

Community Newsline 3

January 2023: Moreton and Saughall Massie

Produced at no expense to the taxpayer and delivered by volunteers to 11,600 people

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area

Next steps to save our local Green Belt

In our last newsletter, we reported on the publication of the long-awaited draft 'Local Plan' into land use in the Borough.

All councils in England have been required, since 2004, to have a Local Plan - to protect Green Belt and also to encourage house building in areas that need investment.

By not having a Local Plan, Wirral was, along with just three other councils, in breach of the law but also putting Green Belt at risk of being lost.

A Local Plan gives the authority to the Council to reject building on the Green Belt, directing investment into the run down areas of Wirral instead.

The draft Local Plan must, by law, be open for consultation and developers can also challenge it - and some already are.

The next stage will see public hearings when the council will present it's case.

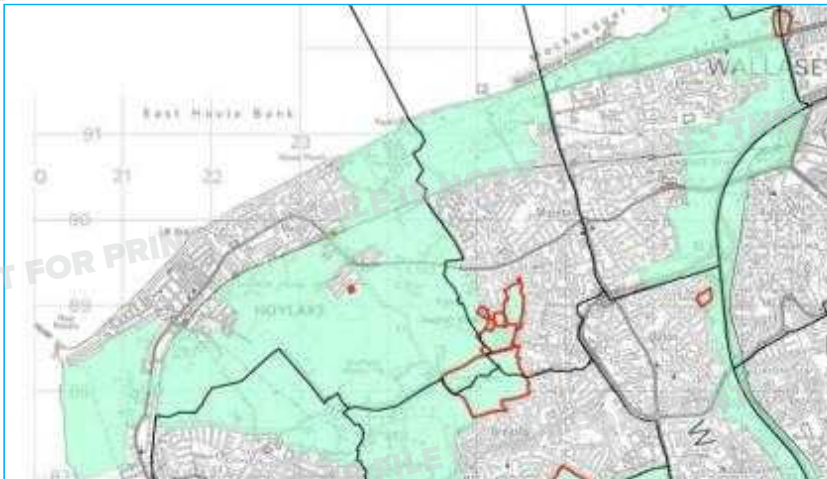
Cllr. Vida Wilson said: "The draft Local Plan, which excludes Labour's previous aim of building 974 houses in this

community, instead now protects our Green Belt.

"We are expecting dates to be confirmed when the independent Inspector, who will assess whether the plan is viable, will listen to comments, including objections."

These hearings are scheduled for 'early 2023' and so we expect to have details soon.

We'll share details with residents and also on our Facebook page: News for Moreton and Saughall Massie



When Labour Councillors had a majority in the Town Hall, their plan was to build 974 houses on Green Belt land around Moreton and Saughall Massie - shown in red on their map leaked to the press.



As well as protecting our local Green Belt, Vida has also been in touch with the Environment Agency and United Utilities about our local rivers, including the Arrowe Brook and the Birket. Both have confirmed that regular checks and maintenance are taking place as part of flood management plans.

Local residents Colin and Gary join the team

This month, we welcome local residents Colin Baldwin and Gary Bennett to our team in Moreton and Saughall Massie.

Colin lives off Saughall Massie Lane and worked with adults with autism, learning and physical difficulties and was a volunteer driver at the Moreton Day Centre.

Gary has lived near Moreton Cross for more than 20 years. Prior to his work now as a Hackney cab driver, Gary served in the British Army.



Local issues, local action: Gary Bennett, Cllr. Vida Wilson and Colin Baldwin.

Latest figures on councillor action

The latest figures released by the Town Hall show that Cllr. Vida Wilson, elected in May 2022, has asked the Town Hall for action on 78 local issues.

Over the same period, Labour councillors in neighbouring wards have raised an average of just 23 issues.

Vida said: "I learned from Chris Blakeley that the job of a councillor is to be active in our community, and not just occupy a seat at the Town Hall!"

Bring banking back to Moreton, says Vida

The closure of bank and building society branches in Moreton has caused problems for some residents.

Some of the former are still empty and an eyesore (such as Lloyds, Barclays) while customers are having to travel to other towns.

Now, 10 banks are launching 'banking hubs' into areas that no longer have any bank branches.

Councillor Vida Wilson has asked for Moreton to have a 'hub'.

The banking hubs enable customers to withdraw and deposit cash, make bill payments and carry out regular banking transactions – regardless of who you bank with.

In addition, hubs have private spaces where customers can speak to someone from their own bank about more complex issues.

These work on a rotating basis, so there will be staff from different banks available on different days.



Councillor Vida Wilson, seen here with Colin Baldwin near the former Barclays branch on Hoylake Road, is calling for a 'banking hub'

Calls for CCTV to tackle Carr Lane flytipping

The problem of illegal fly tipping along Carr Lane has blighted the area for years.

Often this is commercial or industrial waste dumped and left for the council to remove.



Could CCTV be the answer to flytipping at Carr Lane?

Carr Lane is a popular route for walkers and dog walkers and much of the dumping is happening at night times.

Following the latest incident, Councillor Vida Wilson learned that the Council purchased portable CCTV to be used at flytipping hotspots.

Vida said: "We have now asked whether this new CCTV equipment can be used at Carr Lane. Residents who live nearby and who use this route are rightly fed up with the actions of those responsible for dumping rubbish here."

COUNCIL BUDGET: LATEST



Extra cash for Wirral Council

Wirral Council is being given extra cash from the Government to support local services - £6m more than expected. Councillors will vote on the budget for 2023/24, including how much money will also be raised from Business Rates and Council Tax.

Fender Lane cycle works: £204,000

The Town Hall has agreed to 'assess concerns raised' over the cycle lanes on Fender Lane. The cost to the taxpayer of the scheme has now been revealed: £204,000.



We're working for Moreton & Saughall Massie

Your local Conservative team, led by Vida Wilson...

- Regular newsletters** – produced at no expense to the taxpayer and delivered by volunteers to 11,600 residents.
- Local surveys** – by post, door-to-door or online to identify local issues that need action.
- Working harder** – Vida Wilson has raised 78 local issues for action since May.

OR

An invisible Labour Party that only turns up at election time...

- Zero activity or action on issues from the local Labour Party since the last election.
- Here, Labour's candidate last May has now chosen to transfer to Liscard to be a councillor there instead.
- The longest serving Labour Councillor in nearby Leasowe has quit the party altogether and is now an Independent.

Follow our work on Facebook: News for Moreton and Saughall Massie