

newsline



**COUNCILLOR
IAN LEWIS**
ianlewis@wirral.gov.uk
07886 133571
Twitter: @ianlewis675



**COUNCILLOR
LESLEY RENNIE**
lesleyrennie@wirral.gov.uk
07795 450497
Twitter: @LesleyRennie



**COUNCILLOR
PAUL HAYES**
paulhayes@wirral.gov.uk
07837 205171
Twitter: @paulalanhayes22

CASH BOOST FOR WALLACRE PLAY AREA

[Good news as Town Hall announces three year investment programme for children's play areas](#)

Earlier this year, local councillors wrote to around 1,500 families in Wallasey to ask for their views on the state of local play areas.

The survey followed concerns raised by parents that some of the sites were run down, with damaged or outdated play equipment.

Following the survey, and the hundreds of responses we received, the Town Hall has announced a plan to invest in new equipment for play areas across the Borough.

Locally, the play areas at Wallacre Road will benefit from £15,000 of investment in new equipment. This is the first new investment there since Councillor Ian Lewis helped to raise money for it 15 years ago.

Councillor Paul Hayes, seen here with niece Poppy, said: "Wallacre is a popular park but it needs regular maintenance and investment. We're really pleased it will be among those that will benefit from this new investment. Thank you to all those who took part in our survey."



WIRRAL VIEW NEWSPAPER 'SCRAPPED' AFTER COUNCIL VOTE

The Town Hall's failing Wirral View newspaper has been scrapped.

The decision follows a vote called by Conservative Councillors after the latest figures revealed more than £400,000 of Council Tax had been spent on it by the Labour Party.

Following Labour losing control of the Council at the last elections in

May, Councillors Ian Lewis, Lesley Rennie and Paul Hayes have been pushing for more of the Town Hall's budget to be used for the things people want and need, and less to be wasted on projects like the Wirral View.

Ian said: "The Wirral View never achieved what Labour promised. Advertising income failed to materialise and it was plagued by

distribution problems from the day it started. Many people in Wallasey told us that they received it sporadically, or not at all.

"Sadly, it also led to the decision to close the Wirral News - meaning that residents must now rely on the Wirral Globe for their news of what is happening around Wirral."

"It's hard to see how that £400,000 was money well spent!"

In this issue:

Council Cabinet system scrapped:

The latest vote in the Town Hall saw Labour defeated and the discredited Cabinet system abolished from May next year: **Page 2**

Better bus service powers 'not used':

In 2017, the Government gave the Metro Mayor the power to re-regulate some bus routes to improve services. So far, the powers are unused: **Page 2**

Extra cash for local schools:

An extra £10 million from the Government for schools will see at least £4,000 spent on every pupil at Greenleas, Mount Primary and St George's. **Page 2**

The Warren Golf Course saved:

Labour's plans to privatise the running of The Warren Golf Course are in the bunker after clubs, players and local councillors blocked it: **Page 3**

Wallasey Village Christmas Lights:

At 6pm on Thursday 28 November, it's the 'switch on' for the Christmas Lights thanks to the hard work of the organisers, and the donations they've received.

Keep up to date with all the news: facebook.com/newsforwallasey

Reporting back...

New trees:

Following meetings between Councillor Ian Lewis and council managers, it has been confirmed that the Town Hall has now put in a bid for a share of new, national government fund of £30 million for tree planting in urban areas like Wallasey. At the time of going to press, a decision on our bid was expected.

Win £5,000?

Thank you to everyone who has, so far, bought tickets for our draw with a chance to win a top prize of £5,000. The draw will also help us to raise money for our newsletters here in Wallasey. If you would like to take part, visit www.wirralconservatives.com/win£5000

Library investment:

Extra cash is going to be invested in Wirral's libraries under plans backed by the Borough's Conservative Councillors.

Locally, Wallasey Central Library will benefit from £196,000 being spent on it while further improvements at Wallasey Village library are planned.

200 new police:

Merseyside Police Force has welcomed news that 200 new police officers are to be recruited, in the first phase of a national plan to put 20,000 additional police on the beat.

Your councillors are lobbying for Wallasey to receive our share of the additional police presence.

Toilet charges:

In 2017, Labour pushed through new charges for people using public toilets, including those at Harrison Drive.

The cost of installing the coin-operated barriers has been revealed at £50,000 while the income generated, so far, is just £5,000.

Better kennels?

Since they were formed nine years ago, the Friends of Birkenhead Kennels have done a cracking job to help rehome more stray, abandoned and neglected dogs from across Wirral.

A call by Councillors Lesley Rennie and Ian Lewis to find a more suitable location, with a 'run about area' than the old council-owned site on Corporation Road, won all-party support in October.

CALLS FOR ACTION FOR BETTER LOCAL BUS SERVICES

Many residents still have concerns regarding bus services in our community.

During our recent door-to-door survey in the summer, around the Mount Road area, many residents told us about the absence of any direct route to Arrowe Park Hospital and other key centres.

Councillor Paul Hayes is the only Conservative Councillor on Merseytravel's Transport Committee. Paul said: "Sadly, Merseytravel and

the Metro Mayor have failed, so far, to use the new powers they have from the Bus Services Act of 2017 to re-regulate some routes. It's about time they did.

"While we are seeing improvements on issues, such as onboard WiFi, less polluting buses and contactless payments, we have yet to see any progress on the lack of services in many parts of the region."

The Bus Services Act would tackle that - and gives the Metro Mayor

similar powers over buses that exist in London and Manchester.

Less profitable or loss making routes would be 'franchised' with the more profitable routes, ending the withdrawal of services by some operators that we have seen in recent years.

Sandy Lane Bus stop:

Thank you to those bus users who have been in touch since Lesley Rennie had the bench installed. We're glad it is appreciated!

NEW! £10 MILLION BOOST FOR SCHOOLS IN WIRRAL

Schools in Wallasey will be among those sharing an extra £10.1 million that has been announced for education in Wirral.

The total budget for education in Wirral next year (2020/21) will increase to a record £209.9 million, with the biggest increases going to the schools that need it most.

The increase means that all primary schools in Wallasey will receive at least £4,000 for every pupil from next year, with some receiving even more.

Secondary school funding will also rise, to at least £5,000 per pupil.

Meanwhile, Labour has announced it will, if elected, abolish Ofsted - the independent body that inspects schools.

Ofsted's powers will be handed to the local council, threatening a return to the bad old days of creating 'sink' schools with poor standards.

Jeremy Corbyn has also said that independent local schools such as Kingsmead and the Birkenhead School, with around 1,000 pupils in total, will be abolished.

SPECIAL REPORT: LABOUR LOSES KEY VOTE

WIRRAL'S CABINET TO BE SCRAPPED FROM MAY 2020

The new make up of Wirral Council means Labour doesn't have a majority any more...



The way the council is run is set for big changes after councillors voted to scrap the current 'Cabinet' system.

Introduced by the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair, the Cabinet system gave 95% of the decision making powers to just 10 of the 66 councillors.

Designed to speed up decision making, instead it led to a series of bad decisions being made quickly.

On 14th October, a proposal from the Conservatives to scrap it, following an all-Party review was agreed.

While Labour Councillors voted against the plan, councillors from every other Party voted for it, so the plan has been agreed.

Councillor Lesley Rennie said: "This is the third defeat Labour has suffered since the May elections; following our votes to stop the planned loan of £26 million to the private golf resort in Hoylake and,

as we report on the front page, to stop wasting money on the Wirral View."

The new system, to be introduced from May, will see all councillors involved in decision making, in meetings that are held in public.

Lesley added: "While Labour is only two seats away from gaining a majority in the Town Hall again, the law states the change we have just made cannot be reversed for at least five years."

U-TURN ON WARREN GOLF COURSE PLAN



In our last edition, we reported on Labour's plan to privatise the running of two council-owned golf courses - Arrowe Park and The Warren here in Wallasey.

Plans were so advanced that a number of bids had been received, including turning The Grange into a hotel instead.

The Clubs at The Warren arranged to meet with Ian, Lesley and Paul and, following this, a campaign began to reverse the decision.

In October, it was confirmed that our Three Point Plan for the future of all the council-run golf courses has been accepted instead:

1. The Council commission a ground survey to be carried out at each course with any works required to be paid by the Council's capital

programme over the next eight years, to ensure that each of the courses is brought up to standard;

2. Grounds maintenance staff to be consulted on buying new equipment;

3. A Consultative User Group be set up to meet once a quarter with each of the golf courses to discuss any issues and problems identified.

Thank you to everyone who worked with us to secure this result.

Action on messy entries and alleyways

Thank you to those residents who contacted Ian, Lesley and Paul about the poor condition of some of the entries, alleys and passageways, we can now report:

Stonehouse Road: the path between the houses and the co-op car park has been cleared (see pictures)

Newland Drive: the entry between here and Winchester Drive is overgrown but the Council is disputing ownership

Hillam Road: the footpath leading to Green Lane has been cleared and we've asked for it to be resurfaced.

Wallasey Village: the entry between the shops and Leasowe Avenue, accessed from Green Lane is a disgrace. We have been promised 'enforcement action' against those responsible.



The entry between Stonehouse Road and the Co-op car park

Our newest member, Max Booth, tells us why he's joined:

So, Max, what made you join?

I joined my local Conservatives because of not only my long term interests in politics but to establish a strong young voice for the Conservatives.

What have you been up to since you joined?

I've got involved and am speaking and meeting people on the doorstep, hearing about their needs and concerns while also establishing political and friendly connections with fellow Conservatives. I also attended the Party's Conference in Manchester and had a great few days!

What's your immediate political priority?

To get Brexit done so we can get on with all the other issues that need action - such as the NHS, schools, environment and transport.

www.conservatives.com/join



Max Booth, 17, lives in Wallasey Village. He's recently joined our team.

Local issues, local action...

Since the last issue of **Newsline**, your local **Conservative Councillors** have been working on local issues raised by residents, including:

GAINSBOROUGH ROAD:

Following a complaint to us from a resident, the faulty street light has been replaced. Lights have also been fixed in Chorlton Grove, Leyburn Road, Groveland Road and Winchester Drive following our requests. Lights in the entries behind Leander Road and Newland Drive have also now been fixed.

BROADWAY:

We have requested the missing or stolen cast iron name plate near the junction of Claremount Road is replaced.

MALVERN ROAD:

The top issue during our door-to-door survey here, and in nearby St Nicholas Road, was access to and from Leasowe Road. We have asked the Highways Department to look at ways of improving visibility for drivers at both junctions.

SANDCLIFFE ROAD:

Following requests from residents, we are working with the Highways Department to improve road safety here, especially near the entrance to Harrison Park.

MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD:

We have asked for 'access protection markings' near the footpaths that lead through the walled grass verge to enable wheelie bins to be collected by Biffa crews.

GREENLEAS CLOSE:

The planning permission granted for houses on the land behind the close and Greenleas Road has lapsed. We have advised the residents that any plan to build there needs new approval.

LEASOWE AVENUE:

Following the 'surface treatment' given to repair the road, the Town Hall has been asked, and has promised (for the third time) to have a mechanical sweeper visit to remove excess stones and chippings.

BAYSWATER ROAD:

We have requested replacement bollards, as many of the current units are old and damaged. The Town Hall has £200,000 for new reflective bollards. We have also asked for Leasowe Road and Wallasey Village to be included.

LEASOWE ROAD:

The overhanging trees at 140 Leasowe Road have now been pruned. We are awaiting action to unblock the drain to deal with the build up of surface water beside the pavement.

SALTBURN ROAD:

We are working with residents near the small grassed circle to have it repaired and better able to withstand vehicles overriding the kerbs.

Road repairs:

The Town Hall's budget for road repairs is £10.2 million this year - £3 million more than last year after an increased grant from the Government. Here's how we're asking for some of it to be spent:

Roads being resurfaced this year include: Grove Road, Parkway, The Leas, The Willows, Bowden Road, Halton Road, Knowsley Road, Hoseside Road, Mayfield Road, Paignton Road and St Hilary Brow. Mere Lane, which had been missed of, has now been included.

We have also been promised that a section of damaged pavement on St Johns Road will be replaced.

The pot hole reported to us on Lycett Road has been fixed.

Roads and/or pavements we have already asked for in the next programme: Inchcape Road, Kinross Road, Northcote Road, Seaview Road, Mockbeggar Drive, Greenleas Road (pavements).

Roads and/or pavements nominated by residents since our last newsletter: North Drive, Gloucester Road, part of St George's Road and Breck Road. More nominations were being received at the time of going to print and all will be sent for assessment.

Mosslands Drive: thank you to everyone who signed our petition. Many residents are fed up with the delayed repairs. Following the petition, the Town Hall has agreed to act - a new method of repair, called 'Durapatch' is currently being tested elsewhere to see if it would work on Mosslands Drive.

PUB PARKING CHARGING CAUSES PROBLEMS

Following the decision by the brewery, Greene King, to install 'pay and display' equipment at their pubs - The Nelson and Lighthouse - local traders and residents got in touch.

The immediate effect of the charges was to encourage more people to park in roads nearby.

In the case of the Lighthouse, this meant on-street spaces in the village, became even more scarce.

Councillor Ian Lewis met with some of the traders and also wrote to residents asking for their views.

Ian said: "The decision to introduce these charges by the brewery shows a total disregard for the people living and working nearby.

"Following that meeting, I learned that, while planning permission was required, the brewery had never

applied for it, thus denying local residents and businesses the chance to have their say on the charges."

Greene King has now been warned that a planning application MUST be submitted to the Town Hall, or risk enforcement action to have the equipment removed.

Ian added: "So far, no application has been received and so I will be asking the Department to take further action. If an application is received, I will notify residents and businesses to tell them how they can have their say."

At a meeting with some traders and the Council's Parking Manager, the wider issues of the lack of parking in

Wallasey Village was highlighted. The Parking Manager confirmed that the areas around St Mary's College marked 'Bus Stand' in Sandy Lane and Wallasey Village do permit people to park there, except for the times stated.

A further review of existing parking restrictions in the village has been requested by Ian.

We are also working with residents opposite the college and in the Village Way area, after more problems since the start of the new term saw inconsiderate parking, and poor visibility for road users.

We'll keep residents informed and include updates on our Facebook page: **News for Wallasey.**

“What can we do about... CAR PARKING?”

Some drivers cause an obstruction:

Parking across someone's driveway can be classed as an obstruction and reported to the police.

The police will also act if a driver has parked on zig zag lines or in a way that could obstruct an emergency vehicle. It is also illegal to park across a dropped kerb.

The Council could install advisory 'Access Protection Markings' in front of some driveways to help keep them clear. These cost £175 for a single drive but the charge is waived for people with disabilities.

How to get resident-only parking:

To set up a new resident parking scheme, the Council recommends an area of around 300 houses.

There is a one-off payment of £75 per household to set up a new scheme with an annual permit also costing £10. Schemes with significantly fewer than 300 households are likely to have much higher set up costs. Visit www.wirral.gov.uk for details.

Not all roads are appropriate for resident parking schemes so it's worth checking with the Town Hall to get some advice first.

Road markings are out of date:

If there are disabled parking bays in your road, are the people who requested them still living there?

If the person who was disabled has moved, then the Town Hall can be asked to remove the parking bay. They'll check to see if the person has moved and then arrange to have the bay taken away, creating additional parking space for other residents. We've recently had this done in Seafeld Drive.

If there are other parking restrictions (such as single or double yellow lines) that have become faded, let us know and we'll ask for them to be replaced.

WALLASEY VILLAGE FLATS WORK UNDERWAY

Following complaints from residents in 2017, Ian, Lesley and Paul worked with people living in the former council flats in Wallasey Village to push the landlord to act.

We're pleased to report the work to improve the communal areas, including entrances and stairs is almost completed and looks much better, inside and out!