



**Moreton resident  
Debbie Caplin**

Born and raised in Moreton, Debbie attended school here and lives here. Issues that affect Moreton affect Debbie. That's why she's asking you to lend her your vote: to get things done.



**Labour's candidate  
from Birkenhead**

If elected, it means that two of your three councillors will live in Birkenhead. We've hardly seen the last one, another one won't make any difference. Labour's taking you for granted.



Moreton & Leasowe community

# newslines

April 2021: Delivered at no expense to the taxpayer



# Are they taking you for granted?

**Former Labour MP Ronnie Campbell: "Conservative Councillors work and work. Our lot were saying 'when do we get our money?'"**

**Following the decision of Councillor Anita Leech to step down, Leasowe and Moreton risks having councillors who only turn up at election time.**

Labour's decision to pick someone who doesn't live here and who is almost unknown suggests they're taking you, and this area, for granted.

Their candidate to replace Anita was, until recently, the candidate for West Kirby and Caldby. She lives in Birkenhead.

Why didn't Labour want a local resident?

Over recent years in Wirral, and across the country, the Labour Party has forgotten that votes have to be earned.

Too many councillors have failed to understand or even listen to people here - the people they were supposed to represent. Too often people have been treated like fools.

Instead, they pick candidates who won't 'rock the boat'; people who agree with Labour's often out of touch views but who, too often, are not interested in yours.

This part of Wirral has had 20 different Labour Councillors over the years and one Conservative.

Just **24**

issues raised for action by the two remaining Labour councillors in Moreton

**213**

issues raised for action by local Conservative Councillors in next door Wallasey Ward last year.

Source: Freedom of Information Act request to Wirral Council, January 2021

Constituency vaccination tracker:

**47,013**

as at 15 April

**World's sharpest fall in cases:**

The UK has seen cases fall by 97% since the peak, thanks partly to the vaccine programme. In France, cases are just 25% lower since their peak.

**Cases per million down to 42**

Again, the UK is now the lowest in Europe. The delays in the EU vaccine programme are hampering efforts there. Sweden had 515 cases per million.

## Working class voters abandoned

**Crime. Housing. The EU. Immigration. Patriotism. Anti-social behaviour.**

On each of these issues, opinion polls have shown that Labour is out of touch with most people and not least with traditional working class voters. The voters that Labour was set up to represent. Too often, we see Labour

Councillors pursuing and promoting their own causes while paying lip service to the issues in communities like ours.

**That's why this election is your chance to send a message that you want things to be different.**

To send a message to Labour that you won't be taken for granted and to send a message to the

Town Hall that Moreton and Leasowe won't be ignored any longer.

If you lend your vote to Debbie Caplin, and she wins, you'll still have two Labour councillors and a Labour MP. But you'll also have a new councillor, from Moreton, who knows the issues here and who isn't afraid to speak up and challenge those in charge.

**Eight different vaccines in UK**

While three vaccines Oxford-AstraZeneca, Moderna and Pfizer-Biontech (157 million doses) have been secured, five more are now in trials.



# Getting results on road repairs



Fairmead Road is one of several roads in Moreton and Leasowe that need attention

## Grass cutting and grass verges:

Last summer, as the pandemic took hold, many council staff were taken off their usual jobs and onto Covid-19 related duties.

This included some of the grass cutting crews. As a result, grass verges in some areas were left uncut as the staff had more important roles - such as the delivery of PPE to care homes.

Now, the Council is looking at changes to grass cutting for the current year. Not because of the pandemic but as part of the work to 'rewild' some areas to try to tackle the decline of the bee population and other 'pollinators'.

The poor condition of many grass verges has, however, been too much for the Council to respond to.

Following requests from Debbie for repairs to damaged verges, including Fairmead Road (seen above), the Department replied saying that only the most dangerous 'ruts' would be tackled and that others would be left.

Debbie said: "You can't leave grass verges looking like this. If elected, this will be one of the first changes I will be seeking."

Last month, we reported on Debbie's work with residents to secure more cash for road and pavement repairs in Moreton and Leasowe. Since Labour lost control of the Council in 2019, we have been able to secure some repairs in this community but there is a backlog.

Now, an all-party committee of the Council (which replaced the all-Labour Cabinet) has agreed to many (but not all) of Debbie's latest requests for action.

This 'Structural Maintenance Programme' will be managed by the Highways Department.

Over the next year, the following road surfacing works are planned:

- Pasture Road at the bridge near the station
- Reeds Lane between the level crossing and Marram Close
- Leasowe Road between Reeds Lane and Castleway North

Work on Wirral's Local Plan is finally underway, after Labour stalled on it for 15 years.

This left many green spaces under threat of development, because there wasn't a Local Plan in place to protect them.

A new all-party committee on the Council has worked since Labour's Cabinet was scrapped to get a Local Plan ready for consultation with residents.

Among the local sites at risk until the Local Plan is approved:

**Ditton Local Nature Reserve:** the owner of the site has tried twice in recent years to sell it for development. Debbie has asked for it to be designated as 'Local Green Space' in the Local Plan. 300 residents backed her campaign. It is on the Flood Plan and home to many species of wildlife.

- Castleway North

Then, from 2022, the following works are planned, subject to cash and any 'emergency works':

- Leasowe Road (Castleway North to Greenleas Road)
- Upton Road

Footways will also be tackled in the programme, currently planned for:

- Baffin Close
- Eastway
- Cronton Avenue
- Franklin Road
- Hudson Road
- Livingstone Road
- Kensington Gardens

- Sandbrook Lane (Hoylake Road to Glebelands Road)
- Danger Lane
- Castleford Rise
- Ditton Lane
- Farnworth Avenue
- Findley Drive
- Garswood Close
- Raleigh Road
- Reeds Lane (Leasowe Road to Ditton Lane)
- Shackleton Road
- Croft Drive
- Grampian Way
- Napier Drive
- Pembroke Avenue

Thanks to all those residents who have worked with Debbie, providing examples of where repairs are needed.



## Fighting for our environment

Labour's failure to have a Local Plan has put sites such as Ditton Nature Reserve at risk of development

**Castleway School site:**

The Council is planning to move the school to the Early Years Centre on Twickenham Drive. As a result, the site on Castleway North will be declared 'surplus' and is likely to be sold for housing.

The current access to the school wouldn't be suitable. And, like Ditton, it is on the Flood Plain.

The draft Local Plan will be put out for consultation with residents soon after the council elections.

After that, there will be a Public Inquiry to judge any representations and objections.

If elected, Debbie will keep residents informed at every step of the process.





## Action on litter:

**Residents have told Debbie that litter is a big problem in many parts of Moreton and Leasowe.**

Now, following her requests, new litter bins are being installed. The Council is also, finally, starting to tackling those that drop litter or don't pick up after their dogs.

Debbie and the volunteers have helped to collect more than 50 bags of litter from across the community. If elected as our new Councillor, Debbie will continue to get stuck in.

## Wirral's Labour 'Cabinet' leaves 9,083 families on housing waiting list

**When Wirral's failing Labour Cabinet was scrapped last year, they left office with more than 9,000 families on the waiting list for housing.**

There is no excuse for this - they failed to bid for Government cash to build affordable new houses

and did nothing to start building council houses.

Ever since Wirral Labour privatised the Borough's council housing 20 years ago, they washed their hands of the problem.

Many families have been waiting years for suitable, decent and affordable housing.

Many of the people waiting are here in Moreton. They want to live near their existing families, friends and jobs.

Instead of tackling this issue, Labour has allowed numerous green spaces to be sold off to private developers, building houses that are out of reach to many people.



## Action on scramblers:

**One of the top concerns raised in Debbie's survey last year was the use of scrambler bikes on roads and open spaces.**

This month, we met with the Roads Policing Inspector for Merseyside, to raise these concerns once again, following issues recently on Leasowe Road.

The police have promised action, including seizing and crushing the bikes. If you know where scrambler bikes are being stored, or who is using or selling them locally, call 0800 555 111.

## our plan

**for Moreton & Leasowe**

**More police on the streets to deter crime and jobs:**

So far, there are 372 extra police in Merseyside, as part of the national recruitment of 20,000 more officers. They will also be given the powers they need.

**Fixing roads and pavements:**

We will continue to lobby for a fair share of the Town Hall's budget for repairs. This means working with residents (as reported on page two) and also reporting pot holes.

**Better deal for tenants:**

Whether that's holding social landlords to account, speaking up for vulnerable tenants or improving safety measures in homes.

**Protecting our green spaces and local parks:**

This means using the powers the Council and police have to deal with the jobs, while also protecting these sites from development.

**Investing in our shopping centres:**

Bringing empty premises back into use, supporting the independent shops in our community and keeping parking free in Moreton and Leasowe.



### Restart grants for shops and businesses:

We continue to support shops and local businesses to get the help they need, including the Government's new Restart Grants. We are also pushing for the extra cash for 'discretionary' business support in Wirral to be as flexible as possible.

### £500 boost for Working Tax Credits:

Mums and dads in working households that receive tax credits may be eligible for a new one-off payment of £500. HMRC will contact people to confirm they are eligible. For those who are, payment will be direct to bank accounts by 23 April 2021.

### More families getting help with childcare costs

There has been a five-fold increase in the number of families in Moreton and Wallasey using their Tax-Free Childcare accounts to pay for their childcare costs. There are now 465 families taking part, up from just 85 families three years ago.

### Extra £200 million for Wirral Council

The Council has, so far, received £200 million additional cash to support the Borough through the pandemic. This includes money for families, local businesses, care homes, schools and vulnerable groups such as the homeless or clinically most at risk.



# A record of action...



## ...the promise of more

**Currently, all three councillors, your MP and the Metro Mayor are Labour. A vote for Debbie will bring much needed balance to our local politics.**

If you lend your vote to Debbie Caplin to be the new Councillor, she will:

### Listen to your views:

Through regular surveys, doorstep conversations and contact.

### Keep you informed:

With regular newsletters and letters, delivered by volunteers and not paid for by the taxpayer.

### Work with others:

Whether that's with other councillors in the Town Hall, including Ian Lewis, or residents in our community.

### Repay your support:

By not putting her own views above yours, by not claiming expenses and by voting for what is best for our community, not as any political party tells her to.

**A vote for Debbie Caplin will send a message that you won't be taken for granted any longer.**

Only one candidate in this council election keeps in touch all year round, not just at election time!



Debbie Caplin lives in Moreton. She grew up here. She went to school here.



# 'We're backing Debbie'



"I know what I want from my councillor. I want someone who will pursue local issues. I want someone who gets things done. Debbie has helped sort out the terrible potholes at the traffic lights on Reeds Lane and Leasowe Road. I'm going to vote for Debbie. She gets stuff done! You want someone who actually cares about Leasowe."

- Dave McEvoy, Cronton Avenue



"Debbie Caplin works tirelessly to ensure our community is one to be proud of by protecting our precious green spaces and tackling litter on our streets. Being a mother of two children, I believe that a strong sense of community spirit is the key step to making positive changes. Not only for ourselves but for our children"

- Carlie Hughes, Fairmead Road



"Debbie Caplin has got what it takes to make a difference to Moreton and Leasowe. Councillors who only turn up at election time, are neither use nor ornament when it comes to tackling the issues that crop up throughout the year. Labour took this area for granted before and it looks like they making the same mistake now."

- Ian Lewis, former councillor



"I like the way Debbie has kept in touch with her community throughout the year and especially through 2020 and covid-19. Debbie Caplin works hard on local issues that people raise with her. She never gives up and her hard work is appreciated 52 weeks of the year. My wife and I have known Debbie for three years now."

- Ron Mooney, Castleway North