

Newsline 9

Spring 2025 Moreton and Saughall Massie

From local councillors Colin Baldwin, Gary Bennett and Vida Wilson

FREE!
delivered by
volunteers to
11,600
people



The Mayor of Wirral, Cllr. Cherry Poval JP, officially opened Wirral's first permanent banking hub, in Moreton.

Success! We've brought banking back to Moreton

Two years after the last bank left Moreton, the campaign by local councillors and residents has finally paid off as Wirral's first permanent banking hub opened.

It's been a busy few months since the new banking hub opened in Moreton.

Since the Mayor of Wirral 'cut the ribbon' in December, there has been a steady stream of residents and local business owners through the door.

Regardless of who you bank with, day to day banking - such as cash and cheque deposits, withdrawals and bill payments are available at the hub,

every day Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

And five of the leading banks also have specialist advisers on hand for more complex issues.

- Mondays: NatWest
- Tuesdays: Santander
- Wednesdays: Halifax
- Thursdays: Barclays
- Fridays: Lloyds

Councillors Colin Baldwin, Gary Bennett and Vida Wilson have thanked everyone who worked with them on this campaign.

Vida said: "There were ups and downs along the way, and it took longer than we'd hoped, but we'd like to thank all those involved in helping us to bring banking back to Moreton."

We're the team that works for Moreton and Saughall Massie

www.wallaseyconservatives.com



Councillor Vida Wilson, Colin Baldwin and Gary Bennett will keep up the pressure to protect Green Belt, including here at Saughall Massie.

'Local Plan' finally approved but only for two years...

Six years after Labour Councillors secretly agreed to build on Wirral's Green Belt, the Borough finally has a 'Local Plan' to protect it, including Saughall Massie.

Labour's plans led to them losing their majority in the Town Hall.

Since then, the Council has worked to come up with a legally-required plan that would, instead, put development in the run-down and neglected areas of the borough, so called 'brownfield'.

Sadly, however, it's not all good news.

One of the first actions of the new Government in July 2024 was to more than double the target for house building in Wirral to 35,000 houses.

This will, if enforced, make it inevitable that large parts of Wirral's Green Belt will be built on.

Regulations on planning are also being changed to favour developers and housebuilders over local communities.

Join our Facebook Group:
www.facebook.com/groups/saughallmassie

Council apologises for 'baby graves'

After decades of campaigning by grieving parents, Wirral Council has apologised for burying stillborn infants in unmarked, mass graves.

While the practice stopped in the 1980s, it was widespread across the country in the decades before. Hospitals would arrange for the burial, often without informing the parents. Councillor Gary Bennett has been working with the parents affected.

Following Gary's work, Wirral Council finally issued a full apology to the families. The Town Hall has also asked the Government to issue guidance, and financial support, to ensure all councils can provide the information that families need, including digitising records to enable burial plots to be found.

Council Tax bills rise by 5% after promise broken

Before the election last year, Sir Keir Starmer promised to freeze Council Tax bills, recognising the impact higher bills were having on the cost of living.

While the extra money needed wasn't forthcoming from the Government, a big rise in the number of people needing social care pushed Wirral's budget to breaking point.

As a result, the Town Hall was forced to apply for a £40m bailout from the Government. Instead, the Government offered £27m but required a 5% rise in Council Tax as well as cuts to other services.

The £27m is a loan, repayable over the next 20 years, meaning even less cash for services in future years.

Need our help? Got an idea for our community?

Tell us about your issue or idea:

Name

Address

Please tell us how you'd like us to keep in touch by ticking the relevant boxes below. You can opt out at any time:

Email Mobile Home phone SMS

Email

Tel/Mobile

CAN YOU HELP US?

- Display a poster
- Deliver leaflets
- Attend social events
- Join the local Party
- Vote by post
- Stand for Council

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Local Action Team
PO Box 269
Wirral
CH29 9GB

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Labour votes for more cycle lanes in Moreton

A stormy and bad tempered meeting at the Town Hall in January saw a majority of councillors vote for cycle lanes on Hoylake Road, Upton Road and Pasture Road.

The Town Hall was packed as angry residents and businesses attended to voice their opposition to the plans. Many only knew about the proposal from our last newsletter.

The cycle lanes will see on street parking removed in the push to get people cycling instead. There is no evidence that this approach works, or that residents want it. The Council's own survey showed 79% of people are against the plan.

When it came to the vote, only the Conservative Councillors voted against. A majority, led by Labour, voted to move to the next stage of the scheme, without knowing yet how much it will cost.



It's also been revealed that the result of the consultation into the failed Fender cycle lane has now been pushed back to July!

Could you be a local councillor?

Following changes introduced in 2022, there are no council elections this year. Instead, all councillors are elected at the same time, serving for a term of four years.

The next Council elections in Wirral will be held in May 2027. Would you like to be part of the team?

To change council decisions means bringing in more people who are committed to their local community and who will stand up and be counted when it comes to important votes.

If that sounds like something you could do, let us know - post the Feedback slip on the opposite page or email our local team at office@wallaseyconservatives.com.

We'll arrange an informal chat to explain about the role and how good councillors can make a difference!

Moreton Library and youth space

Residents may have seen the news that, as part of the cuts required by the Government's £27m loan to the Council, some libraries could close.

Here in Moreton, Councillors Baldwin, Gary Bennett and Vida Wilson, have been pushing for services at our library to be improved. It's a vital 'hub' used by residents across the town, especially since the One Stop Shop closed.

We've had assurances that Moreton Library will not be proposed for closure.

Last year, more than 20,000 books were borrowed, 2,000 people used the computers and 490 new people signed up to be members.

The library is also scheduled to be redeveloped as part of the wider work on that site, including a 'youth space' for the town's teenagers.



Moreton Library offers a great selection of books. Even with the pressures on budgets, the Council will be spending £50,000 on new books for Wirral's libraries this year.



Coach and Horses 'car park' litter pick

Councillors have again reported the mess in the private car park behind the pub. As well as asking for the Town Hall to take action against the owner, we also held our own 'litter pick' to remove several bags of waste.



Action on overgrown grass verges

While last year's delays to grass cutting caused widespread complaints, we also asked for 'spade edging' the verges next to pavements such as Town Meadow Lane, Saughall Road and Saughall Massie Road.



New roof for Lingham School in £1m plan

The Council has a legal duty to maintain school buildings, including Lingham Primary School. In February, your local Councillors voted for a plan that will see almost £1m spent on the school roof and other works.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Campaign to reinstate early diagnosis of dementia

In January, the Department of Health issued new guidance to local NHS managers, dropping dementia diagnosis as a key target.

In response, Councillor Vida Wilson led a debate at the Town Hall calling for a rethink.

Vida said: "Early diagnosis of dementia is vital to help people, and their families, adapt and get the help that can make life a little bit easier. While I am grateful for the support of most councillors, I cannot understand why Labour Councillors voted against it."



Leisure centres accept spare kit

In all Wirral's leisure centres, there are now points where you can donate unwanted sports kit or equipment or receive anything on display for FREE. Councillor Gary Bennett visited Leasowe Leisure Centre to see how the scheme is working and heard how unused kit is given a new life.



New bus routes on the way?

Colin, Gary and Vida recently met with Merseytravel, following new powers introduced back in 2017 to change the way bus services are managed. Borrowdale Road is one of areas where we are pushing for improvements, such as a route to Arrow Park Hospital.



Holt Avenue, behind the new banking hub, is one of the sites Labour Councillors backed for new parking charges.

'Loss making' parking charges on the way in Moreton

Parking charges are on the way to Moreton after a vote at the Town Hall.

Among the sites listed are Garden Lane and Pasture Road (in front of the GP surgery) and Holt Avenue.

Appeals by Moreton's councillors, businesses and residents were brushed aside by Labour Councillors.

Charges are also being introduced to the borough's three main promenades - Kings Parade, North Parade and South Parade.

However, as the Council has no cash to pay for the parking meters, they are borrowing the cash.

Wirral will pay £150,000 a year to borrow the £1.5m to pay for the meters.

How much does Labour think the charges will bring in? £160,000 a year. Some sites will not bring in enough to cover the cost of the meters!

NEED OUR HELP WITH A LOCAL ISSUE IN MORETON OR SAUGHALL MASSIE?

CONTACT COLIN, GARY OR VIDA...



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