

Moreton & Saughall Massie

# newsl ine

March 2021: keeping you informed



## New candidate Max Booth

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## Councillor Steve Williams

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## Councillor Bruce Berry

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# 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 Moreton, Saughall Massie and the Wallasey constituency 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 us get back to normal.

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.

## 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:

### Green Belt threat update:

The Council's long awaited draft Local Plan is due out soon. Sites around Moreton and Saughall Massie are at risk. See **Page 3**

### 372 more police in Merseyside:

Merseyside Police have recruited 372 extra police since the last election - our share (so far) of the 20,000 on the way for England. See **Page 3**

### Road repairs requested:

We have submitted a list of roads and pavements for repair, following feedback from residents. See **Page 4**

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



## Thanks to The Willows

**The Willows, like so many other businesses has had its trade severely disrupted by Covid 19 protocols throughout 2020/21.**

It can't be easy running a pub in these difficult times.

All credit to Ray Parker, the landlord who has displayed a commendable community spirit by continuing to organise and fund the Saughall Massie Christmas lights.

The illuminated trees around the shopping area during the Christmas period were impressive and much appreciated by all local residents.

Max Booth, the Conservative candidate in the May local elections said: "I know how difficult it is for small businesses at the moment, my family runs one. It's great to see a local business with a genuine sense of social responsibility - thank you Ray"

## Better deal for tenants on the way

**One of the first acts by our new candidate Max Booth, was to contact more than 500 tenants and residents to ask for their views on local housing associations.**

Several have now been in touch to say that their housing association is not acting on issues and complaints.

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

The Ministry of Housing is also consulting on better measures to detect fires and carbon monoxide in social housing.

Max and the team have responded, backing the proposals.

You can also take part in Max's survey online at [www.wallaseyconservatives.com/housing](http://www.wallaseyconservatives.com/housing).

# Development update:

## Extra Care Facility, Saughall Massie:

This much needed completion of a 78 unit Extra Care facility for over 55s, situated in Woodpecker Close has been delayed by Covid 19. Completion was due in October 2020 but is now scheduled to be completed this April.

A development of this size has inevitably caused some inconvenience to local residents. Mud on roads, noise, road, path, kerb damage, and vehicle and plant congestion, have been addressed by your Conservative Action Team. Councillors Bruce Berry and Steve Williams have mediated between the main contractor Galliford Try and residents.

Local publican of The Willows, Ray Parker, stepped in to help local residents by offering the contractor free parking in The Willows car park. Thanks again Ray!

## The old Foxfield School site on Douglas Drive:

Public consultation took place in 2020 and some objections to the number and style of properties were made and communicated to

the developer. The original plan was for 68 dwellings. We await the developer's revised plans.

## Cadbury's site

Bellway's build programme is well advanced. 299 housing units have been agreed including various house styles and affordable homes. Most development will be over 2021/22 with the first houses being occupied later in 2021.

## Pasture Road:

a new Lidl supermarket is being considered on a site on Pasture Rd, between Moreton Group Practice and the Library. It's early

days and we await a full planning application. There are plans to renovate the Library to include a youth facility which will in part replace the original youth club. The extended site between the Library and Maurice Jones Court is subject to a partial redevelopment plan by the Wirral Growth Company.

The new development plan, including supermarket, library, youth club, housing, car parking and an 'extra care facility' will be subject to public consultation until 16 April. To have your say: [www.wirralgrowthcompany.co.uk](http://www.wirralgrowthcompany.co.uk)



# Action on local litter problems

**At a time when we are all walking more, the incidences of illegal fly tipping are becoming more noticeable. It's not just those who selfishly dump the contents of vans and car boots in country lanes, it's also those who throw rubbish out of car windows or walkers who drop litter.**

Particular fly tipping areas are Lingham Lane and Carr Lane. In Saughall Massie, the hedges and ditches of Garden Hey Road, Saughall Road and West Kirby Road are full of debris thrown from cars.

If you see anyone fly tipping photograph them and their vehicles and contact Max,

Steve or Bruce with your evidence.

Throughout the ward, there is a problem with some dog owners bagging dog mess and failing to bin it or take it home. It's not acceptable throwing it in someone else's hedge or garden!

The cleanliness of Moreton and Saughall Massie is important to your local Conservative team and we will be encouraging the police and council to prosecute all fly tippers.

Max, Steve and Bruce will also be asking the Council to review the number, size, condition, and emptying frequency of our roadside bins.

On a positive note, there are fellow citizens who entirely on their own initiative are regularly

litter picking their local streets.

Well done and thank you for your civic responsibility.

**New candidate Max Booth calls to Garden Hey Road to see for himself the latest report of fly tipping...**





## Moreton in Bloom & The Outreach Project

**In early 2020 a group of Moreton residents was formed to provide assistance with school uniforms, sports kits, and food hampers for families in need.**

They have helped a large number of families through the difficult times of the Covid lockdown and more recently Christmas.

The group is comprised of around 20 volunteers and they have diversified some of their activities into Moreton in Bloom.

In a short time they have established and maintain several pavement planters, tidied up some green spaces, litter picked and organised the Christmas tree at Moreton Cross.

Your local Conservative councillors are pleased to have been able to support them. The team are always looking for volunteers and donations. If you can help - email Gill on [outreachphysio@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:outreachphysio@hotmail.co.uk)

**Special Report: draft Local Plan published soon!**

# Green Belt threat to our local area



**Local councillors Bruce Berry and Steve Williams are now joined in the fight for our Green Belt by Max Booth, the new Conservative candidate in this May's local elections.**

**There is a very real threat to the Green Belt status of many of the fields surrounding Saughall Massie Village, particularly those adjacent to Garden Hey Road, Saughall Road, Acton Lane and around the Saughall Massie by-pass toward Three Lane Ends.**

Some local landowners have already offered their land for potential housing development if the Council decide to adjust our Green Belt boundaries.

Vyner Estates who own Diamond Farm and about 55 acres of nearby land, have made no secret of their desire to develop the agricultural

land and convert all the farm buildings into residential units.

Wirral Council has consistently failed to formulate a 'Local Plan' to meet the present and future housing needs of Wirral.

As a result, the Council is playing catch up to identify land for future housing needs.

Population growth and real housing need in Wirral is growing much slower than most metropolitan areas. We have an ageing population and low birth rates.

Most need, according to independent analysis, can be satisfied from 'brown field' sites, particularly from the waterfront areas of Birkenhead and Wallasey.

The danger is that we still lose some important Green Belt. The Council is still consulting with conservation groups, residents and landowners before defining the Greenbelt boundaries within the new Local Plan.

## 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: Do it online [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 around 14,000 new jobs.

### Tree planting in Moreton:

Following an extra grant from the Government, the Council has announced plans to plant more than 200,000 trees in the coming years. Here in Moreton, this includes 20 trees in Curlew Way, 20 more in Lingham Park and 10 in Tern Way to improve the local environment.

### 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.

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



## Action for Community Groups:

One of the effects of the pandemic has been the loss of income for local community organisations and voluntary groups. Unable to fundraise in the usual way, many have struggled to keep going.

Using their local budgets, Councillors Bruce Berry and Steve Williams have been keen to support some of these organisations and, at the end of the financial year, all of our local budget has been used for the benefit of people here in Moreton and Saughall Massie:

- Wirral Boy's Club lighting project
- Moreton Community Christmas Lights
- The Freedom Program for Domestic Violence
- Saughall Massie Christmas Lights
- Moreton Community Centre
- Moreton in Bloom
- Saughall Massie Village Conservation Society
- St Mary's Centre
- Leasowe Lighthouse
- Replacing local defibrillator pads and batteries

# Road safety and scrambler bikes

In conjunction with the Council, your local Conservative team is considering participation in the 'Safer Road Watch' scheme.

This is an initiative being organised by Merseyside Police to improve road safety around schools. Properly vetted and trained members of the public will form small teams of volunteers to address traffic concerns outside schools, such as badly parked cars in Zig Zag lined areas and in some instances training in the use of speed detectors.

Anyone interested in learning more about the 'Safer Road Watch' scheme, should call or email Paul Mountford, Safer

Roads team, on 0151 777 7533, [paul.mountford@merseyside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paul.mountford@merseyside.pnn.police.uk).

Meanwhile, a renewed crackdown by the police on scrambler bikes has seen one

man arrested and 30 vehicles stopped.

Your local Conservative Councillors continue to push for action on this issue, including Lingham Park.



Max Booth and Councillors Bruce Berry and Steve Williams are working to have the problem of off road scrambler bikes tackled - including here at Lingham Park.

# 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.

Councillors Bruce Berry and Steve Williams have been lobbying for better highway maintenance.

It has been agreed that some local roads will be included within the 2021/22 Highway

Structural Maintenance Programme.

Due to Covid restrictions there has been disruption to the work programme in 2020 but the Conservative team, including Bruce, Steve and Max Booth will be treating this as a priority in 2021.

**Roads scheduled for maintenance:**

- Digg Lane
- Douglas Drive
- West Kirby Road
- Hardie Avenue
- Burden Road

and sections of:

- Girtrell Road
- Upton Road
- Eleanor Road

Contact us if there are road or pavements you would like us to report for inspection.



Local resident Glenys Hill is seen here in West Kirby Road - one of many that your local Conservatives have asked to be repaired.

## Street lighting

The Council has fallen behind in the maintenance of our local street lights.

Your Conservative Action Team have listed specific lights for attention.

If you have a problem street light, email us with the details and we will follow it up with the Council.

