



Ian Lewis

Local Councillor for Wallasey since 2016, working with Lesley Rennie and Paul Hayes for our community. A Freedom of Information Act request reveals Ian raised 207 local issues for action in 2020.



A Liscard Labour Councillor

Labour's candidate is also the Councillor for Liscard and Egremont but he was barred by his own party from continuing there, so he's standing here instead. He raised just SIX requests for action on issues last year.



Wallasey community **newsline**

April 2021: Delivered at no expense to the taxpayer

Next steps out of lockdown

All adults over 50, the clinically vulnerable and health and social care workers have now been offered a life-saving Covid-19 jab.

Thanks to the huge effort by the NHS staff and volunteers, more than 33 million people across the UK have had at least their first vaccine dose.

If the UK's progress continues, the third step for lifting restrictions will be on **17 May**.

Based on clinical advice, the Government will look at continuing to ease limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible, allowing people to decide on the appropriate level of risk for their circumstances.

This means that most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted.

Most businesses in all but the highest risk sectors will be able to reopen.

In all sectors, COVID-Secure guidance will remain in place.

Other indoor locations to open up in Step 3 include indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas and children's play areas; the rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs; and indoor adult group sports and exercise classes.

Finally, before Step 4 begins, which takes place no earlier than **21 June**, social distancing and other long-term measures will be reviewed.

This will help decisions on the timing and circumstances under which the rules on 1 metre plus, the wearing of face coverings and other measures may be lifted.

By Step 4, it is hoped all legal limits on social contact will finally be lifted.

More details, including links to the latest advice, can be found at: www.wallaseyconservatives/coronavirus

Wallasey 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.

More help this month...

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 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 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.

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.





North Drive is one of the roads that still needs attention

Getting results on road repairs

Last month, we reported on our work with residents to secure more cash for road and pavement repairs in Wallasey. Since Labour lost control of the Council in 2019, we have been able to increase 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 our latest requests for action.

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

Over the next year, working with residents, we have secured the following road surfacing works:

- Harrison Drive (Bayswater Road to Coastal Drive)
- Seaview Road (ASDA to Hose Side Road)
- Gainsborough Road
- Groveland Avenue

- Kinross Road
- Paignton Road
- Southbourne Road
- Northcote Road
- Sea Road
- Linksvie
- Brookway
- Gloucester Road
- Village Way

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

- Rolleston Drive
- Keighley Avenue
- Longacre Close
- Auburn Road
- Bidston Avenue
- Breckside Avenue
- Broadway Avenue
- Lycett Road

Footways will also be tackled as part of the 2022 programme, currently planned for:

- Bayswater Road
- Broadway Avenue
- Gloucester Road
- Greenleas Road
- Green Lane
- Kinross Road
- Northcote Road
- Paignton Road
- Queensway

We are continuing to push for others, such as North Drive (seen in the photo), Broadway, St George's Road, Mockbeggar Drive, Cross Lane and the end of Burbo Way, leading to The Banks and The Channel, to be tackled.

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'.

Since the plans were shared, we have secured some changes to the areas first designated as 'No Mow May'.

Elleray Park was to be left uncut, as was Wallace Playing Field next to Mosslands Drive. We have persuaded the council to think again on these two sites.

At the time of going to print, we are also pushing for an alternative site to the grass verges proposed for 'no cutting' around Mockbeggar Drive. Last year, the late cutting of the verges there led to many complaints.

Special Report: Liverpool City Council under investigation

Council's 'toxic culture of intimidation and bullying' exposed. £100m lost.

In 2010, Labour gained a majority on Liverpool City Council. Two years later, they gained a majority here in Wirral.

The introduction of an elected City Mayor for Liverpool in 2012 and, five years later, a 'Metro Mayor', covering Liverpool as well as Wirral, Knowsley, St Helens and Sefton, cemented Labour's grip.

The General Election in 2019 saw Labour win every constituency in Merseyside, with the exception of Southport.

Now, following concerns over how Labour is operating, particularly with investors and developers, an independent investigation has started to reveal what's been going on.

As the Liverpool Echo reported, this includes a 'toxic culture of intimidation' at the top of the council, coupled with whistle blowers who were left in fear and audit trails of documents dumped in skips.

It is also estimated that at least £100 million has been lost by the cash strapped council.

Councillor Ian Lewis said: "This is what happens when Labour has absolute control with little or no opposition. They lose touch and start thinking they are untouchable."

"Lack of opposition and challenge means decisions aren't questioned, while councillors keep their heads down, unwilling to question their own party colleagues."

"To those of us who remember Militant in the 1980s, the current situation in Merseyside will set alarm bells ringing."



Leasowe Road: pressure mounts for action on crashes



The latest crash and injury figures show six injuries at the Leasowe Road-Greenleas Road-Cross Lane junction.

Five of the six involved vehicles turning. Three years ago, your three local Conservative Councillors - Ian Lewis, Lesley Rennie and Paul Hayes - arranged a meeting 'on site' with the then-director of Highways.

As a result, timings of the existing lights were 'tweaked' (slightly) to improve times for vehicles turning right.

However, the age of the lights meant they are failing more often. Crashes and bumps have also continued.

Following another meeting, between Cllr. Ian Lewis and the new Director, the Council has finally listed the junction for possible works to improve safety.

Starting next year with an assessment of what needs to be done and the likely cost, the work will hopefully involve the replacement of all the failing traffic signals, along with clearer road markings.

Ian said: "At the moment, this scheme is not yet confirmed. We need to continue to push the Council to act to reduce the number of crashes at this junction. Doing nothing is not an option."



Cyclists backing campaign to stop the cycle chaos...

The latest concerns over the proposed cycle route have come from the Merseyside Cycling Campaign.

Writing to Councillors Ian Lewis, Lesley Rennie and Paul Hayes, the Wirral Group of the Campaign

say: "We were very doubtful about the practicality of putting the cycleway through Liscard Centre."

"We are very concerned with the way that this proposal has been brought about. Instead of any discussion, it turned out that the alignment for the cycleway was dictated."

Now, in a further blow to the plans for Seaview Road, Hose Side Road, Grove Road and Warren Drive, it has been revealed that Biffa's street cleaning equipment can't operate in the cycle lanes, leaving litter, rubbish, and broken glass on the roadside.

our plan

for Wallasey

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.

No cycle chaos on our residential roads:

This is key policy difference between Ian and the Labour candidate. Installing cycle lanes, while removing on street parking, trees and disabled bays, is not acceptable to us.

Investing in the areas that have been left behind:

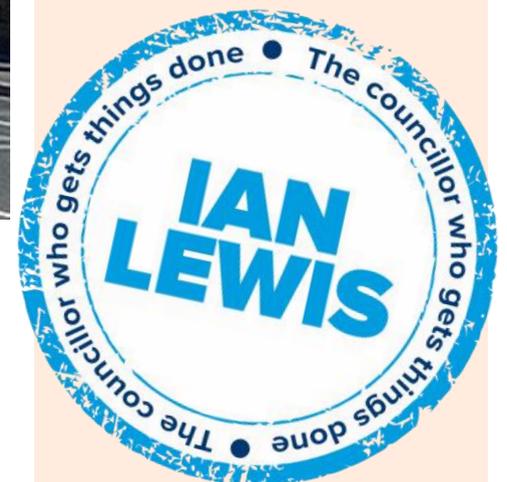
For too long, Wallasey, and Liscard in particular, has been left behind by the Council and Governments (of all parties). Now that money is coming, we want a share of it for Wallasey.

Protecting our green spaces including the Dips:

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

Supporting local community services:

Ian, Lesley and Paul have worked to have Grove Road Post Office re-opened. We opposed Labour's plans to sell off The Warren Golf Course and we support our local libraries.



A record of action...

Since being elected in 2016, Ian Lewis has worked all year round, every year, for Wallasey. He hasn't just turned up for this election.

Working closely with colleagues Lesley Rennie and Paul Hayes, Ian has kept in touch with regular newsletters, surveys, email updates and social media.

Ian works with many of the community and voluntary groups in our community, helping them to overcome some of the council's bureaucracy as well as identifying funds to support their work.

Ian works with residents on issues in their roads and neighbourhoods and, during 2020, Ian, Lesley and Paul raised more issues for action here than any other councillors of any party anywhere else in Wirral.

Ian doesn't claim expenses and he doesn't take on any outside consultancy, lobbying or paid roles - he only works for this community.

In the Town Hall, Ian exposed Labour's loans to other councils and led changes that are seeing the first new council allotments being developed. Ian also led the call to scrap Labour's plans to sell off the Warren Golf Course.



...the promise of more

If re-elected, Ian will work with Councillors Lesley Rennie and Paul Hayes on local issues in Wallasey:

Road repairs:

We've made a good start since Labour lost control of the Council in 2019. We will work with residents of the roads that are yet to be programmed for repair.

Cycle lanes:

Existing cycle lanes, such as the one leading to B&Q and the lane on the prom, need to be brought

up to standard but the Town Hall and 'City Region' need to rethink their preferred route for a new lane through the middle of Wallasey.

Cross Lane junction:

The lights need to be replaced and the layout improved to reduce the number of crashes and injuries. We will work with residents to lobby the Council to act.

Junction One litter:

The litter on the motorway embankments and at Junction One is an eyesore. We will push the Highways Agency to tackle it.

Wallasey Village Station:

Now that extra money is being provided by the Government for transport schemes in the North, there is no excuse for not improving access. We are pushing for the Council to bid for cash to install lifts at the station.

Café for Harrison Park:

We will work with the Friends of Harrison Park to develop a café with toilets near the existing football changing rooms. The former tennis pavilion is not suitable and will be demolished.

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

Regular newsletters and surveys. Social media and website. Doorstep visits (Covid-permitting) and street walks (with Tyson!).



Local residents tell us why they are backing Ian...

The NHS ward sister:

"I have known Ian for more than 20 years. I've seen him when his late parents were in hospital and I've seen him in the community, giving help to anyone who needs it. I know people who he's helped, when other councillors didn't bother.

"He is an approachable, conscientious and hardworking councillor who works for the whole of the community regardless of individual political beliefs."

- Val Frost

The community activist:

"Ian is not just our local councillor he is also a huge supporter of local community groups in Wallasey. Since Wallasey Community Anglers formed in 2019 he has always been there for us and has helped us get money to improve the Captain's Pit on Hose Side Road. I often see Ian and his dog Tyson walking the area and he will always stop for a chat about how our group is getting on."

- Carl Toner

The special school head:

"Many people will remember the battle we fought to try to save Lyndale Special School. Ian Lewis was one of the few councillors who gave his full and active support."

"I was headteacher at Lyndale. We taught and cared for children who were the most vulnerable and who needed the most support. Ian got that and never once let us down."

- Pat Stewart

The ex-Labour Party member:

"Ian has an unusual trait for a local politician - he does what he says he'll do and he listens - really listens to your issues and concerns and keeps you in the loop of progress."

"Regardless of how you vote in national elections, if you truly care about having someone who also truly cares about the local community and its residents then please give your vote to Ian."

- Lorraine Krimou

If you want a councillor who gets things done, vote for one:

Ian Lewis 