

# News



Spring 2020 - delivered FREE to residents by local volunteers

## "BACK THE GREEN SPACE, OR LOSE IT!"

**Green space campaigners have issued an urgent appeal for local residents to help protect sites such as Ditton Nature Reserve and local playing fields as part of the Council's long-overdue Local Plan.**

An Act of Parliament in 2004 required all councils to produce a Local Plan - to protect local green space, and list other areas that could be developed.

Until last May, when Labour lost control of the Town Hall, Wirral Council had failed to produce a Local Plan, putting sites such as Ditton Nature Reserve at risk.

Since May, work has finally begun. Residents are now asked to take part in the formal consultation.

Visit the Council's website at [wirral.gov.uk/localplan](http://wirral.gov.uk/localplan) and

register to give your views. You can also log in via Facebook or Twitter.

We have also asked the Council to look at holding more 'drop in' sessions locally for those who want to speak to council officers and who may not be online.

Debbie said: "With more than 8,000 families on the housing waiting list, the Borough does need to look at meeting housing needs, but it can't be at the expense of important green spaces like Ditton."



Debbie is working with residents to protect Ditton Nature Reserve



Residents do not want this important local green space to be sold for development

### TRANSPORT BOSSES SLAMMED FOR LACK OF BUS ACTION

Since 2017, Merseytravel has had the powers to transform services by forcing bus companies running services on the most-profitable routes to also cover areas such as Moreton and Leasowe.

Sadly, while transport bosses in Manchester are making progress, nothing has been done to benefit passengers in Wirral.

A recent review of the bus network in Wirral confirmed that some areas are 'cut off' from services. Nationally, the Government last



Debbie arranged for overgrowth near bus shelters on Leasowe Road to be cut back

month announced a massive £5 billion to improve bus and cycle routes. Let's hope Merseytravel get their finger out and we don't fall behind again!

### CALLS FOR 'SAFER STREETS' CASH

Wirral's Conservative Councillors have urged Merseyside's Police Commissioner to bid for a share of the new £25 million 'Safer Streets Fund'.

If successful, the money would be used to improve home security.

The call follows Merseyside Police being given extra money by the Government to recruit their share of 20,000 more police.

The latest crime figures published on [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) show there were burglaries in Birket Close and Davis Road in December.

## CALLS FOR ACTION ON DOG MESS AND LITTER

**One of the top complaints raised by residents is the increasing amount of dog mess and litter.**

Since the Council was forced to scrap their controversial contract with Kingdom last year, it's been revealed no work has been done to tackle the minority of owners who don't pick up after their pets.

Debbie Caplin said: "During our door-to-door surveys, dog mess is frequently mentioned and yet the Town Hall's response is to shrug their shoulders and do nothing.

"That's not good enough. We need a proper plan to tackle this problem. We can't leave it to 'The Little Collector' to solve this - we must all work on it."



Additional litter bins for 'hot spot' areas, such as Leasowe Road have been requested by Debbie Caplin to help tackle the problem.

## AT LAST! NEW LIGHTS FOR MORETON AND LEASOWE!

In our last newsletter, we revealed how there were more than 2,600 faulty street lights in the Borough, causing dangers to drivers and concerns over safety for householders.

With an extra £5 million from the Government, the replacement of street lights is finally underway.

The work is being done in two phases - replacing those lighting units first where the columns are still in good order and then, in phase two, replacing those columns and lights that are past their sell by date.

The new lights use LED technology to reduce energy costs and are less prone to faults.



Are the street lights on Farmside the oldest in the area? Debbie has asked these to be replaced with some of the £5m extra cash

## News SNIPPETS

### NEW TREE PLANTING ON THE WAY

Following action by Wirral's Conservative Councillors, the Town Hall has been awarded £300,000 for new trees.

The trees are to be planted in urban areas and those affected most by poor drainage and flooding. We've asked for Leasowe to be included.

### EXTRA HELP WITH PROBLEM DEBT

The Government has introduced a new 60-day breathing space for people in debt, to give them chance to get advice and support.

Enforcement action and interest will be frozen and extra help given to those with mental health issues.

## DEBBIE CAPLIN: WORKING FOR MORETON AND LEASOWE



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The external area around the One Stop shop on the corner of Reeds Lane and Birket Avenue had become a bit of an eyesore.

Debbie contacted the company and they have now replaced the fascia boarding around the store.