

Newsline

Wallasey Spring 2025 Issue 9

From local Conservative councillors Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie

FREE!
delivered by
volunteers to
11,600
people



Mayor Cherry Povall, lends a hand, along with library volunteer Hannah and Jessica, a Reading Ambassador at St George's Primary.

Good news as Wallasey Village Library re-opens

The Mayor of Wirral was the latest visitor to Wallasey Village Library, following the re-opening in December, two years after it was closed by the Council.

When the closure was first proposed in 2022, Councillor Ian Lewis worked to set up a group to take it over and bring it back into use.

With great support from the library friends group, St George's Primary School and local residents, a charity was established and a business plan produced.

After months of negotiations and planning, building works and fundraising, the revamped Wallasey Village Library and

Community Centre was opened in December 2024 by local author Ramsey Campbell.

More than 600 people have, so far, signed up to be library members, giving them access to more than 6,000 books currently available to borrow.

In contrast to when it was run by the Council, the library is now open five days a week, Monday to Friday, from 10am to 4pm, with volunteers on hand to help.

The building also now includes a community room, with various events and activities throughout the week, including weekends.

Books are also available to browse and buy, seven days a week.

Key to the whole project is Baked cafe - also open seven days a week.

Well done to all the trustees, volunteers and supporters for bringing this valuable asset back into use.

Ian and Lesley: we're the team that works for Wallasey

www.wallaseyconservatives.com



Councillors Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie have contacted the owners of the derelict site at the top of Leasowe Road, calling for action.

Leasowe Road eyesore: fresh demands for action

It's now eight years since planning permission was given to build shops and flats at the top of Leasowe Road.

In the years that have followed, the site has been left derelict, often with litter and rubbish.

As it's so long since anything happened on the site, Ian and Lesley

contacted the Land Registry to identify the owners.

We have now written to the two owners - based in St Albans and Hayes - asking for action.

We've also asked the Council's Regeneration Department for their help to bring this site back into use.

Local Green Spaces given extra protection

Six years after Labour Councillors secretly agreed to build on Wirral's Green Belt, the Borough finally has a 'Local Plan' to protect it after a vote on 31 March.

On 31 March, at a council meeting called to agree the plan, Ian and Lesley voted in favour, following assurances that nine green spaces in Wallasey were to be given extra protection, as we requested.

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.

The Government has also announced that regulations will be changed to favour developers over local councils and residents.

Council Tax bills rise by 5% after promises 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.

Sadly, the extra money needed wasn't forthcoming from the Government. At the same time, 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, with interest, 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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Lifts for Wallasey Village Station agreed, but for when?

It is now more than 11 years since we started to campaign for lifts at Wallasey Village Station.

In that time, Ian and Lesley have met with two different Government Ministers and organised two separate petitions.

Now, helped by money announced four years ago by the then Government, it looks like lifts are finally on the way.

Wallasey Village Station will be included in plans by the City Region to introduce 'step free access' at 17 stations on the Merseyrail network.

The target date for completion for all 17 stations is 2030. We have written to ask when Wallasey Village Station is programmed for works.



Ian and Lesley thanks all residents who have supported the campaign, following news that lifts should be installed by 2030 at the latest.

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 join Ian and Lesley as a councillor in our community?

We need councillors 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!

Labour pushed through next stage of cycle lanes

A stormy meeting of the Council's Environment Committee in January saw approval given to the latest stage of the controversial cycle lane plans.

This was in spite of concerns raised by residents, business owners and even local GP, Dr Fred Newton.

74% of people opposed the original scheme and, in the latest council-run consultation, this had risen to 94% saying 'no'.

The plans for 28 cycle routes will now be considered in stages, with the Woodside

to Liscard route at the most advanced stage of planning.

Seaview Road, Hose Side Road, Grove Road, Warren Drive, Wallasey Village, Breck Road and Wallasey Road were, however, pushed back to later in the period, following the large number of objections from our community.

While three Conservative Councillors voted against the plans, eight others (Labour, Green and Lib dem) voted in favour, ensuring the uncosted scheme progresses to the next stage.

LISTEN TO US
We say 'No' to the proposed cycle lanes
Decision to be taken on Monday 27th Jan
Town Hall, 6pm. Residents can...

74% SAY 'NO'

Thanks to all those residents and businesses who displayed posters about the plans.



Alley ways clean up after councillor intervention

Ian and Lesley lobbied the Town Hall to make sure alleyways in our area were included in a 'clean up' programme. Thanks to residents who have been in touch to tell us about others that need attention.



Tidying up grass verges in Wallasey

While last year's delays to grass cutting caused widespread complaints, we also asked for 'spade edging' the verges next to pavements such as Zetland Road (above), St Nicholas Road and Folly Lane.



Better tree care after new contract agreed

Following the appointment of a new tree care company, Arborforce, we again asked for the trees on Leasowe Road to be pruned. Thanks to the company, run by military veterans, for responding to our request.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Campaign to reinstate NHS dementia target

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

In response, Ian and Lesley urged a rethink during a vote at the Town Hall called by Conservative Councillors.

Lesley said: "We know that 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."

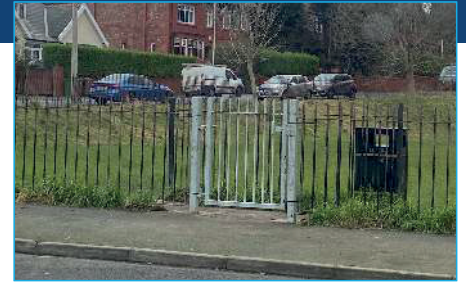
"Thankfully, most councillors backed our call but I cannot understand why Labour Councillors voted against it."



Some TLC for Grove Road Station?

As well as Wallasey Village Station (see page two), we are also pushing for repairs to Grove Road.

Broken windows, peeling paint and dilapidated fencing on Harrison Drive all need attention. We await the response from the railway authorities.



Long-awaited gate at Flynn's Piece

Following concerns from residents, we asked last year for a gate to be installed at Flynn's Piece on Grove Road to prevent children or pets running into the road.

Following the eventual installation, we've asked 'Community Payback' if they will repaint the railings.



Kings Parade parking charges on the way...

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

Concerns from residents, businesses and groups which visit the area were brushed aside by Labour and Green Councillors.

However, it's now been revealed that, due to a lack of cash, the Council is going

to borrow £1.5m to pay for the new parking meters.

The loan will be repaid at £150,000 a year but the total income from the charges are projected at £160,000.

At some of the sites, it is predicted the revenue from charges will not even cover the cost of the meters.

Kings Parade is one of three promenades in Wirral which will soon have parking meters installed following a vote at the Town Hall.

Mosslands School £57m rebuild

Updated plans submitted



Following our requests, we are pleased to report that the former playing fields off Cross Lane will NOT be included in the £57m rebuild of the school. The Council has also agreed to our request to build a new pavilion for the football pitches at Wallace.

Wallasey Central Library relocation?

How to have your say...



As part of the proposals to change the Council's library service, the Town Hall is looking to relocate Central Library from Earlston Road to the Floral Pavilion. The Council's consultation starts in May and can be found at www.haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk

Leasowe Road junction safety improvements

Promise that work 'ongoing'



Another project that is taking much longer than expected is the remodelling of the junction at Leasowe Road, Greenleas Road and Cross Lane. Identified as a crash hotspot, an initial £150,000 was allocated...in March 2023. We've been promised the design work is almost complete.

Ian and Lesley: working for Wallasey all year round, not just at election time.