

November 2018

Reporting back...

by Debbie Caplin

MASSIVE RESPONSE TO SURVEY

It's not too late to tell us your views on local issues:
visit www.wirralconservatives.com/debbiecaplin

There has been a massive response to the survey delivered last month to 2,600 people in this part of Moreton and Leasowe.

The survey, organised by Debbie Caplin, was delivered by volunteers and asked for views on local issues in our community.

Debbie said: "It's really important that we keep in touch all year round, not just at election time. Our survey is just one of the ways we do this. Thanks to everyone who took part."

In the rest of this newsletter we report back on the issues people told us about and what we're doing to help.



Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey organised by Debbie Caplin - we are working our way through the issues people raised, including the pot holes on Leasowe Road, near Leasowe Castle.



Reeds Lane:

Mr G is one of several residents who is concerned about the speed of traffic on Reeds Lane. Several years ago, similar concerns led to the installation of speed warning devices. We know the Council won't install speed humps because the road is a main route for the ambulance service. We've asked the Road Safety Manager to see what can be done.

Mereheath:

Mr W would like to see more regular collections of fallen leaves, to stop drains blocking. We agree and have asked for details of the current programme and whether areas with problems can be prioritised.

Moreton Shore:

Mrs B in The Heathlands tells us the pavement opposite Moreton Shore is cracked. We've asked the Highways Department to check it out and tell us what can be done.

Scrambler Bikes:

Mr H in Wakefield Drive was one of several residents to tell us that scrambler bikes are still a problem in the area, especially in play areas. Our petition last year did lead to some extra police patrols. 'Operation Brookdale' has seen more than 300 bikes seized. Proving it's not just teenagers, a 52 year old male is the latest to be prosecuted for using one...

Dog Ban Plan:

Several residents asked about Labour's plan to ban dogs from many parts of the Borough. The Cabinet Member who proposed it has now quit and his replacement is a Labour Councillor for Leasowe. Watch this space!

SURVEY RESULTS IN BRIEF: what people told us.

1 **56% of people said they don't receive the Council's Wirral View newspaper:**
Labour is spending £140,000 on it this year. The Wirral News also closed down, blaming the Town Hall for publishing it's own, taxpayer-subsidised newspaper.

2 **Three empty properties were reported by residents:**
We want the Town Hall to bring more of the 6,000 empty homes back into use to relieve pressure on our Green Belt and provide decent homes for people to live in.

3 **The Town Hall's performance was given an average of 4.6 out of 10:**
While some people praised particular services, the overall rating showed there is room for improvement on how the Town Hall uses it's £800 million budget to provide local services.

Tell us YOUR views: www.wirralconservatives.com/debbiecaplin



Roads and pot holes

Wirral Council has been given extra money by the Government to fix pot holes over the last few years.

Many residents used our survey to tell us about local roads that have pot holes and which, in some cases, need a full resurfacing.

Sadly, the three councillors for this area failed to secure any money for our roads from the Council's Structural Maintenance Programme. Ms K in Reeds Lane summed it up: "Many of the side streets are bad and main roads look like patchwork quilts!"

Leasowe Road:

The pot holes at the junction of Reeds Lane and Leasowe Road were mentioned the most. Debbie has reported the junction to the Highways Department for an urgent inspection and to see if the junction can be included in the next Maintenance Programme.

Murrayfield Drive:

Miss F tells us about pot holes at the top of the road. We've asked for this road to be checked out as well.

Reeds Lane:

Mrs D in Cronton Avenue tells us the dip near the junction of her road is getting worse. Utility works a few years ago were supposed to deal with it. Clearly not! So we've asked again for an investigation to see what is going on.

The recent budget announced a further £420 million this year and Wirral will receive a share of that as well. We'll be pushing for some of that to be used to repair roads in this area.

If, having read this newsletter, you think of any more roads that need attention, please let us know!

Leasowe Road/Gardenside:

Mrs H in Castleway North has highlighted the worn and faded markings at this busy roundabout. The damage to safety railings shows some drivers are also going too fast as they use the junction. We've asked the Highways Department to see what markings can be installed to improve safety.

Pasture Road Library:

One resident suggested turning the now vacant land behind the library into a car park. Nice idea but the Town Hall has other plans - they want to see the site developed with new housing.

Moreton Shore car park:

Residents have given a big thumbs up to the work by the staff and volunteers that has tidied up the area around the cafe and car park. Well done to all involved!

Free newspapers:

Ms B in Birket Avenue isn't happy that she doesn't get a free newspaper anymore. We weren't too chuffed either, when the Wirral News closed down. The publishers said they couldn't compete with the taxpayer-funded Wirral View. You can, however, now buy the Wirral Globe in many newsagents...

Cadbury field:

A resident has asked what's happening to the plan for new houses on the land on Pasture Road. We understand that land tests are currently being carried out. We raised concerns at the time permission was granted that the land is part of the Flood Plain.



Castleway North and South:

Mrs H also raises the speed and accidents in these roads. This is even more worrying due to the concealed entrance to Castleway Primary School. We have asked the Council's Road Safety Manager what can be done.



As well as weeds in pavements, the poor condition of many grass verges was raised by residents. We have asked for the Council's Winter Maintenance Crew to 'spade edge' the grass verges in Reeds Lane (seen here) and Castleway North.

WHY WE DO THE SURVEY:

There are around 10,700 residents in the 'ward' of Leasowe & Moreton East—from Heyes Drive to Pasture Road and Upton Road to Fender Farm.

While Debbie and the team call door-to-door each week, we don't get to speak to everyone. That's why we do this survey.

It gives residents who we may not yet have spoken to the chance to tell us about problems in their road.

A number of people who have replied to this survey told us they vote Labour nationally but vote for us at council elections because we work all year round.



MORE WIRRAL PENSIONERS HELPED WITH WINTER FUEL BILLS

1. Winter Fuel Payments:

The latest figures show that a record 65,080 pensioners in Wirral are getting the Winter Fuel Payments, up from 56,000 under Labour. Payments between £100 and £300 will be paid automatically this winter.

2. Warm Home Discount:

Conservatives have announced that low income families, as well as many pensioners receiving 'Pension Credit', will also receive £140 off electricity bills this winter, including people who have pre-pay meters.

3. Interest-free Cosy Loans:

Residents in Wirral who want to improve their home's insulation and energy efficiency may also be able to get help with interest-free 'Cosy Loans'. Call 0151 647 5471 for details.



Street lights:

Following a grant of £4.6 million from the Government, all street lights are, gradually, being replaced with the more reliable LED style which also use less energy.

Following the survey, we have now reported lights outside 531 Leasowe Road as well as faulty units on Pasture Road and Reeds Lane.

Reeds Lane/River Birket:

Untidy land next to houses on Reeds Lane is not council-owned but, following requests from Debbie, the Town Hall has agreed to write to the owner to request it is tidied up.

Epsom Road:

It's a similar story in the Epsom Road area. Two large, grassed open spaces often become an eye sore because the owner (not the Council) doesn't cut or maintain the grass often enough.

Coastal parking charges:

One resident simply said 'coastal parking charges'. We hope she's against them - as the plan to introduce them has been scrapped following our campaign.

Access Protection:

A resident has said they would like the white 'H' markings outside driveways to be repainted. Known as 'Access Protection Markings', these are often paid for by residents. As such, the Council has said they don't replace them until they either resurface or repair roads or replace other road markings.

Green Belt:

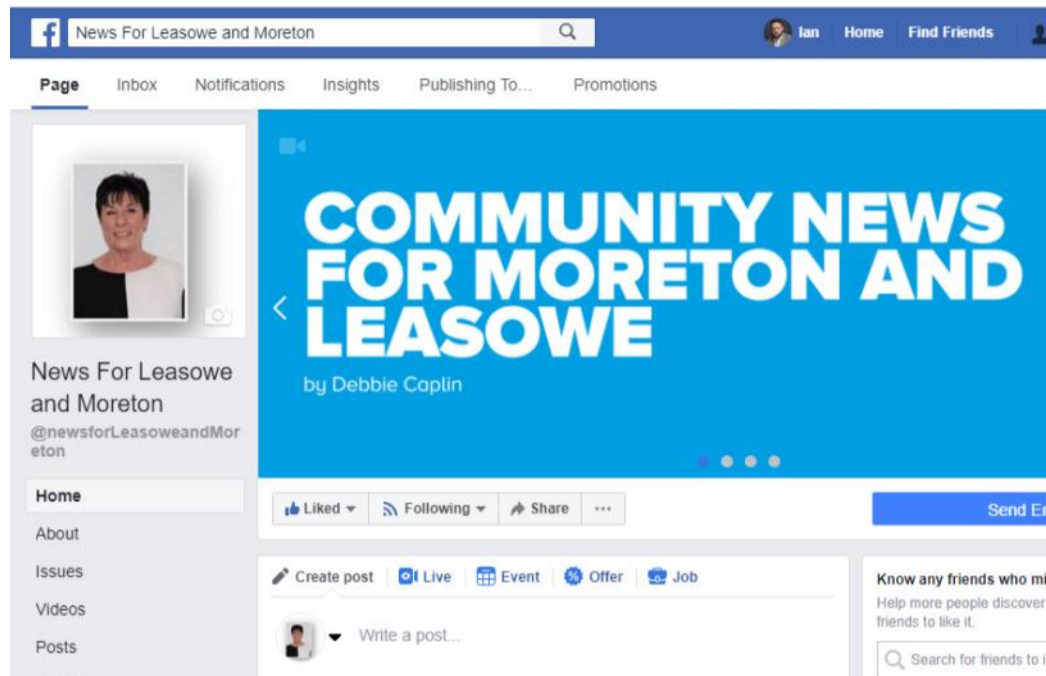
The Town Hall is finally working on a Local Plan to protect it, 14 years after it was due! In the meantime, we are working with campaign groups to fight plans that would see it built on. Labour still wants to build expensive new homes on Green Belt at Hoylake...

FACEBOOK PAGE IS A HIT WITH RESIDENTS

107 'LIKES' SO FAR...

'News for Leasowe and Moreton' is the new Facebook page set up by Debbie Caplin to keep residents up to date with local news, events and alerts.

Search for 'News for Leasowe and Moreton' and like, share and comment!



HOW TO SET UP A NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME IN YOUR ROAD

Several residents indicated that they would like to know more about setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme where they live. In some roads, schemes that were set up years ago have fallen by the wayside as Scheme Co-ordinators move house or pass away. There's a really good page online at www.merseyside.police.uk. Alternatively, phone (0151) 777 8970 or email citizens.in.policing@merseyside.police.uk if you'd like to know more.

BUDGET LOWERS TAXES, RAISES PAY AND BOOSTS NHS AND CARE

1. Personal Allowance up:

Conservatives are increasing the amount you can earn before you pay income tax - to £12,500. Someone who pays basic rate tax will be paying £1,205 a year less than under the last Labour Government.

2. National Living Wage rises:

We are also increasing the National Living Wage to £8.21 an hour from April 2019, up from £5.93 under Labour (for the Minimum Wage). We're also prosecuting more employers who fail to pay it.

3. Biggest ever boost for NHS:

The Budget confirmed that our NHS will receive an extra £20.5 billion EVERY year and, at the same time, local councils are to get an extra £650 million to help with social care and looking after the elderly.

To find out more: www.conservatives.com/budget2018





£2 MILLION BOOST FOR ARROWE PARK HOSPITAL

Weeds on pavements:

Several residents asked why they are no longer sprayed. Are you sitting comfortably? Here's the Council's reply: the weather in the first half of the year delayed the first of two planned sprays. This enabled the weeds to grow so that, by the time of the second spray, it wasn't enough to kill them off. You did ask..

Tree pruning:

The Council's contractor tells us they are only pruning trees that are a danger. We have managed to get some overgrown trees cut back (eventually).

Cars on pavements:

The Council will only issue tickets where parking restrictions are in place and the police will only act when a vehicle is causing an obstruction. Vehicles parked across 'dropped kerbs' (for people in wheelchairs or with buggies) can be fined.

Bollards:

Yes, we did say 'bollards'. Mr J in Oakmere Close tells us that 'At least 50% of the bollards are either missing, damaged or not working'. Debbie has been reporting these for repair or replacement as we see them. If you have any locations where illuminated bollards, showing directions to drivers, are faulty, let us know.

...and finally

Thanks to those residents who told us they appreciate the work that we do. We know many people, who vote Labour nationally, vote for us locally because of that. We can't promise to solve every problem, but Debbie and the team will try our best.

Even before the recent Budget, Arrowe Park Hospital was given a £2 million boost in September to help cope with extra demand this winter.

Across the country, 900 extra hospital beds will be provided. A further £240 million is to be shared among councils to help them provide more support for people who are leaving hospital and returning home.

Wirral Council has received £1.8 million from this extra cash.

There's good news for the ambulance service as well. They have been given £36 million to buy 256 of the latest vehicles fitted with the most modern equipment.



The NHS Clinical Commissioning Group in Wirral (the 'CCG') has is asking for views on changes to the way urgent care is provided, including a new Urgent Treatment Centre at Arrowe Park Hospital.

The changes, if agreed, will see some services at Walk In Centres transferred to Arrowe Park. Residents can find out more and give their views to the CCG until 12th December at www.wirralurgentcare.co.uk or at one of the public roadshows they've organised - call the CCG on 0151 651 0011 for details.

LOCAL 'FRIENDS' GROUPS THAT NEED COMMUNITY SUPPORT...

Christmas Lights Birkenhead Kennels Moreton in Bloom

Several residents responded to our survey question about getting involved in three of the local 'Friends' Groups.

Christmas Lights and Moreton in Bloom

Well done, one again to residents Angela and Steve Pouncey for all their work to ensure Moreton Cross has Christmas Lights once again.

Thank you also to all the local businesses that have sponsored a light column. The cost of the lights is raised through fundraising and the Group welcome any support people can give.

Many residents have also commented on the planters during the summer.

If you're on Facebook, search for Moreton Christmas Lights and Moreton in Bloom for details.

Birkenhead Kennels

Seven years ago, Labour Councillors tried to have the kennels closed down.

Following a big campaign, we supported a Friends Group to run it instead and it's now doing better than ever to help strays, abandoned and abused dogs find new homes.

To find out more, call 0151 556 1220 or visit www.fobk.org.uk if you'd like to know more.

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