

newsline



**COUNCILLOR
STEVE WILLIAMS**
stevewilliams@wirral.gov.uk
677 8848 or 07974 717666
Twitter: @cllr_s_williams
Write: 34 Beech Avenue,
Saughall Massie CH49 4NJ



**COUNCILLOR
CHRIS BLAKELEY**
chrisblakeley@wirral.gov.uk
677 9040 or 07803 614418
Twitter: @cllrblakeley
Write: 74 Grampian Way,
Moreton CH46 0PZ



**COUNCILLOR
BRUCE BERRY**
bruceberry@wirral.gov.uk
678 8139 or 07733 012414
Twitter: @bruceberry22
Write: 6 Merlin Close,
Saughall Massie CH49 4PZ

PARKING PENALTIES IN MORETON

The controversial use of parking enforcement in Moreton was given the go-ahead at a recent meeting of the Town Hall's Planning Committee. The plan for enforcement equipment by a private company, 'ParkingEye' at the Home Bargains store car park on Hoylake Road, was voted on by councillors.

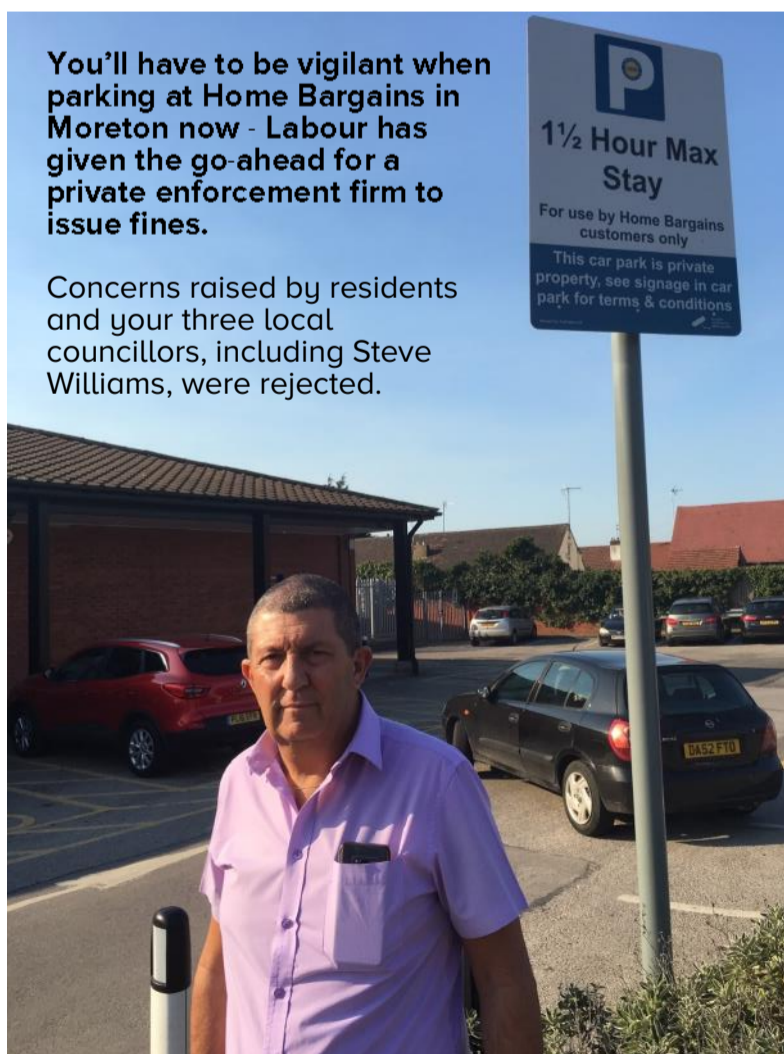
Our three local councillors had been contacted by many residents who had previously been hit with penalty charges for parking at the site, even if they were shopping at nearby Rightway or elsewhere in the town.

In 2017, the Town Hall's plan to introduce pay and display at council-owned car parks in Moreton was defeated after protests from business owners and shoppers.

Councillor Chris Blakeley spoke against ParkingEye application in February, warning that the risk of hefty penalty fines was discouraging people from shopping locally. Many residents had also sent in their objections to giving the extra powers to ParkingEye.

Unfortunately, when it came to the vote, the seven Labour Councillors on the Planning Committee voted in favour, ensuring the application was approved.

Councillor Steve Williams, seen here at the car park said: "Be careful as the signage is very clear. You are only allowed to park in the car park if you are shopping in Home Bargains, and even though Rightway is on the same site you can't park in the car park and shop there!"



You'll have to be vigilant when parking at Home Bargains in Moreton now - Labour has given the go-ahead for a private enforcement firm to issue fines.

Concerns raised by residents and your three local councillors, including Steve Williams, were rejected.

See inside:

Kingdom's contract extended by Labour

There has been an outcry from small businesses and shop keepers after Labour councillors extended the contract to controversial enforcement company, Kingdom. We report on the latest: [Page 3](#)

New powers to tackle illegal sites

Wirral Council will soon have new powers to prevent illegal traveller sites, following problems in 2017 and 2018, after the Government agreed that existing laws are not strong enough: [Page 4](#)

Wirral Council buys cinema for £7m!

Following a campaign against the Town Hall lending money to other councils, Labour has, instead started buying up commercial property, starting with the Vue cinema in Birkenhead: [Page 2](#)

Big boost for local fire services

The new Chief Fire Officer of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service has ditched plans by his predecessor to cut services and will, instead, be recruiting 60 more firefighters and buying new fire engines: [Page 2](#)

How would you improve our parks?

Councils such as Wirral have been asked to submit bids for a share of a new, £13 million government fund to improve local parks, children's play areas and green spaces. Local Conservative Councillors in Moreton and Saughall Massie are urging the Town Hall to apply and are asking residents in this area to nominate areas that need attention: [Page 3](#)

Action on litter and rubbish:

The issue raised most often by residents in this part of our community is the problem of litter and dumping of rubbish. People told us about household items dumped; overflowing litter bins and, despite the best efforts of our local street cleaner, litter that is dropped on pavements and grass verges and especially near schools.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP:

That's why, working with the Wallasey Constituency Committee, Steve has organised a 'Community Clean Up'. As well as providing two skips to enable residents to deposit their unwanted items for disposal or recycling, we will also be carrying out a litter pick in our community.

Thursday 21st March:

The skips will be provided for use on Thursday 21st March. One will be located in Town Meadow Lane (opposite Lingham Lane) and another in Edgehill Road by the pavilion. If you have any bulky items or waste that you've been meaning to dispose of, please use the skips. (Not for fridges, freezers, asbestos, pressurised containers, gas bottles or trade waste)

We are meeting at the Football Pavilion in Lingham Park from 9.30am, refreshments, light snacks and cake for everyone who takes part in a litter pick in many of the residential roads, green spaces and near the shops. Everyone is welcome to come along - we'll provide the litter pickers and waste bags. We've arranged for Biffa to collect them at the end of the day.

Arriva 407 bus route:

People have contacted us again about the poor bus service, with the latest change to Arriva route 407 which now misses a large section of Town Meadow Lane.

The Council does not operate bus services but Steve, Chris and Bruce continue to lobby Merseytravel to provide a much better service that meets the needs of our community.

SHOCK AS WIRRAL COUNCIL BUYS BIRKENHEAD CINEMA FOR £7 MILLION!

Last year, we revealed how Wirral's 'cash strapped' Council had lent £51 million to other councils, often at 'mates rates'.

Now, after a public outcry against the loans, the Labour Council is, instead,

going on a spending spree to buy up commercial property.

One of the first sites they've bought is the Vue Cinema at Europa Boulevard for a staggering £7 million.

Councillor Bruce Berry said: "What is it that Labour doesn't understand? We pay our Council Tax to be used for

services we all rely on, not for loans to other councils or for these kind of speculative property deals."

It's now been revealed that the Council will demolish the cinema, as soon as it's paid yet more money, this time to Vue for surrendering their lease on the town centre site.

COUNCIL GETS IT WRONG, AGAIN, ON GREEN BELT

The Ministry of Housing has slapped down claims by Wirral Council that London has set a target for housebuilding on the Borough's Green Belt.

In a letter to the Leader of Wirral's Conservatives, the Secretary of State for Housing, James Brokenshire, makes it clear that the biggest threat to the Borough's Green Belt is the 14 year failure by the Town Hall to produce a Local Plan to protect it.

In January, the Government made it clear that Wirral was the WORST council in the country for making progress on having a Local Plan.

The Government demanded that Wirral make a senior, named director responsible for the Local Plan and to report monthly on progress.

The Director Wirral appointed then 'left by mutual consent'. The Town Hall then announced they were appointing someone who had previously been a consultant paid £13,000 a MONTH by the Council!



Then, that plan was scuppered when Conservative Councillors discovered his company had been compulsorily wound up but had continued to invoice the Council and be paid!

Local Councillor Steve Williams said:

"The whole thing is a mess and Labour has nobody to blame but themselves. They ignored a law passed by their own Government and thought they could build on our Green Belt in the meantime. They are wrong on both counts."

MORE FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRE ENGINES...

The new Chief Fire Officer at Merseyside Fire has ditched his predecessor's plans to cut services at the Labour-run Merseyside Fire Authority.

Instead, Merseyside will soon have 60 more firefighters and more fire engines made available. Conservatives voted in favour of the plan.

In the last edition, we also reported how the number of fires across Merseyside has fallen, thanks, partly, to more prevention work by the service.

To check if you are eligible for a free home safety check by the Fire & Rescue Service call 0800 7315958

23,348 fires in 2001/2 in Merseyside



7,054 fires in 2018 in Merseyside

WIRRAL URGED TO BID FOR PARKS AND PLAY AREA CASH

EXCLUSIVE

Parks and children's play areas in Wirral could benefit from a share of a new £13 million fund announced by the Government in February.

The Town Hall has a poor record when it comes to applying for, and using, cash for important projects. In the last newsletter, we revealed how Labour Councillors had failed to use £121,000 given to them to help tackle homelessness.

Now, councillors in Moreton and Saughall Massie are urging residents to submit ideas and suggestions for parks and green spaces in our community.

Councillor Chris Blakeley said: "We're lucky that so many of our local parks and open spaces have volunteers, who do so much to



make sure that our parks are so popular. But, too often, the Council has not prioritised investment in the new equipment.

"We need to make sure the Town Hall submits a bid for a share of this £13 million and I'm really keen

that any bid includes our parks and play areas here in Moreton and Saughall Massie."

To submit your ideas, visit www.wirralconservatives.com/parks

WIRRAL LABOUR EXTENDS KINGDOM CONTRACT

It's been revealed that Wirral Labour has extended Kingdom's contract with the Council until 2021, and widened the range of activities they can now enforce.

The tactics used by Kingdom to issue Fixed Penalty Notices have been widely criticised and, during a stormy meeting at the Town Hall, the head of the company revealed that the Council had been given four options over the kind of contract. Wirral chose the most hard line - and controversial.

The additional powers that have now been given to Kingdom resulted in Fixed Penalty Notices of £300 being issued to shops and small businesses if they could not provide evidence of how they dispose of their waste.

The Environment Protection Act of 1990 requires businesses to have arrangements to dispose of their waste. Many small businesses, that produce negligible or low levels of waste, had made informal arrangements to dispose of it at the tip; in their home wheelie bins or to share facilities with other businesses. Wirral Council had, until December, never questioned this.

Kingdom, spotting the opportunity, started issuing fines in January and February, until a public outcry, and petition by Wirral's Conservatives, forced the actions to be suspended.

Councillor Bruce Berry said: "The Council should be supporting our small businesses and the shops on our high streets. They are vital to thriving communities and pay millions in Business Rates to the Town Hall. For Labour to grant powers to Kingdom to punish these businesses is a disgrace."

The reaction to Labour's extension of the Kingdom contract may have caused it to backfire - opposition councillors are calling for the entire contract to be scrapped and the service brought back in-house.

our plan

Moreton & Saughall Massie

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch with us since the last council elections. As well as asking for help with local issues and problems, many residents have also given us their ideas and their views on how the services the Council provides could be improved. We've listened to what you've said. Here's Our Plan for improving life for everyone here in Moreton and Saughall Massie:

- 1. SAVE OUR GREEN BELT:** Thousands of residents oppose Labour's plans to build on it. We will support development of Wirral's 'Brownfield' sites instead to provide the homes that Wirral needs.
- 2. EXPOSE COUNCIL WASTE:** Too much of your Council Tax is being wasted by Labour on things we don't need, such as the Wirral View newspaper. We'll put more money into the services that we all rely on instead.
- 3. PROTECT OUR COAST:** We will do more to keep our beaches clean and tackle pollution. And, working with residents, we stopped Labour's coastal parking charges and will do the same if the plan returns.
- 4. GROW OUR LOCAL ECONOMY:** There are 1,800 more businesses in Wirral than in 2010. We will do more to support our High Streets and small businesses to create the jobs and thriving local communities we need.
- 5. IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE:** Labour's Dog Ban Plan penalises the many responsible owners because of the actions of the few. So, we'll scrap the plan. We will also do more to tackle animal neglect and abuse.
- 6. BETTER COUNCIL SERVICES:** We will fight for Edgehill Road, Cobham Road and others to be fixed and for old street lights in our area to be replaced with the new LED lights, with the £4.6 million given by the Government.

NEW METRO MAYOR TAX BUT £80m UNSPENT

This year, Council Tax bills in Wirral will, for the first time, include a new tax to fund Labour's 'Metro Mayor' covering the 'Liverpool City Region'.

The new Metro Mayor Tax will be collected by Wirral Council and given to Mayor Rotherham for him to spend anywhere he chooses.

Now, in a further twist in how the Metro Mayor and the 'Combined Authority' work, the Liverpool Echo revealed that the region was given £460 million by the Government, but that £80 million has been left unused.

One of the Directors of the Combined Authority, in commenting on the unused cash even said: "It undermines the argument we are making to government about austerity."

Councillor Steve Williams said: "Same old Labour - always complaining they don't have enough money to justify higher taxes but, at the same time, unable to use the money they have effectively. What a disgrace."

Look out for the new Metro Mayor Tax on your Council Tax bill and ask a Labour Councillor for an explanation when they come knocking for your vote!

GOING, GOING, GONE...

Wirral Labour politicians are quitting, defecting and being deselected. Allegations of bullying, intimidation and anti-Semitism are being blamed by many of them. So far in Wirral, since May last year, this includes:



Phil Davies
Leader of the Council

Moira McLaughlin
Rock Ferry

Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Birkenhead

Bernie Mooney
Liscard

Chris Meaden
Rock Ferry

Labour's Town Hall majority cut to just three seats:

The next Council elections in Wirral are set to be the closest for years.

Residents are being urged to make sure they are registered to vote for the May 2nd election and to sign up for postal votes.

Wirral Labour has seen their majority cut to just three seats (out of 66) in the Town Hall, as

councillors left the Party to sit as Independents or quit altogether.

The Conservatives, with a new Leader in the Town Hall, as well as strong local councillors and new candidates, are also expected to gain some seats.

Councillor Steve Williams said: "With Labour in disarray locally, and with growing influence from the hard left, including people like

Derek Hatton, every vote here will count and could make all the difference on May 2nd. We can't let the extreme left local Labour Party do to Wirral what they did to Liverpool in the 1980s."

Call the Town Hall's Electoral Services on 0151 691 8046 to make sure you are registered to vote or to vote by post.

GIRTRELL COURT TREES:

We were contacted by local residents concerned that a contractor had been let loose on the site and was taking down trees and bushes that local residents believed were not in the plan.

Bruce and Chris immediately contacted Graeme Foster of Alpha Living and requested he met them on site that day. To his credit Mr Foster was dismayed by what he witnessed. He has pledged to try to remedy some of the damage and work with local residents before and during further works on the site.



Councillor Bruce Berry with Mr Prout, one of the neighbours of the Girtrell Court site. Promises to protect trees have been broken.

NEW POWERS TO TACKLE ILLEGAL TRAVELLER SITES

Following Wirral's problems with illegal traveller sites, including Upton Meadow, in 2017 and 2018, the Home Office has announced new powers for councils to act to prevent them.

The changes proposed to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 would lower the number of vehicles needed to be involved in a legal camp, give police powers to direct travellers to sites in neighbouring authorities and increase the time during which travellers are not allowed to return to a site that they have already been removed from.

Wirral Councillor welcomes plans for tougher measures on traveller camps

NEW Government proposals to enforce tougher measures on illegal traveller sites have been welcomed by a Wirral councillor.