

# newsline

In shock news, Wirral is one of 15 councils around England that have failed to come up with a local plan to protect the Green Belt.



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The Town Hall has pledged to carry on with plans to spend £1.5 million issuing all households with wheelie bins for food waste



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# SAY 'NO' TO WIRRAL LABOUR'S PROM PARKING CHARGES

## Wirral Conservatives: 'We'll scrap Labour's plan for parking charges'

As the rest of Wirral was getting ready for Christmas, the Town Hall announced plans to introduce 'pay and display' parking charges on Wirral's promenades and coastal areas.

The plan, which was kept secret until 18th December, will see charges introduced and enforced by a private company, with stiff penalties for anyone who fails to 'pay and display'.

Announcing the charges, the Leader of the Council, Labour Councillor Phil Davies from Birkenhead, said he would raise £245,000 a year.

Wirral's Conservative Councillors are opposing the plan.

Parking meters have also now been installed in Wirral's Country Parks.

Wirral Labour's Promenade Parking Plan will see charges introduced at Kings Parade and Derby Pool (Wallasey), Leasowe Common, (Moreton), North Parade (Hoylake and Meols) and South Parade (West Kirby).

So far, more than 1,000 residents have signed our online petition against the charges. We are calling on Labour Councillors to think again.

Visit the website to add your name: [www.wirralconservatives.com/promenadeparking](http://www.wirralconservatives.com/promenadeparking)



Councillor Lesley Rennie, seen here with Ian Lewis, said: "The Council has an £800 million budget and is lending money to other councils. These charges are not needed and not wanted. Ian, Paul Hayes and I will oppose these unnecessary parking charges. Please sign our petition."



## CASH FOR CONSULTANTS HITS £2 MILLION!

While the Town Hall is looking at extending parking charges, figures obtained by Wirral's Conservative Councillors have revealed the full extent of spending on management consultants.

In the last 12 months, a staggering £2 million has been spent on consultants, including TWO reviews of library and leisure services, costing £308,000. The highest paid consultant is now being paid £1,000 a DAY by Wirral Council.

Councillor Lesley Rennie, seen here at Wallasey Village Library said: "This money would have been better spent on our library and leisure services. The Friends of the Library do a fantastic job but the Council must also play its part."

Our local Facebook page is a hit with residents in Wallasey.

We're using Facebook to keep people up to date with news in our community. More than 19,000 people saw Lesley Rennie's video on the parking charges.

If you're on Facebook, visit the page: News for Wallasey Ward and 'like', comment and share...



## Action in our community:

Your three local Conservative Councillors fight for a fair share of Wirral Council's £800 million budget for our community:

### Roads and pavements:

We continue to press for action on this problem. The Town Hall has spent just £49,000 of a grant of £270,000 given to them by the Government to fix pot holes in our roads by April.

### Sea Road junction

Thanks to those residents who attended a public meeting chaired by Councillor Lesley Rennie. We are asking the Town Hall to tackle the problem of cars parking on Sea Road near the junction.

### Wallasey Road:

We have asked for the poor drainage at the crossing near the Post Office to be tackled. It's just the latest problem arising since the botched resurfacing of the road last year.

### St George's School:

We have met with the school's Headteacher and we're writing to all parents with children following concerns over road safety.

### 'Wirral View':

The controversial Town Hall 'newspaper' has failed to attract advertisers, leaving the Council to pick up the bill. Wirral View costs £270,000 but many people still don't receive it. As a result, the Council's deliverers are now asking some people to sign for it!

### Harrison Park:

We recently arranged for the Council's Assistant Chief Executive to meet with the fantastic Friends group to see if he can help with some of the further improvements the Friends are working on. The Friends also hold a 'litter pick' of the Park once a month. Find them on Facebook for details.

### Did you know?

Between 1997 and 2010, more than 7,000 local post offices were closed, including many here in Wallasey. Now, the Government has announced £370 million to support those that are left. Did you know that you can pay in cheques and cash into your personal bank account at a Post Office? Ask them for details or visit [www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-banking-services](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-banking-services)

# TOWN HALL REFUSES TO PUBLISH 'RISK REPORT' ON THEIR NHS PLANS

**A report by consultants PricewaterhouseCoopers into the Council's plans for the NHS will be kept secret.**

The report, which cost £79,000, looked at the risks to the NHS of integrating health services with Wirral Council.

Conservative Councillors have called for the report to be made public.

Councillor Ian Lewis has made a request under the Freedom of Information Act for the report to be published: "People have a right to know what the risks are from the Councils plans, how they are being addressed and that the NHS locally supports any changes."

Meanwhile, the NHS in Wirral ended 2017 with more patients being treated than ever before. An extra £1 million was pumped into the service locally to help with extra demand in Winter.

Nationally, thanks to improvements in cancer care and treatment, there are 7,000 more people alive than would have been the case in 2010.



## M53 traffic light plans

**News that the Town Hall was consulting on plans to install traffic lights at Junction 1 of the M53 was first reported on our Facebook page in November.**

Now, the Council has announced the plan is to be finalised with Highways England. It will be paid for by a £100,000 grant from the Government with work set to begin in March to install traffic lights.

Councillor Lesley Rennie said; "Most drivers seem to support the plan as peak hour delays are getting worse. We have also asked for the lights along the North Wallasey Approach Road to be repaired as part of the work."

## CHILD GROOMING REPORT

**Wirral's Children's Services Department was condemned as 'inadequate' by Ofsted, following an inspection in 2016.**

This was followed by the resignation of the Labour Councillor responsible for the service and the appointment of a new Director on a massively-increased salary of £160,000.

Now, in a further development, it's been revealed that a number of teenage girls were failed by the Department, in a shocking child sexual exploitation scandal.

The guidelines for reports into these kind of failings are clear that reports MUST be published, while protecting the identity of the victims. However, authorities have decided the report into this scandal will NOT be published.

Councillor Paul Hayes, Spokesman on the Children's Services Committee, said: "This was an appalling failure by those in authority to protect some of the most vulnerable young girls in Wirral.

"We have called for the report to be published so those responsible can be held accountable. Sadly, Labour Councillors disagree."



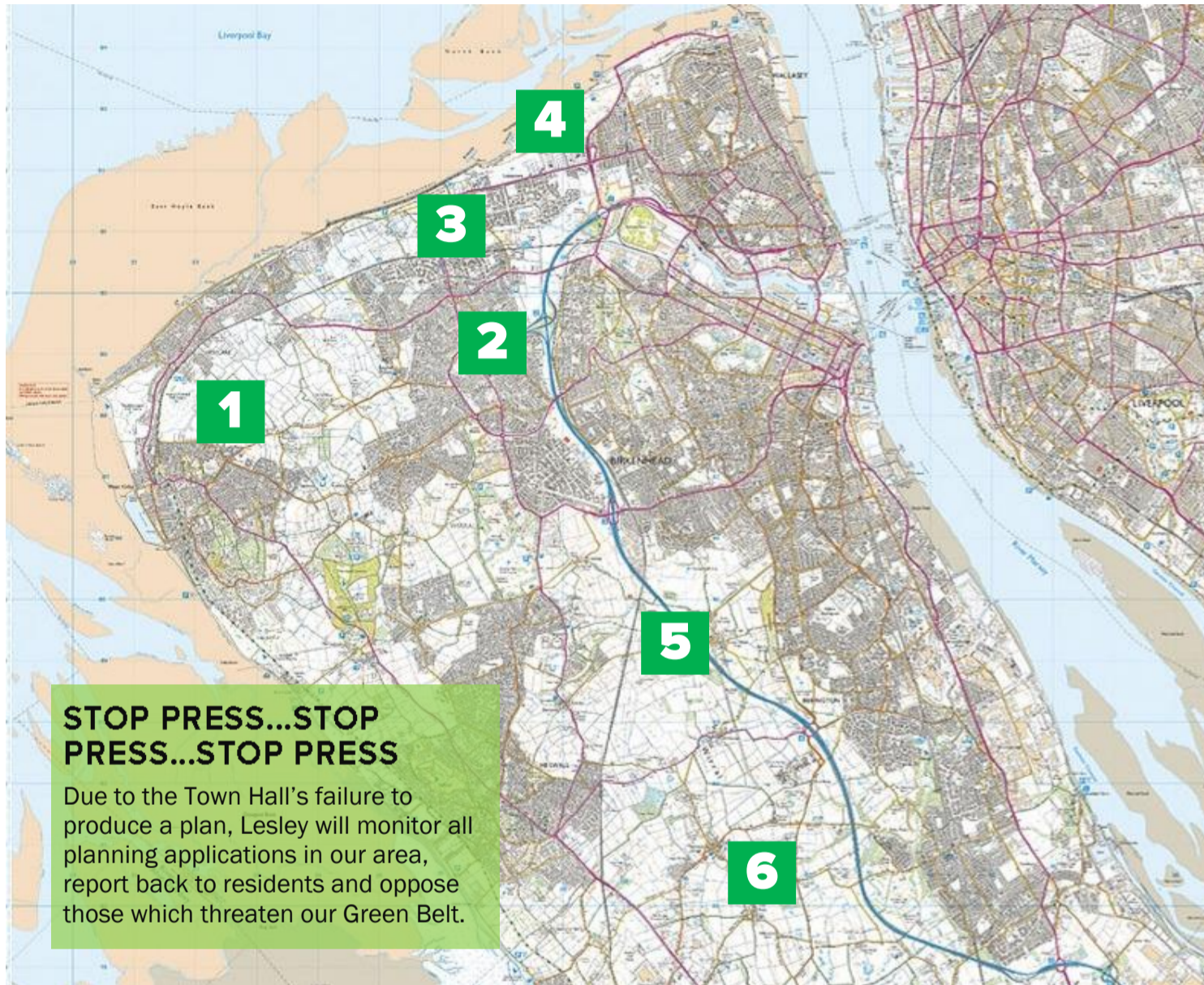
# 13 YEARS OF TOWN HALL FAILURE PUTS WIRRAL GREEN BELT AT RISK

In 2003, the then-Labour Government made it the law that all councils had to have a local plan to protect their Green Belt.

For the last 13 years, Wirral Council has failed to comply. This has led to 'open season' for developers to apply to build anywhere in the Borough.

Now, Wirral is among 15 councils that have been told to get their act together, by the end of January.

Councillor Lesley Rennie said: "The Town Hall has a shocking record when it comes to protecting our green spaces. Wirral urgently needs a Local Plan to protect our Green Belt. Other Councils have all managed to produce one. Why hasn't Wirral?"



## STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS

Due to the Town Hall's failure to produce a plan, Lesley will monitor all planning applications in our area, report back to residents and oppose those which threaten our Green Belt.

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**1. Hoylake Golf Resort:** This is the most high-profile site now at risk in Wirral. The ruling Labour Cabinet are backing the plan to develop it, with public money, including building 150 'executive' houses on our Green Belt.

**2. Fernbank Farm:** Tenants of the site next to the M53 were evicted after 40 years as the Town Hall decided to sell off the land for housing.

**3. Burtons:** 299 new houses are to be built on the land around Burtons on Pasture Road.

**4. Harrison Estate:** Labour's plan to sell off the market gardens on Leasowe Road to the highest bidder have been withdrawn after a campaign by tenants and local Conservative Councillors.

**5. Storeton Village:** Controversial plans for building in Green Belt here have been thrown out by the Planning Committee.

**6. Thornton Hough:** Plans have been submitted for an 'extra care village', including 100 apartments, at one of Wirral's most well-known beauty spots. If approved, the village would grow by almost a third.

**...but homes lying empty:** It has been revealed that 6,000 homes are lying empty across Wirral.

At the same time, work has yet to start on the 13,521 homes already approved at 'Wirral Waters' near the docks.

## Why our community needs councillors like Lesley Rennie

### LOCAL CHAMPION, TACKLING LOCAL ISSUES.

A good local councillor can make a big difference. Lesley works hard with Paul and Ian to help residents with local problems, making life better for our community. We can't solve every problem, but we will try our best.

### CHALLENGING DECISIONS OF THOSE IN POWER

Most of the decisions that affect our community are taken by Labour politicians from other areas. Lesley isn't afraid to stand up and challenge them and fight for a fairer share for our community of the Council's £800m budget.

### COMMUNITY FIRST, PARTY POLITICS SECOND

Wirral is a Labour-run Council: there are 38 Labour Councillors in Wirral. Time after time, they vote to put Birkenhead first, and our area second. Our community needs a councillor who is prepared to stand up to them.



**You have:** a Labour Councillor from Birkenhead as Council Leader.



**You have:** a Labour Member of Parliament in London.



**You have:** a Labour Metro Mayor of the 'City Region' based in Liverpool.



**You have:** a Labour Police Commissioner, based in Liverpool.



**You need:** Lesley Rennie to speak up for our area.

visit [www.wirralconservatives.com/lesleyrennie](http://www.wirralconservatives.com/lesleyrennie)



# TOWN HALL REPORT:

## Flood defence cash:

The latest report to the Council shows that just £14,000 of a £250,000 fund to improve flood defences has been used by the Town Hall.

**Public toilets:** the public toilets at Harrison Drive are among nine sites around Wirral where the Labour Leader is looking to introduce charges to raise £30,000 a year.

## Labour Councillor suspended:

A Wirral Labour Councillor has been suspended from her Party following complaints of bullying and intimidation being upheld by an all-Party Panel.

## Soft play areas:

£300,000 will be spent to install soft play areas for children at leisure centres.

## Senior director pay-offs:

Labour Councillors have voted to grant 'pay offs' to senior directors that will cost Wirral taxpayers £1.4 million, with one director set to receive a whopping £390,000.

## Debts not collected:

The latest Town Hall report reveals that debts of £14 million are owed to the Council, and have been for at least a year or more.

## Christmas Lights:

This year's Christmas Lights in the village were paid for by the Council, at a cost of £3,460. There won't be any grants next Christmas so we'll be helping to raise the money locally. Look out for details!

# NEW PROTECTION FOR WIRRAL COAST



■ There's good news for the coast around Wirral this month: parts of the Irish Sea and Liverpool Bay are being given special protection to support the marine environment and bird populations.

Previously, Conservatives have axed plans by the previous Labour Government for 'Underground Coal Gasification' in the Dee Estuary and Liverpool Bay. The licences, granted in 2008, would have enabled gas to be extracted.

Plastic 'microbeads' in cleaning products have also been banned.

At the last Council meeting, Conservative and Green Party councillors worked together to call for action on polluting single use

plastics, as reported in the fantastic BBC Blue Planet series.

Our new Coastal Clean Up Team meets soon to litter pick our beaches and coastal areas. Visit: [wirralconservatives.com/beaches](http://wirralconservatives.com/beaches)

# LAWS TO CHANGE TO IMPROVE ANIMAL CARE

■ The Government's consultation on toughening up sentences for animal cruelty is now underway and closes on 31 January. The changes will see maximum sentences increased from six months to five years.

In 2016, Merseyside was in the Top 10 areas for animal cruelty.

Councillor Paul Hayes said: "Animal welfare is a cause that is really important to many people here in Wallasey and we've some shocking cases of abuse lately."

"Making the sentences longer will send a strong signal that we will no longer tolerate animal cruelty."

Have your say via our website: [www.wirralconservatives.com/animalwelfare](http://www.wirralconservatives.com/animalwelfare) by no later than 31 January.

In a further step, Conservatives are developing proposals to crack down on puppies being reared in unhealthy circumstances by unscrupulous breeders who have a total disregard for their welfare. We'll report back on this soon.

# TOWN HALL CARRIES ON WITH FOOD BINS

■ Proposed changes to refuse collection in Wirral have led to a storm of protest from residents. Many people in Wallasey contacted their three councillors, unhappy with plans for extra bins.

The Town Hall has been struggling to hit recycling targets since they introduced charges for the garden waste collections.

This led to fewer people using the service, and less garden waste being collected.

Plans are ongoing to give all homes two extra bins for food waste in an effort to boost recycling.

Councillor Lesley Rennie said: "Thanks to everyone who has been in touch. We need to see less waste produced in the first place. Food

waste bins are not the answer. For many people, extra bins are just not practical. We are calling on Labour Councillors to think again."

What do you think? [www.wirralconservatives.com/bins](http://www.wirralconservatives.com/bins)

# WE'RE HERE TO HELP WITH LOCAL ISSUES...

■ Wallasey has three local Conservative Councillors. It doesn't matter who you vote for in a General Election, we put the community first and Party politics second.



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