

Lewis, Ian (Councillor)

From: Lewis, Ian (Councillor)
Sent: 16 February 2024 20:13
To: Satoor, Paul
Cc: Ball, David S.; Rennie, Lesley A. (Councillor)
Subject: West Wallasey Van Hire

Dear Chief Executive

I am aware that David Ball drew the short straw in having to deal with this company on behalf of the authority and sincerely thank him for his work to secure 'agreement' to lease to them the former gas works site in Seacombe for a period of two years, following their decision to take on additional vehicles without anywhere to store them. How odd that a company which reported £61m in gross profit last year is unable to secure a site to lease without the council stepping in.

However, that was on 7 February. Ten days later and we are still enduring their vehicles on Kings Parade and, as we have heard this week, also on Cross Lane, preventing reasonable access to the council-owned allotments. Vehicles are also being left on Leasowe Road, affecting access to the council-owned sports fields between Gardenside and Heyes Drive in Leasowe.

Furthermore, on Friday 9 February, I made various officers aware of the latest (in a long list) illegal parking acts outside this company's office on Leasowe Road, securing the commitment of the Assistant Director for Highways for yet more measures to protect pedestrians at this location, at taxpayers' expense.

Presumably, we've not had any reports of vehicles parked outside the directors' homes?

Last Friday, I contacted the Director of Finance asking how 'we' assess whether the Authority's 'Social Value Policy' is being met by using this company. My own analysis of the Council's published monthly spend in the last six months comes to more than £66,000 (see email below). Is this policy virtue signalling claptrap or does it have any meaning? If so, why are WE using taxpayers money to support a company that is causing so many problems for the taxpayer?

I have yet to receive any acknowledgment from the Director Finance to this email, nor my email of 12 January, asking for how much Wirral Council has spent with this company in the last five years. I am aware he is focussed on passing the Council budget for 2024/25 but, equally, that budget will also include the costs for the ongoing effects of this company's conduct.

Frankly, this nonsense has gone on for long enough.

Regardless of whether the vehicles are removed to the site we have leased to this company, I would like to meet with you, and whichever senior officers you deem appropriate, to respond to the following:

1. An additional traffic regulation order (or orders) to restrict overnight parking on key sites
2. Whether an immediate parking restriction can be imposed due to public access and safety
3. Whether the 'Social Value Policy' is being met by doing business with this company
4. That a cross-departmental, authority-wide approach is taken dealing with ANY matters relating to this company
5. Whether the unadopted section of Cross Lane (thereby free of parking restrictions) can be adopted
6. When the additional pedestrian safety measures at Leasowe Road will be installed and at what cost
7. Whether previous planning conditions imposed on this company have been complied with and, if not, why enforcement action has not followed
8. A copy of the lease for the former gasworks site (albeit with any personal data redacted)

If others have made promises to this company which cannot be delivered, or received commitments which cannot be enforced, more fool them.

Ian Lewis

Ian Lewis
Local Conservative Councillor | Wallasey Ward

Facebook: www.facebook.com/newsforwallasey

Website: <https://www.wallaseyconservatives.com/ianlewis>

To receive our monthly summary of local news by email click [here](#)

From: Lewis, Ian (Councillor)
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 1:49 PM
To: Bennett, Matthew <matthewbennett1@wirral.gov.uk>
Cc: Gooding, Jason <jasongooding@wirral.gov.uk>; Satoor, Paul <paulsatoor@wirral.gov.uk>
Subject: Social Value Act 2012

Dear Matthew

I understand the Social Value Policy adopted by the Authority states that *'Social Value will be considered in every procurement for a services contract or services framework agreement (including goods and works contracts procured in combination with services) valued at £100,000 and above; subject to the Public Contract Regulations 2015, or to lower values if applicable.'*

And is defined as *'A commitment to using our influence and commissioning resources to help deliver the Wirral Plan; to drive economic growth, improve the local environment and support vulnerable people – while ensuring the best possible value for money when buying goods and services for the people of Wirral.'*

One of the company's we procure services from, West Wallasey Car Hire Limited, benefits from substantial spend by the Authority.

The published spend for the last six months alone totals more than £66,000, almost entirely from the Neighbourhoods Directorate:

August 2023: 7780.14
September 2023: 8119.6
October: 9,595.64
November: 18097.77
December: 11484.3
January 2024: 11164.56

Can you please advise who and how we assess whether the company is compliant with the adopted policy?

I would also be grateful to know the total spend with the company by the Authority for each of the last three financial years.

Best wishes

Ian Lewis

Ian Lewis
Local Conservative Councillor | Wallasey Ward

Facebook: www.facebook.com/newsforwallasey

Website: <https://www.wallaseyconservatives.com/ianlewis>

To receive our monthly summary of local news by email click [here](#)