

# Moreton community newsline

March 2021: keeping you up to date with local news



## Local campaigner and Moreton resident: Debbie Caplin

Debbie lives in Moreton and grew up here with her family. Debbie previously campaigned in the EU Referendum, opposing Labour's attempts to 'remain', ignoring the views of so many Labour supporters. Then, following work with former Leasowe & Moreton East Councillor Ian Lewis, Debbie was put forward to be our new, truly local councillor.



# First 32,000 vaccinated locally

**By the end of February, 31,749 people in the Wallasey Constituency had received the first dose of the vaccination.**

**Thanks to a huge effort by the NHS staff and volunteers, 20 million people across the UK have had their jab of the new coronavirus vaccine.**

The vaccine roll-out in care homes in England began a week before Christmas. Since then, the rate of vaccination has increased as more doses become available.

The vulnerable and most at risk are being given priority. So far,

this includes 4,381 people aged over 80 in our area as well as frontline health and social care workers.

Here in Wirral, vaccination centres have been set up at Clatterbridge, Woodchurch Leisure Centre and The Oval in Bebington as well as GP centres.

While the UK leads the way in the vaccination effort, the NHS continues to expand the supply to help everyone get back to normal in the coming months.

Thanks also to the Government's Vaccines Taskforce, 400 million doses have been ordered.

Patients require two doses of the vaccine for the vaccine to be at its most effective.

Vaccination is only available from the NHS and is free. Wirral's GPs and hospitals are now vaccinating thousands each week.

More details can be found on our [www.wallaseyconservatives/coronavirus](http://www.wallaseyconservatives/coronavirus)

# All rough sleepers homed

**When the pandemic started, councils, including Wirral, were instructed by the Government to provide accommodation for all those who were homeless or sleeping rough.**

The instruction was backed up with hard cash - as part of more than £170 million given to Wirral Council by the Government to help with the effects of the pandemic locally.

This enabled some of the local housing associations, homeless charities and the Council's housing staff to ensure all rough sleepers were found accommodation.

A further 774 people have been found short-term or permanent housing, including people at risk of becoming homeless

It has also emerged that the usual grant the council receives for supporting homeless and rough sleepers will be increased again - from £301,000 last year to £513,000 this year.

## Time Spot, Grot Spot!

Debbie is pushing the Council to take action to get the owner of the former 'Time Spot' at Moreton Cross cleaned up and made safe.

## Supporting the least well off:

The National Minimum Wage will rise to £8.91 from next month. The extra £20 a week for Universal Credit will continue for a further six months.

# Inside:

## £1m for youth club and library:

Following Debbie's campaign, the Council will be spending £1 million on redeveloping the library to include a youth club. See [Page 3](#)

## Road and pavement repairs:

Debbie and the team have submitted a further list of road and pavements for repair, following last year's campaign that saw £10m used for works: [Page 4](#)

[www.wallaseyconservatives.com/coronavirus](http://www.wallaseyconservatives.com/coronavirus)



## Reporting back...

### New bins:

Many of our local litter bins in Moreton are damaged or worn and look a mess. We have urged the Council to apply for a share of a new Government fund to install new litter bins.

### 372 more police:

Merseyside Police Force has so far recruited 372 new police officers, as part of the national plan to put 20,000 additional police on the beat.

The Force has also seen an additional £19 million awarded for its budget this year by the Home Office.

### New members:

Welcome to those residents who have joined us over the last 12 months. Every new member makes us that bit stronger. It costs just over £2 a month and details are at [www.conservatives.com/join](http://www.conservatives.com/join)

### New Freeport on the way:

The Port of Liverpool is to be one of eight new freeports set up now we've left the EU; attracting more international trade, creating new jobs.

### Future High Streets:

The Council has, so far, been awarded £3.2 million for New Ferry and £24.6m for Birkenhead town centre improvements from the Government's Future High Streets Fund. We are also pushing for cash to be used to improve Liscard and Moreton, both of which have been left behind by the Council for too long.

### New CCTV:

Clapped out and faulty council CCTV cameras at various places around the Borough are set to be replaced, whether on council buildings or in public areas. As well as helping to make communities safer, the move will also help to reduce the running costs of the old equipment.

# Better deal for tenants of housing associations on the way

**Last year, before the pandemic started, Debbie and the team met with tenants about some of the issues they were having with their social landlords.**

Several had been in touch following concerns that their housing association was not acting on issues and complaints.

Now, the Government is proposing tougher standards for housing associations and a better deal for residents.

The Ministry of Housing is also consulting on better measures to detect fires and carbon monoxide in social housing. Debbie and the team have responded, backing the proposals.

Last month, Debbie wrote to 1,500 residents and tenants of housing associations, to ask for their views. Thanks to everyone who has responded so far.



You can also take part online at [www.wallaseyconservatives.com/housing](http://www.wallaseyconservatives.com/housing).

Debbie said: "As someone who grew up here, I know how poor the

housing was when it was run by the Council. Since it was transferred, things have improved but there's always more that can be done."

## Special Report: extra help with the early years

### Big boost for mums in Moreton

**Mums in Moreton are set to benefit from the national new Health and Wellbeing Fund.**

A project in the borough is one of 19 around the country to help to promote nutrition, learning, language development and mental health during pregnancy and post-birth.

The Health and Wellbeing Fund, based on the theme of 'starting well', will help charities and voluntary groups to run and expand projects to boost mental health for new and expectant mums, improve the development of babies and children and give people the



best chance for a healthy start by preventing obesity and diabetes.

Wirral-based Koala North West, working with The Foundation Years Trust, will deliver services targeted at 0-2

year olds until March 2023.

Koala's current services will expand to target Moreton and provide support to improve wellbeing, reduce isolation and support children to thrive.





# £1m to be spent on keeping a youth club

**While Labour continues to pump money into the Hive, the youth centre in central Birkenhead, some local youth clubs around the rest of the Borough are struggling.**

Here in Moreton, many residents were furious when they learned that the Town Hall's plans to redevelop the site off Pasture Road would include the demolition of the youth club.

Thousands of young people have attended the youth club since it opened and, over the decades, it has become an important part of the work to provide positive activities for the town's young people, in a safe environment.

Debbie Caplin along with neighbouring councillor Steve Williams both attended the youth club and both were keen to fight the closure plan.

Debbie said: "I'm not sure if the Town Hall knew what they were starting. The revamp of this part of



our town centre is long overdue but closing the youth club would be throwing the baby out with the bathwater!

"One of the many issues in this community is the lack of facilities for young people. Closing this one just made no sense at all."

Since the closure plan was

scrapped, the Council has agreed to spend £1m to provide a youth club as part of a revamped community space.

"Now that the cash has been secured since Labour lost control of the Council in 2019, I want to see young people asked on what they would like to see in the new building."



**Fairmead Road is one of several roads in Moreton that need attention**

## Grass verges

**Following redeployment of the Council's crew to Covid-related work in the summer, many of our local grass verges became even more of a mess than usual. Cars and delivery vans created muddy ruts.**

Grass verges in the likes of Fairmead Road and Danger Lane are an eyesore. The Council, so far, has refused to act.

Debbie said: "I grew up in Stavordale Road. One of the nice things about the area then was the way the spaces were looked after and maintained.

"In those days, there weren't the number of cars we have now. But doing nothing, as the Council seems to be, is not the answer. The Highways Department should be looking at those that need to be replaced with flagging and repairing the rest with measures to stop overriding."

## Local issues, local action...

### **Sandbrook flooding:**

For many years, residents living in parts of the Sandbrook area of Moreton have suffered from poor drainage and flooded gardens and footpaths. Residents in Sedgefield Close, Fender View Road and Wheatfield Close in particular suffer every year. Following persistent lobbying by Debbie, the Council has now agreed to act. £430,000 will be spent to improve drainage. Look out for details!

### **Dog fouling:**

The area around Sandbrook Primary School is just one of the places in Moreton that suffers from owners who don't pick up after their pets. 18 months ago, a campaign by Debbie saw parents sign her petition asking the council to act.

Following the scrapping of the all-Labour Cabinet that ran the council until September, the new, all-party Environment Committee has agreed to look at ways of tackling the problem of dog fouling and those minority of owners who don't pick up after their pets. We'll report back on what happens.

## Fender Lane cycle route announced!

**The Council has announced plans to install cycle lanes on each direction of Fender Lane (from Reeds Lane to Bidston Tesco roundabout).**

This would require reducing the vehicle traffic to single lane while installing bollards to prevent vehicles driving into the cycle lanes.

Further details, including how to give your views, can be found at [www.wirral.gov.uk/highways](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/highways) quoting reference DC-EATF-2021-DE2 by Friday 19th March 2021.



Join us at: [www.conservatives.com/join](http://www.conservatives.com/join)





## Covid-19: help is available!

So far, Wirral Council has been given more than £200 million extra by the Government to support those residents and local businesses that have been hardest hit by the pandemic.

Coronavirus has affected the financial situation of many of our residents.

### If you are struggling:

The 'Ask Us Wirral' service run by Citizens Advice Wirral can help if you need specialist benefits, debt or housing advice.

Call 0808 278 7848 and if the line is busy, leave a message for the team to get back to you.

You can also get advice if you have become unemployed, or are self-employed and this has resulted in changes to your income. Call the Citizens Advice Wirral 'Help to Claim' team on 0800 144 8444.

### Business support:

Helping businesses to survive, and protect jobs, is a priority for the Government and the Council.

A package of financial measures to support businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak has seen more than £50 million worth of grants issued by the Council, as well as national schemes such as furlough, self employed income support scheme and bounce back loans.

Further information is available from Wirral Chamber of Commerce which has opened a Business Support Helpline on 0151 650 6982 or by email to [policy@wirralchamber.co.uk](mailto:policy@wirralchamber.co.uk)

Keep a look out at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) for all the latest advice and information - and remember to be wary of potential scams or fraudulent calls.

# Road repairs: a lot done, a lot to do

One of the top complaints from Moreton residents when the one-party 'Cabinet' ran the council was road repairs.

Too often, it seemed that roads, street lights and pavements in Birkenhead were given priority, while our area was left behind.

Now, following the scrapping of the Cabinet, the way in which money is allocated is decided by all-party committees.

Debbie and the team have been pushing for a fairer share of the Council's highways budget to be spent in Moreton.

**Roads and/or pavements we are asking for in the 2021/22 programme include:**

Grampian Way, Pasture Road, Corwen Close, Blackthorne Close, Hopfield Road and Sandbrook Lane, especially near Sandbrook Court.

## Scramblers: three more arrests

Three more people have been arrested by Merseyside Police, following complaints about scrambler bikes.

Inspector Bernard McHugh said: "Through Operation Brookdale, we will continue to work to eradicate the illegal use of these bikes, and I would like to emphasise how important the help of the public is in doing this. If you know of where these bikes are being ridden or stored, let us know so we can take action.

Anyone with information on the anti-social and nuisance use of off-road bikes or knows where off-road bikes are being stored illegally is encouraged to keep reporting incidents to call the police on 101 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111



The poor condition of the pavements in Grampian Way was a top issue in Debbie's recent survey.

Following our request, Inspectors from the Highways Department will now visit each one to see if they meet the criteria for being repaired or resurfaced. This will then go to a committee of the Council for approval, with work then scheduled for those roads and

pavements that are agreed. Work can take place anytime from April this year until March next year.

Thanks to everyone who contacted us - it's not too late to ask for repairs, go to: [www.wallaseyconservatives.com/roads](http://www.wallaseyconservatives.com/roads)

## A tale of two wards:

Last year, with the impact of the pandemic, more people than ever were needing help and support.

The latest figures released by the Town Hall under the Freedom of Information Act show that, here in Leasowe and Moreton East, your three Labour Councillors made 46 requests for help on behalf of residents.\*

In next door Wallasey Ward, the three local Conservative Councillors made 213 requests.

See the difference?

\* Requests made via the Councillor.Net system. Source: What Do They Know. com

**213 requests for help for local residents made by the three local Conservative councillors in next door Wallasey Ward**

**46 requests for help in 2020 made by your three Labour Councillors**

