

Page 2 Residents told us reducing crime with more policing was a priority for 2023...



Page 4 This year, we stepped up our campaign to save our local Green Belt...



YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

Moreton West & Saughall Massie

# Annual Report



FROM LOCAL COUNCILLORS **GARY, VIDA AND COLIN**

# A RECORD OF ACTION, THE PROMISE OF MORE!

The Council elections in May saw an increased vote for your local Conservative team in Moreton and Saughall Massie.

Joining Cllr. Vida Wilson, local residents Colin Baldwin and Gary Bennett were elected as Labour failed to regain outright control of Wirral Council.

Throughout the campaign, we met residents who vote Labour nationally, but who support us locally. We know that switching votes is a big deal for many people and for that we are really grateful.

People voted for Colin, Gary and Vida because, above all, they want councillors who work together to get things done, putting party politics second.

That was the approach taken by our much-missed colleague, Chris Blakeley, and that's what we are continuing to do.



Soon after the Council elections, Gary, Vida and Colin submitted the formal bid to bring banking back to Moreton with a new 'banking hub' - in September we had the good news we had succeeded. We now wait to hear where the hub will be, possibly the old Barclays?

In the weeks and months that followed the council elections, we met with various council managers, seeking to get action on local issues in Moreton and Saughall Massie.

We were also appointed to a number of council committees to look at

council-wide policies and how they can be improved.

**Above all, our role is to speak up for our community and to report back to residents on the actions we've taken.**

Thank you to everyone who has made us so welcome.



**Our councillors got off to a flying start with their bid for a banking hub getting the go ahead**

## OUR PLAN FOR LOCAL ACTION IN 2024:

- 1 PROTECT OUR LOCAL GREEN BELT
- 2 EXTRA POLICE TO REDUCE CRIME
- 3 BRING BANKING BACK TO MORETON
- 4 HELP RESIDENTS WITH THE COST OF LIVING
- 5 PUSH FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TRANSPORT
- 6 IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF HOUSING

**SEE INSIDE**

# Colin, Gary and Vida: local issues, local action!



## TACKLING THE MESS ON THE EMBANKMENT

Newly elected Councillor Gary Bennett got to work by pushing for long-overdue action to remove the build up of weeds and sand along the Moreton Embankment. We also push for more action on the minority of owners who don't pick up after their pets.

## EXTRA CASH FOR WIRRAL COUNCIL

As well as dealing with local issues in Moreton and Saughall Massie, Colin, Gary and Vida have also been speaking up for residents in the Town Hall. During the summer, we learned that the Council has been given more than £100m for regeneration. We are pushing for investment in Moreton, not just Birkenhead!



## NEW LOCAL TEAM ELECTED IN MAY

Thank you to the 1,908 people who voted for us to be councillors in Moreton West & Saughall Massie. To have received 48% of the vote in such a difficult political climate was amazing and confounded those who thought Labour would win here.



## WELCOMING RON TO CHRIST CHURCH

In October, we were pleased to attend and welcome Reverend Canon Ron Iveson to Christ Church and thank Reverend Cousins for his service to our community and Christchurch CE Primary School.



## CLEANING UP OUR LOCAL RIVERS

In August, the Environment Agency responded to our requests to clean up the Arroe Brook and Birket, removing tonnes of debris and silt - and, we hope, helping to avoid a repetition of the floods we saw in previous years.



## LONG-AWAITED POST OFFICE TO RE-OPEN

We have been in regular contact with the Post Office Head Office, to push for the Saughall Bridge Post Office to re-open. In December, they confirmed they now have an applicant progressing through their recruitment process.

## LABOUR: NOW YOU SEE THEM, NOW YOU DON'T...

As usual, Labour's activity in Moreton and Saughall Massie during the election campaign did not continue afterwards. If you were promised action by Labour during the campaign but haven't heard since, let us know and we'll do our best to help now.



## ENHANCING OUR CONSERVATION AREAS

Earlier in 2023, Vida was appointed to the Conservation Society in Saughall Massie. Vida has kept in touch with residents in the village and nearby, including a copy of her report to their AGM in December.



Our community came together, once again, to remember the fallen on Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph in Moreton.



## 724 MORE POLICE IN MERSEYSIDE

Colin, Gary and Vida continue to meet with police on crime issues in our community. We also push for a share of the extra 724 officers recruited since 2019 to be deployed in high visibility patrols to help deter crime and reassure residents.



## MEETING THE POLICE COMMISSIONER

In November, we met with Merseyside's Police and Crime Commissioner and heard about continued work to tackle serious and violent crime. Knife crime is down by 23% and the number of homicides are at the lowest-ever level.



In October, our new volunteer Campaign Support Team got to work

Get involved with your local Conservatives at [volunteer.conservatives.com](http://volunteer.conservatives.com)

Moreton West & Saughall Massie: **135**

Leasowe & Moreton East: **65**

A Freedom of Information Act request revealed the three Conservative Councillors here have raised twice as many issues for action as Labour Councillors

## OFFICIAL FIGURES SHOW YOUR COUNCILLORS WORK HARDER

During the election, we promised residents that we would work all year round and not just at election time. That means responding to requests for help, dealing with local issues and trying our best to get results.

In the six months after the May elections, Colin, Gary and Vida raised 135 issues with the Town Hall for action. Most have been resolved but others, especially more complex cases such as social services, child protection, planning and housing are ongoing.

The figures were published by Wirral Council in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. The list of all 66 councillors also showed that Labour councillors in nearby Leasowe & Moreton East had raised 65 issues for action.

We can't promise to solve every problem but we will try our best. If necessary we will also bring in council directors when we think a problem needs a dose of common sense!

## CONTACT your local councillors

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31 December 2023

Dear resident

As this year draws to a close, we would like to thank everyone who has made us so welcome since we were elected as your councillors in May.

Whether you voted for us or not, we take our responsibility to represent Moreton and Saughall Massie seriously, and will never take it for granted.

With a Labour-led Council, a Labour MP, a Labour Police Commissioner and a Labour Metro Mayor, we know we also have to work harder to get things done in our community.

If you need our help in 2024, please contact us. We will also continue to report back to residents with our local newsletters and a special thanks to all those volunteers who help us in this way.

We will also be introducing a monthly postal survey to 500 or so people each month. If you receive one, please take part and tell us your views!

*Colin, Gary and Vida*

Colin Baldwin, Gary Bennett and Vida Wilson  
Councillors for Moreton West & Saughall Massie



## SAUGHALL MASSIE'S GREEN BELT

Plans by developers that would see more than 1,000 houses built around Saughall Massie have been opposed by your three councillors.

We have met with campaigners, attended the Local Plan hearings and supported those who want to see the run down areas of the Borough developed instead.

The Town Hall's failure to produce a Local Plan for 18 years was also compounded by the failure to have any of the smaller green spaces in Moreton or Saughall Massie given extra protection.

We will report back in 2024 as the Local Plan Inquiry concludes.

# our plan

## for Moreton and Saughall Massie in 2024



As well as dealing with issues in Moreton and Saughall Massie, Colin, Gary and Vida will continue to challenge poor decisions in the Town Hall.

### 1 Protect our local Green Belt in Saughall Massie and build in urban areas

We will NEVER support building 1,000 houses on Saughall Massie's Green Belt. We will support developers who want to regenerate the Borough's run down urban areas.

### 2 Extra police to reduce crime and reassure residents

We will hold regular meetings with police to make sure local crime hot spots are dealt with, that perpetrators are caught and victims supported.

### 3 Bring banking back to Moreton with a new banking 'hub'

So far, so good. Moreton is set to have the first banking hub in the constituency after our bid was successful. We are now working to find a suitable venue

### 4 Help residents with the cost of living and support the vulnerable

For most residents, incomes are now rising, thanks to a higher National Living Wage, the Pensions Triple Lock and lower National Insurance from January.

### 5 Push for improvements to transport, including local bus services

We will continue to oppose reductions in bus services by operators. Had the Metro Mayor used the powers he's had since 2017, some routes could have been saved.

### 6 Improve the condition of housing, including for those who rent

We will meet with Magenta Living about the poor conditions experienced by some tenants. We will also push the council to do more on poor private rented housing.