

# newstline

**Wirral's Labour Council has been criticised after it was revealed a special fund to help the homeless has been left untouched...**



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**The Government is about to consult on plans to ban councils such as Wirral from charging for waste collection...**



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# 1,000 BACK OUR POST OFFICE CAMPAIGN

- Petition by Paul Hayes sent to Post Office London HQ

1,000 local residents have now backed the campaign to have the popular local Post Office in Wallasey Village re-opened. The petition will now be sent to the Chief Executive of the Post Office, Paula Vennells, urging her to act.

Local Wallasey Councillor Paul Hayes started the campaign after worried residents contacted him and asked for his help.

Under the previous Government, the number of Post Offices fell from 18,000 to just over 12,000.

Fortunately, the Post Offices at Wallasey Village and Wallasey Road were spared from the closure programme.

Paul, seen here with Peter, the Sub-Postmaster, residents and Councillors Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie, said: "The 'temporary closure' of this Post Office is causing great difficulties for many of our residents.

"To make it worse, no satisfactory explanation has been given by the Post Office."

If you would like to back the campaign [www.wirralconservatives.com/postoffice](http://www.wirralconservatives.com/postoffice)



## More news in brief:

**1.** First Free School for Wirral?

The Frank Field Education Trust has announced an application to open Wirral's first 'Free School' to help more students reach their full potential. Conservative Councillors voted to support the application.

**2.** Local NHS rated as 'Outstanding'

The Care Quality Commission rated mental health, learning disability and community physical health services provided by the Cheshire & Wirral NHS Partnership as 'outstanding' after their latest inspection.

**3.** New cap on costs for 'rent to own' schemes

The credit costs from companies such as Brighthouse will be capped at no more than the cost of the product. The move will stop people being charged over the odds for things like washing machines and fridges.

**4.** United Utilities to cut water bills (and leaks)

The North West water company has announced that bills will be reduced by more than 10% over the next few years. The company has also announced extra measures to reduce the number of water leaks.

## Action in our community:

### FOOTBALL PAVILIONS:

Last year, Paul, Ian and Lesley secured cash from the Town Hall to improve the condition of local football pavilions. Following completion of the works at Wallacre, the next on the list are those at Harrison Park. We are also working with the Friends of Harrison Park to have new trees planted and gates installed to the tennis courts.

### SEA ROAD JUNCTION:

The Highways Department has finally responded to our requests for junction improvements and a proposed scheme has been circulated to local residents. The need for the work has been given extra urgency following Labour's decision to transfer the management of the Warren Golf Course and The Grange to a private company.

### WALLASEY ROAD:

Following our requests, the Council has now returned to fix the flooding problem at the crossing near Rugby Road.

### MAGENTA FLATS:

Following our campaign last year, Magenta Living has confirmed that works to improve the communal areas of the flats in Wallasey Village will soon be underway, including new entrance doors.

### GROVELAND ROAD:

Following complaints from residents, the trees overhanging the road have been cut back. So far, neither the Council or Merseytravel are accepting responsibility for the damaged fences on Groveland Road and Harrison Drive.

### SANDY LANE:

The Town Hall has, so far, refused to install a bench near the 'One Stop' shop for bus passengers. We'll keep trying!

### STREET SIGNS:

We have requested replacement road and street signs for Vyner Road, Clare Crescent and Farndon Avenue (again!), among others! If your road sign goes walkabout, let us know. Otherwise, you may find your Amazon deliveries take longer!

## PARKING IMPROVES AT PROMENADE

There has been a big improvement in the parking available for residents and day trippers. This is the result of long-overdue action to tackle camper vans that were parking for long periods.

As well as reducing the parking available to residents, there were also problems caused by the lack of arrangements for waste removal, 24 hour toilets and fresh water. The new Traffic Regulation Order forbids camper van parking overnight. Thank you to those residents who worked with us on this issue.



# TIMETABLE FOR GREEN BELT PLAN REVEALED

In our last newsletter, we reported how a 2004 Act of Parliament, passed by Labour, requires all local councils to have a 'Local Plan'. As well as showing which areas should be developed, the Local Plan also shows which areas are protected, such as Green Belt.

For the last 15 years, Wirral's Labour-run Council has failed to comply with the law and no Local Plan is in place.

Only after the Government finally lost patience with their excuses has the Town Hall finally started work on the Local Plan.

We have now obtained the Town Hall's timetable for the adoption of the Local Plan.

July 2019: the draft Local Plan will be voted on by the Council

Late 2019: the Ministry of Housing will carry out a 'Local Examination' of the Plan, in public.

2021: the Local Plan will return to the Council for adoption.

Local Councillor Ian Lewis said: "By the time the Local Plan is in force, 17 years will have passed since the original Act of Parliament. "How much of our Green Space will have been lost by then?"

"We must do all we can to protect Wirral's valuable Green Belt and push development into those areas that really need it."

## BIG DECLINE IN FIRE INCIDENTS

The latest figures show the work to prevent fires in homes is paying off.

Back in 2001/2, there were 23,348 fires attended to by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service.

The latest figures released by the Home Office showed this had been reduced to 7,054.

That's 16,000 fewer homes and properties damaged by fire.

Merseyside Firefighters carry-out pre-arranged visits to properties, made by appointment with the homeowner/occupant, to carry out Home Fire Safety Checks.

To check whether you are eligible for a visit call 0800 7315958.



Source: Home Office, Fire Statistics Data Tables, November 2018

News that the Government is making £300 million available to improve access to railway stations has been welcomed in Wallasey.

Two years ago, Paul, Ian and Lesley met with Merseytravel to see if the station at Wallasey Village could have a lift installed. Due to a lack of money at the time, Merseytravel refused.

Now, with this new money available, a petition has been launched by Paul to urge Merseytravel to bid for a share of the cash.

Visit our website and sign online:  
[www.wirralconservatives.com/access4all](http://www.wirralconservatives.com/access4all)



# WIRRAL SLAMMED FOR STASHING HOMELESS CASH

## EXCLUSIVE

Figures obtained by Wirral's Conservatives show the Council has been sitting on £122,000 for the homeless.

The cash was set aside in March 2017 but has been untouched, gaining interest for the Council.

A year later, the Government announced a further £1.2 billion to help the homeless and tackle rough sleeping.

The Ministry of Housing is also providing extra support to local councils for those most at risk of homeless, including victims of domestic violence as well as people with poor mental health and addiction problems.

## £1.4 MILLION CASH BOOST FOR WIRRAL ROAD REPAIRS

In November's Budget, the Chancellor announced the biggest-ever investment in roads.

Nationally, £29 billion will be spent, including £420 million for pot hole repairs this year.

Wirral Council is being given £1.46 million, on top of extra grants in previous years.

At December's Council meeting, we asked Labour's Cabinet

Member for Highways why Councillors had not been asked to nominate roads in Wallasey for repair. This has previously happened in September each year.

The day after the Council meeting, the Director of Highways emailed us asking for roads in this area but with a deadline of 7th January!

We then emailed everyone who we could asking for residents to

nominate roads and pavements for attention.

Seaview Road was one of the roads nominated by many residents.

Councillor Lesley Rennie said: "We have submitted a list of roads to the Director of Highways and hope that we can secure a share of this extra cash. Thank you to everyone who responded. We'll report back in the next issue."

## LOCAL NEWS FROM AROUND WALLASEY

### ULTRAFAST FIBRE:

Work has started to improve the broadband network across Wallasey. Openreach are now installing optical fibre that will increase speeds to up to 1,000 meg (it's currently only 100 meg).

### CHRISTMAS DRAW:

Congratulations to Mr Merrifield who won the top prize in our Christmas Draw. Thank you to everyone who took part in our Christmas Draw. We sold a record number of tickets and the surplus from the draw also paid for this newsletter.

### NEW FLATS IN VILLAGE:

The Council's Planning Committee has approved plans for new flats and retail units to be built on Leasowe Road, near the petrol station. A similar application for the land next to the Farmers Arms has yet to be decided. The plan for extra houses in the grounds of St Nicholas Vicarage was also given the go ahead.

### COLDEST HOMES HELP:

During the next 12 months, properties in Wallasey with the two lowest energy efficiency ratings, which cost the most to heat, must be made warmer before a new tenancy can start. The measures are expected to save tenants around £180 a year on current heating costs.

### ST GEORGE'S PRIMARY:

The school is working with the Council's Road Safety Team, following the survey of parents earlier this year. The new anti-skid road surface outside the lower site should also help.

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

Well done, once again, to Lesley and the team at 'Wallasey Village People' for the Christmas Lights and the event in the village.

### GRASS VERGES:

Following our requests to the Highways Department for work to improve the condition of many of our grass verges, we're pleased to report that several have now been tidied up, including Rosclare Drive.

## YOUTH JOBLESS IN WALLASEY NOW AT RECORD LOW

With more people in full time, permanent jobs than ever before, the latest employment figures have revealed that the number of young people out of work is also down.

Six years ago, 2,540 young people in Wirral were out of work and claiming benefits.

Now, that is down to 1,390 and, here in Wallasey Ward, just 30 young people are not in work, education or training.

We are helping more young people in Wallasey get the skills that employers need to compete:

1. The biggest-ever increase in apprenticeships with more skills and qualifications.
2. For the first time, we've included apprenticeships in the Minimum Wage laws.
3. Backing the Merseytravel Apprentice Travelcard to slash the cost of bus travel.

## TOWN HALL REPORT:

Wirral currently has a Labour-run Council - Labour has 37 of the 66 seats; Conservatives 21, Liberal Democrats 5, Independent ex-Labour 2 and the Green Party 1 seat. Wallasey Ward has three Conservative Councillors: Paul Hayes, Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie.

Recruitment consultants: the cost of Town Hall senior directors and how they are recruited has again been slammed.

Following the sudden resignation of the recently appointed 'Corporate Director for Economic and Housing Growth', on £115,000 a year, we've discovered the Council paid recruitment consultants £14,000 to recruit him. Conservatives have called for this money to be repaid to the Council.

Electric vehicle points: Last year, it was revealed that Wirral Council had failed to bid for a £4.5 million Government fund to install more electric vehicle charging points in the Borough.

As well as being better for the environment, many of our local motor manufacturing jobs are increasingly dependent on the growth of electric vehicles. The Town Hall finally acted in December and carried out a survey!

If you need the help of your local Conservative Councillors, our details are below.

# BROWN BIN CHARGES TO BE BANNED?

PLUS: A recent Town Hall report revealed how their plans to sign up another 4,000 households to the Garden Waste charge had flopped.

In a further blow to Labour's plans, the Government has announced it is going to overhaul the country's collection and recycling of waste.

The plans, announced by the Department of the Environment, would BAN councils from charging for collection of garden waste and

also oblige them to offer weekly collections of waste.

The proposals will be subject to consultation and are designed to reverse the decline in recycling and also force producers to use less packaging such as plastics.

Councillor Ian Lewis said: "Since Labour imposed a charge for garden waste in Wirral, recycling rates have slumped.

"They won't like what the Government is now proposing but the plans will help residents and also boost recycling."

One of the top concerns for residents is the problem of vacant shops, such as these on Mount Road.

Councillor Paul Hayes has discovered that a grant from the Government given to the Council to bring empty units back into use back in 2010 hasn't been used.

In the November budget, the Government announced a further £675 million for high streets as well as cuts to Business Rates.

Let's hope Wirral Council isn't as slow this time to make use of the money!



Grants to help bring empty shops back into use, such as these on Mount Road, has been sitting in the Council's bank since 2010

# ANOTHER LABOUR COUNCILLOR QUILTS

'Hard left takeover of Labour Party almost complete'

**1.** Labour Councillor Mike Sullivan quits, blaming hard left bullies and 'parasites'.

**2.** Frank Field MP quits, blaming a culture of 'nastiness' in Wirral Labour

**3.** Former hard-left Wirral Council Leader Yvonne Nolan to stand again.

In the last issue, we reported how Frank Field MP had left the Parliamentary Labour Party, while former Militant Leader, Derek Hatton, was on his way back. We had a massive response from residents, including many traditional Labour voters here in Wallasey.

Now, in a further blow, senior Labour Councillor Moira McLaughlin has also quit the Party.

In her resignation statement at the last council meeting, Councillor McLaughlin said; "I have no confidence that the Labour Party has the will or the means to resist the hard left takeover of the Party here on Wirral, which is now almost complete."



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