

newsline

Fears for Wirral's Green Belt have grown after Labour Councillors said **there won't be a plan to protect it until 2020.**



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In the last five years, the number of young people in Wirral without a job has fallen by two thirds - down by a massive 1,660!



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LABOUR: COUNCIL TAX UP BY 6% THIS MONTH!

Council Tax in Wirral is going up by 6% this month. Cllr. Phil Davies, Labour Leader of the Council, has **said he is 'proud' of the budget. He has also pledged to introduce parking charges at Wirral's promenades and coastal areas, including Kings Parade.**

Wirral's opposition Conservative Councillors have called for less to be wasted on consultants and to scrap the Wirral View newspaper.

Conservatives also want to halt the plan for £1.5 million for food waste bins and loans to other councils.

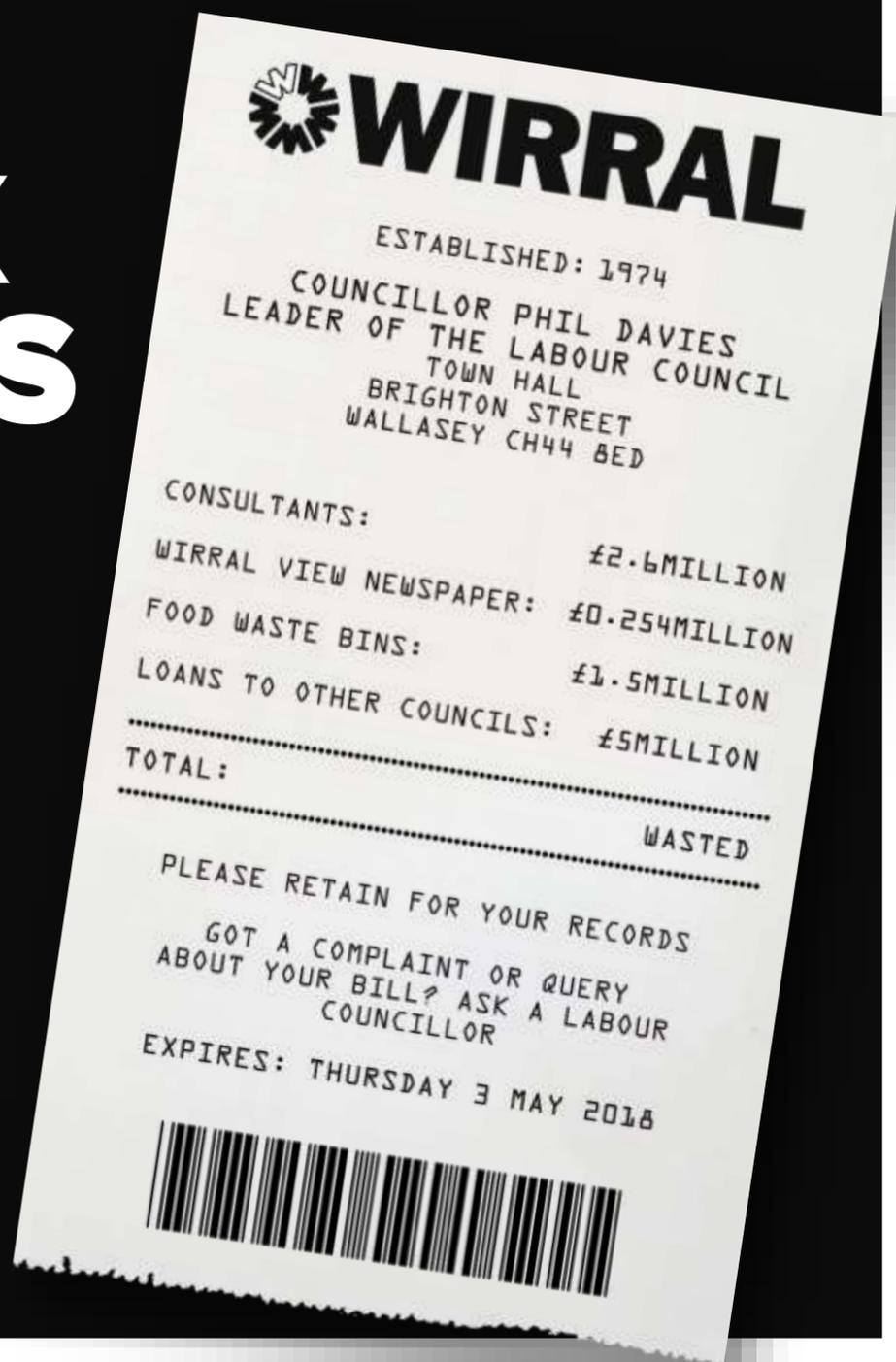
"People in Wallasey will see bills going up but little to show for it in our community.

"Instead, Labour Councillors are focussing on spending millions in

Birkenhead," said local councillor, Lesley Rennie.

Higher Council Tax also means those who were due to benefit next month from record increases in the state pension, the National Living Wage or the tax free allowance will, instead, be paying out more in Council Tax.

See Page 3 for details of how we would do things differently, or visit: www.wirralconservatives.com/ourplan



BACKING FOR WIRRAL'S RAPE & SEXUAL ABUSE CENTRE

Former Police Officer and local Councillor, Lesley Rennie, recently arranged for the **Home Secretary, Amber Rudd MP, to meet with staff at Wirral's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre.**

Jo Wood MBE, Chief Executive of the Centre said: "Many people still believe rape and sexual abuse only happens to 'someone else' but when 1 in 5 adult women and 1 in 8 adult men are reporting they have been a victim of sexual violence at some point in their lives, our specialist services will always be needed and will always be stretched to capacity. I'm really grateful to Lesley for arranging the meeting with the Home Secretary."

PLAN TO SAVE OUR GREEN BELT DELAYED FOR TWO YEARS!

In the last edition of Newsline, we reported on **the Town Hall's failure to produce a plan to protect Wirral's Green Belt, 13 years** after it was due.

Replying to the Government, the Leader of the Council failed to explain why almost every council had managed to comply with the law.

Instead, Councillor Davies said it would take Wirral Council another two years, during which time any number of new threats from developers could emerge.

However, following changes by the Government, Wirral Council has an extra £240,000 to spend within the Planning Department.

Conservative Councillors want some of that money to be used to enforce existing planning controls and to also produce a plan for the Green Belt sooner than 2020.

£6m GRANT FOR WIRRAL COUNCIL

The Government has given Wirral Council a grant of £6 million to help build more homes on brownfield sites, relieving pressure on our Green Belt.



YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN WIRRAL FALLS AGAIN

The number of 18-24 year olds out of work in Wirral has fallen again - down to 880 in January, compared to 2,540 five years ago.

This month also saw a big push to promote National Apprenticeship Week, as part of a plan by the Conservatives to work with employers to create more apprenticeships.

The last year saw 491,000 apprenticeships created.

April will also see the National Minimum Wage increased to £7.38 for those aged 21-24, up from £4.92 an hour under Labour.

Councillor Ian Lewis previously worked to help young people get into apprenticeships. Ian said: "Every school leaver in Wallasey

must have the opportunity to choose the future they want - whether it's continuing at college or university, a job or apprenticeship or starting their own business. We can only do this with a strong economy, with lower taxes on jobs and the businesses that create the jobs."

OUR PLAN FOR WIRRAL

 **Conservatives**

Back our plan for Wirral:
wirralconservatives.com/ourplan

- 1 Make better use of the Council's £800 million budget:** We will ban Wirral Council lending your money to other councils and end Labour's obsession with Birkenhead. We will grow our economy by creating new businesses and jobs.
- 2 Scrap the plans to build on the Green Belt:** We will develop brownfield sites instead and do more to bring 6,000 empty homes back into use.
- 3 Reduce spending on Directors' salaries and consultants:** We will cut the £2.6 million a year spent on consultants and we will stop recruiting directors paid more than the Prime Minister.
- 4 Abolish Labour's parking charges:** Our country parks and coastal areas will, once again, be free for everyone and we will reintroduce 'free after 3' in our shopping areas.
- 5 Scrap the Wirral View newspaper:** The £254,000 Labour spends on their newspaper will be used, instead, to reintroduce school crossing patrols.
- 6 Stop the £1.5m on food waste bins:** We will focus instead on reducing the amount of waste, including single use plastics and packaging.
- 7 Protect our libraries and leisure centres:** We will scrap Labour's review of these services and guarantee that no library or leisure centre will be closed.

TOWN HALL REPORT:

Library and Leisure Review: a report by consultants, costing Wirral taxpayers £284,000, **won't be published until AFTER** the Council elections in May. The review looks at how libraries, leisure centres can be delivered 'differently'!

Child grooming report: Conservative Councillors have continued to challenge the decision not to publish the report into the recent cases of child sexual exploitation in Birkenhead, in spite of attempts to silence them. We **want the authorities' failures** to be published, while protecting the victims.

Extreme 'left wing' takeover: Wirral's Labour Party is being taken over by the hard-left Momentum Group. Their Cabinet Member for Finance has, meanwhile, stated she is a Marxist. Meanwhile, Corbynally, Chris Williamson MP, has called for Council Tax to be doubled!

'No' to voting security plan: Five councils will be in a scheme to improve the security of voting at elections, after the number of cases of impersonation doubled between 2014 and 2016. **Wirral's Labour Councillors** voted against taking part.

Electric vehicle points: So far, Wirral Council has refused to apply for grants from the Government to install charging points for electric cars. £4.5m is available.

OUR NEW COASTAL CLEAN UP TEAM IS A 'HIT' WITH RESIDENTS



February saw the first meeting of the new, voluntary Coastal Clean Up Team, set **up by Wirral's Conservative** Councillors.

Around 20 people took part and helped to collect bags of rubbish from the embankment, including 'single use plastics' such as bottles and containers. Thank you to everyone who took part.

The next meeting of the Coastal Clean Up Team takes place on Saturday 31st March and we'll be meeting at Kings Parade. If you'd like to get involved, contact us - details below or visit www.wirralconservatives.com/beaches

WALLASEY VILLAGE STATION

The steps at Wallasey Village Station are a major issue for some passengers, according to the latest doorstep survey by councillors.

Last year, we met with the Rail Minister and managers from Merseytravel.

Money made available by the Government for access improvements is being spent on other stations.

Councillor Lesley Rennie said: "There are many people near Wallasey Village Station who simply cannot use the train because of the steps - including the disabled, elderly or parents with prams or buggies

"Asking for this station to be included in a bid for the money from the Government is not being **unreasonable.**"

Lesley, Paul and Ian have again written to Merseytravel, Mersey Rail and the Department for Transport on this ongoing issue.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP WITH LOCAL ISSUES

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



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