not good enough, resulting in waist-high weeds by the summer. We have been assured that these areas will be sprayed twice this year.

Council Chief Executive:

Within three weeks of Labour losing control of the Council, the Chief Executive announced his resignation. The post costs the Council £200,000 a year and Conservative Councillors have asked for an assessment of whether the remaining nine 'Senior Leadership Team' at the Council could assume more of the duties, helping to reduce the cost of the top directors to the taxpayer. Some other councils have decided to 'share' chief executives or, in some cases, remove the post altogether.

Special needs:

In December, it was announced that councils will receive an additional £250 million over the next two years on top of the £6 billion already provided for the 'high needs' budget this year, to provide much needed support for children and young people with complex special educational needs. An inspection of how Wirral provides the service is imminent.

Well done Tranmere!

Congratulations to Wirral's own Tranmere Rovers on their win over Newport County at Wembley in May, securing their spot in League One for the next season.

LABOUR LOSES CONTROL OF WIRRAL COUNCIL

Labour's vote falls by 8,000 and they lose four Council seats to Conservatives, Greens and Liberal Democrats

Labour no longer controls Wirral Council.

The Party lost seats to the Conservatives, the Greens and Liberal Democrats on 2nd May, as voters decided not to risk a Militant-style Council in the Borough.

The new Council sees 32 Labour councillors - two short of an overall majority.

As well as losing Pensby, Prenton, Oxton, Birkenhead & Tranmere,

Labour also came close to losing Rock Ferry to the Independents, while their majority in Leasowe was also slashed.

Across Wirral, 8,000 Labour voters switched to other parties or stayed at home.

A vote for a new Council Leader, following the departure of Phil Davies, saw Labour hold on, as Green and Liberal Democrat councillors abstained.

However, when it came to the council committees, Labour no longer controls any committee (other than the Cabinet).

The Environment Committee is now chaired by a Conservative Councillor who has immediately pledged to work with residents to finally end Labour's Dog Ban Plan.

The results mean that, while Labour no longer has outright control, the parties must now work together to get things agreed.

The new make up of Wirral Council means Labour doesn't have a majority any more...



...PAUL HAYES' VOTE INCREASES IN WALLASEY

Labour fails to gain their 'top target' as local Conservatives increase their majority over Labour and prevent a Militant-style Council

The local Conservatives here in Wallasey increased their majority over Labour on May 2nd.

Councillor Paul Hayes was re-elected with 1,090 votes more than Labour.

The Greens, UKIP and Liberal Democrats were too far behind to win and each received around 5% of the vote

Paul received 53% of the votes - up from 45% when the seat was last contested.

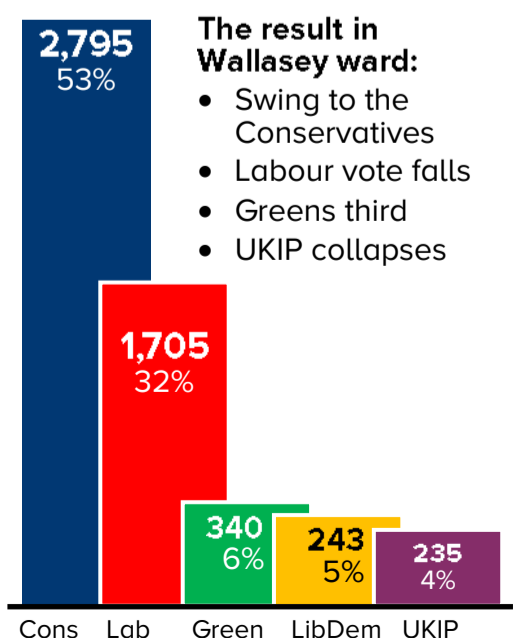
Labour's share of the vote (32%) was the second lowest in the last 11 years.

Following the result, Paul said: "Thank you to all those people in Wallasey who vote for me to continue my work, with Ian and Lesley, for our community.

"I know from the many conversations on the doorstep, that while people are unhappy at what is happening nationally, they wanted us to continue our work here in Wallasey.

"A special thanks to those people who voted Conservative for the first time and to those people who usually vote for other parties at a General Election.

"Thank you to all 2,795 people who voted for me and to keep the team that works for our community!"



Shirley Ballas opens the new Floral Trail

The new 'Floral Trail' by Wallasey Village in Bloom was given celebrity seal of approval in May as *Strictly Come Dancing's* Shirley Ballas cut the ribbon at Wallasey Village Library.

Ian, Paul and Lesley attended with the Mayor and Mayoress and many local residents. Well done to all involved at Wallasey Village in Bloom for all their work on this and across the community.



(l-r) Mayoress Anne Watt, Councillors Paul Hayes, Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie, Shirley Ballas and Mayor Geoffrey Watt.

ACTION, FINALLY, ON STREET LIGHTS...

At every election, for the last three years, Labour has promised to replace street lights. Instead, more and more are becoming faulty.

The contract to start replacing the streetlights was awarded this month. It follows £4.6 million from the Government for new LED lights in residential roads.

Ian, Lesley and Paul are, in the meantime, pushing for repairs to lights that have been reported to us as faulty or where the Town Hall is taking too long to act.

Since our last newsletter, street lights in Winchester Drive, Oldfield Road, Gainsborough Road, Rosclare Drive and Somerset Road have been repaired.

Outstanding requests for action include Mosslands Drive and the

passageway between Greenleas Road and Saltburn Road. The new LED lights use less electricity while giving out a brighter light and cost less to maintain.

We have asked for the programme of works so that we can let residents know when the new lights will be installed.

Please contact us if, in the meantime, there are faulty lights in your road that need attention.

Open Reach in trouble over new poles

The installation of new poles as part of the roll out for super fast fibre broadband was temporarily halted in May.

Work was stopped after the new, hastily installed poles were found to be leaking creosote onto the pavements, such as here in Lycett Road. Their answer? To wrap the poles in hessian matting. Damaged paving flags will also need to be replaced.



CAN YOU HELP US TO KEEP IN TOUCH?

Paul Hayes, Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie work as a team, to get the best we can for our community.

Our team also includes local residents who do their bit to help us keep in touch and campaign locally.

Can you spare some time to help with:

- Sitting at a polling station for two hours on day of the next council elections, taking numbers from voters?
- Delivering 100 or so newsletters to homes in your area every couple of months?

Call/text Ian on 07886 133571 or online:
www.wirralconservatives.com/getinvolved

Local issues, local action...

Since the last issue of Newslines, your local Conservative Councillors have been working on local issues raised by residents, including:

CAPTAIN'S PIT, HOSE SIDE ROAD:

Ian has met with the founder of a new club that is helping to maintain the Captain's Pit. Wallasey Community Anglers are also on Facebook.

WALLASEY VILLAGE FLATS:

Work is, finally, underway to improve the communal areas of the former council flats on Leasowe Road and Wallasey Village. This followed a meeting between residents, Ian, Lesley and Paul last year

SANDY LANE BUS STOP:

A new bench has now been installed near the junction with Wallasey Village, following requests by Lesley.

SEAVIEW ROAD:

Following a complaint to Ian, a litter bin has now been provided near the entrance to the cemetery.

FARNDON AVENUE:

16 months after we first requested it, a replacement street sign has now been installed.

FLYNN'S PIECE:

Ian has requested replacement, 'closed top' bins for Flynn's Piece on Grove Road, to reduce the amount of windblown litter.

MOCKBEGGAR DRIVE:

The damaged bench at the junction of Harrison Drive has been replaced. We have also requested a repairs to the bench outside Claremount Court.

GROVELAND ROAD:

After multiple requests, Merseytravel has finally accepted responsibility for the dilapidated fencing around the station and has agreed to replace it.

WALLASEY VILLAGE:

We have reported the blocked gully and drain opposite the Farmers Arms after the recent downpours led to flooding of the road.

CAMPER VANS:

Feedback from residents living near Kings Parade has been generally positive of the measures introduced by the Town Hall. The plan will be reviewed this summer.

HARRISON PARK:

Working with the Friends of Harrison Park, we have persuaded the Town Hall to replace the leaking roof of the Ladies' Bowls Pavilion. A new ramp will also be installed at the football pavilion.

CLAREMOUNT ROAD:

We have asked for a new litter bin to be installed near St Hilary's Church.

A PROBLEM IN YOUR ROAD?

Tell us: details on front page.

Local planning update...

PINETREE COURT:

The application to build a bungalow on the small car parking space at Pinetree Court was rejected in October, after local councillors worked with residents concerned about the effects on their community. The developer has now lodged an appeal against the refusal.



LEASOWE ROAD ↑:

The eyesore derelict buildings at 1-7 Leasowe Road will be demolished and replaced with three commercial units on the ground floor and nine residential flats above.

WALLASEY ROAD:

Plans to demolish part of Thorndale Business Centre behind Harrow Close and build four new triplex apartments was refused but the developer has now appealed to have that decision overturned.



WALLASEY VILLAGE ↑:

A plan to build on the site next to the Farmers Arms was submitted in October 2018. If approved, three commercial units will be on the ground floor with 10 apartments on the two floors above. A decision has, however, been delayed because of concerns by the Planning Department over highways issues arising from the plan.

WIRRAL'S LOCAL PLAN:

Wirral is one of 15 councils that has failed to comply with a law passed in 2004 to have a 'Local Plan'.

The Council has now brought in extra staff to try to head off the threat of a Government intervention.

The Local Plan is required to protect the Green Belt and to show developers where they should be building instead.

CALL FOR ACTION AS ALLOTMENT LIST HITS 1,599

The latest figures from the Town Hall have revealed that almost 1,600 people are waiting for an allotment plot.

The sites in Wallasey are among the most popular - and have some of the highest number of people waiting for a plot to become available.

A report obtained by your three local councillors has shown that there are 163 people waiting for a

plot at Belvidere Road allotments - where there are 17 plots in total.

Buckingham Road, off Mosslands Drive, has 46 plots, with 31 people waiting.

Cross Lane, which has 28 plots, has a staggering 107 people waiting and Earlston Road, which has 10 plots, has 139 people waiting.

Councillor Ian Lewis helped to set up the community allotments at Twickenham Drive, Leasowe which has 25 plots and is managed by local volunteers.

Ian recently met with council managers at the other site on Mosslands Drive, which has 44 plots but 93 people waiting.

Ian said: "The increasing numbers of people wanting to rent an allotment plot, along with the environmental benefits and income generated for the Council mean that the Town Hall should be looking at currently unused green spaces for potential sites. I'll be meeting with Council Directors again on this issue and have also asked for a report to go to the Environment Committee."

WARREN GOLF COURSE SELL OFF PLAN 'ON HOLD'

While the Town Hall continues with plans to borrow £26 million to support the proposed 'Hoyleake Golf Resort', the future of the four main municipal courses is in doubt.

Shortly after the elections, Labour announced that they were in the final stages of transferring Arrowe Park Golf Course and The

Warrens Golf Course (including The Grange) to a private operator.

Brackenwood, in Bebington, and Hoyleake Municipal are excluded from the plan.

Wallasey's three local councillors have spoken with several members of the clubs that use The Warrens and were disappointed to hear the Town Hall had not consulted users of the course first.

This, along with a lack of accurate financial information about The Warrens or Arrowe Park, led us to 'call in' Labour's decision for further scrutiny.

Councillor Lesley Rennie said: "It was clear at the meeting that senior officers and the Cabinet Member responsible did not have accurate information. The plan is now on hold while they reconsider the proposal and, we hope, keep the course available for everyone."

ROADS TO BE RESURFACED BUT NOT MOSSLANDS DRIVE!

Earlier this year, we learned that money we had secured for roads in Wallasey had, instead, been spent in Birkenhead.

Highways Officers had previously agreed with requests to resurface the rest of Grove Road, Hose Side Road and Mosslands Drive.

A few days after the election, the first phase of this year's work was published.

In response to our latest requests, the following roads have now been included:

- Farndon Avenue
- Bowden Road, Halton Road and Knowsley Road
- Mayfield Road and Studley Road
- Mere Lane, Parkway, The Aubyns, The Leas and The Willows

This led us to ask about those removed from last year's list.

The Highways Department has now confirmed that the rest of Grove Road will be included.

They have yet to confirm what is happening with Hose Side Road or Seaview Road but they have said that Mosslands Drive is not in this year's programme.

Councillor Ian Lewis has now carried out a petition of residents in that road and will hand it in to the next Council meeting, asking for a rethink.

NEXT STEPS ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS...

More than 1,600 people took part in a recent consultation on whether some single use plastics, should be banned.

The Government has now confirmed that from April 2020, plastic drinking straws will be among the items that will be phased out.

Last year saw the ban on 'microbeads' - small plastics in products such as shower gels.

While the plastic bag charge has achieved at 86% reduction in their use as well as raising £51 million for charities and good causes.

The latest consultation by the Conservatives, on introducing a 'Deposit Return Scheme' for cans, plastic and glass bottles, to encourage their re-use and reduce littering, finished in May and a response is expected soon.

IAN LEWIS,
LESLEY RENNIE
AND PAUL HAYES

We're working for

Wallasey
Conservatives