

# Wallasey newsline

March 2021: News from your local councillors



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## Wallasey: first 32,000 vaccinated

**By the end of February, 31,749 people in Wallasey 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 Wallasey 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.

## Inside:

### Mosslands playing fields:

Plans by West Wallasey Fleethire to buy some of the former Mosslands playing fields have been revealed. More details on [Page 2](#)

### Public Space Order at the Dips

Following problems at the Dips during the summer lockdown, a Protection Order is now in place, after work by local councillors and residents. [Page 2](#)

### Latest update on the cycle lanes:

After more than 800 residents objected to plans for 'segregated' cycle lanes, the Town Hall has now agreed to consult 'again'. [Page 3](#)

### Road and pavement repairs:

Local councillors 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...

### Allotments:

Following several meetings with the Wirral Allotment Society, your local councillors and Council officers, plans are published this month to increase the number of allotment spaces in Wallasey.

### 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)

### Extra cash for library service:

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 underway.

### 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.

### Future High Streets:

Councillors Ian Lewis, Lesley Rennie and Paul Hayes are pushing for Liscard Town Centre to be included in plans for high street regeneration. The Council has, so far, been awarded £3.2 million for New Ferry and £24.6m for Birkenhead town centre improvements.

### Captain's Pit:

Thanks to the work of local resident Carl and the volunteers at Wallasey Anglers, the Captain's Pit on Hose Side Road has been tidied up and improved.

# New two-year Protection Order for the Dips

**More than 800 residents backed recent plans for a new 'Protection Order' for the Dips, following troubles in the summer.**

As the first lockdown started to be eased, coinciding with summer evenings, large crowds were

gathering on the Dips, leaving vast amounts of litter, as well as evidence of drug use and several incidents of violence.

In response, Councillor Ian Lewis worked with residents living nearby, council officers and the police to come up with the Protection Order.

In place for two years, the Order gives powers to police and council officers to issue fines and penalties for offences such as large gatherings, consumption of alcohol and 'hippy crack' as well as parking offences.

[www.wallaseyconservatives.com/dips](http://www.wallaseyconservatives.com/dips) for further details

## Council backs RSPCA fireworks campaign

**Thank you to those residents who contacted Ian, Lesley and Paul, in response to the RSPCA campaign for tougher controls on fireworks.**

Wallasey resident Lorraine Robinson was one of the people who asked her councillors for help.

Lorraine recently rescued a dog from a Bulgarian 'Kill Shelter' and saw the effects fireworks had on

the already traumatised animal.

In response to the appeal from Lorraine and others, Councillors Lesley Rennie and Ian Lewis secured all party support in the Council to back the RSPCA calls for tougher controls.



Wallasey resident Lorraine Robinson, with the dog she saved from euthanasia, is backing the campaign

## Special Report: Mosslands playing fields

# Residents react to green space sell off

**Many residents will be aware that the council has been in breach of a 2004 Act of Parliament, passed by the previous Labour Government, requiring a 'Local Plan' to be produced.**

Every council is required to produce a Local Plan, to consult residents and to then have it approved by an independent inspector.

The plan designates how land in each area should be protected or developed, where houses should be built or new industrial sites located.

Since Labour lost their majority in the Town Hall in 2019, all parties have been working together to produce a draft Local Plan and is due out soon.

One part of the plan includes designating land as 'Local Green Space'. Ian, Lesley and Paul have nominated various sites around Wallasey for protection.

Council officers have also identified sites. One such site is the former Mosslands playing fields off Cross Lane, behind Southbourne Road.

Visible from the railway, the site has gradually returned to nature.

However, while one Council department is looking to protect the site, residents learned in

October that another council department is in talks with West Wallasey Fleethire Services to sell the site for vehicle parking.

While the plan would see the company relocate from Leasowe Road and Wallasey Village to the Cross Lane site, it would also see vehicles parked on the former fields.

A number of residents have now set up a petition against the sale.

Further details, including how to sign up for updates, as well as links to the petition and Facebook page set up by residents, can be found on our website at:

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



# Clean up around Wallasey Village station

**In December, Councillors Ian Lewis, Lesley Rennie and Paul Hayes identified several local 'grot spots' in the area that needed attention.**

These include the Grove Road/Harrison Drive junction; the Greenleas Road/Leasowe Road junction; the area near The Grange on Sea Road and, seen here, the area around the pedestrian crossing at Wallasey Village Station.

Following our requests, the Biffa crews paid a pre-Christmas visit to the station and cleared leaves, weeds and litter. If you know a grot spot that needs attention, contact Councillor Ian Lewis - [ianlewis@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:ianlewis@wirral.gov.uk)



The area around the pedestrian crossing at Wallasey Village Station has been cleaned up following a request by Cllr. Ian Lewis

# Better deal for tenants of housing associations on the way

**Last year, we reported on our work with tenants in the former council flats around Wallasey Village.**

Several had been in touch with Ian, Lesley and Paul following concerns that their housing association was not acting on

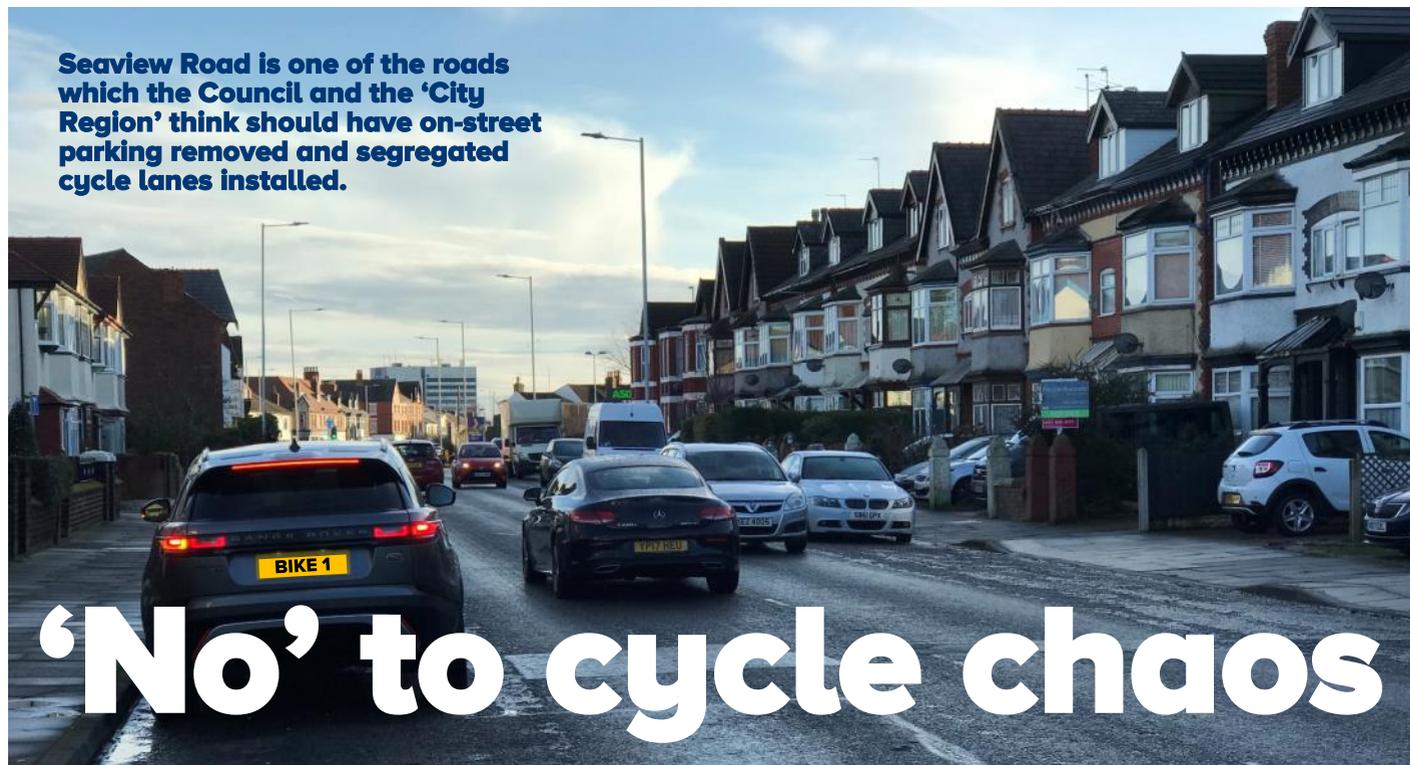
issues and complaints. After several meetings, Magenta Living agreed to modernise the communal areas and this work has now been completed.

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

At the same time, the Ministry of Housing is consulting on better measures to detect fires and carbon monoxide in social housing.

Last month, Councillor Ian Lewis wrote to 300 residents, including tenants of housing associations, to ask for their views.

**Seaview Road is one of the roads which the Council and the 'City Region' think should have on-street parking removed and segregated cycle lanes installed.**



# 'No' to cycle chaos

**After Covid-19 enquiries, the greatest number of emails and calls received by Ian, Lesley and Paul was in regard to the 'segregated' cycle lanes.**

During the summer, we learnt that the Liverpool City Region and

Wirral Council wanted to install cycle lanes from Seacombe, through Liscard and then along Seaview Road, Hose Side Road, Grove Road and Warren Drive.

Residents and businesses were, rightly, in uproar over the removal of pedestrian islands, trees, disabled parking bays and on-street parking.

Following multiple meetings (including a walk along the route with a council director, emails and phone calls), the Council is now going to consult over three revised options. One of which will be to improve the existing route along the promenade and coast instead.

[www.wallaseyconservatives.com/cycling](http://www.wallaseyconservatives.com/cycling) for more information

## Local issues, local action...

### Cross Lane junction:

Following the latest fault in the traffic lights, the Council has agreed to look at installing a more modern system at the junction on Leasowe Road.

### New litter bins:

Many of our local litter bins 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.

### Sea Road junction:

Residents have welcomed the new pedestrian-controlled crossing at Sea Road. Parking restrictions have also been introduced to stop vehicles parking near the junction.

### New Twitter account:

Residents who use Twitter can follow @actionwallasey to keep up to date with local issues.

### Grass verges:

Following redeployment of the crew to Covid-related work in the summer, many of our local grass verges became a bit of a mess. As the cutting got back on track, Ian, Lesley and Paul have asked for 'spade edging' to verges in the following roads:

- Belvidere Road
- Broadway Avenue
- Brookway
- Fieldway
- Meadway
- Mount Road
- Radley Road
- Rosclare Drive
- St Nicholas Road
- Saltburn Road
- Sedbergh Road
- School Lane
- Uppingham Road
- Zetland Road

Some of the work has already been carried out - we expect the rest to be completed soon.

### Tree planting:

Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey on possible sites for some of the extra 210,000 trees Wirral intends to plant, following a grant from the Government. The Council has started planting the trees, and is also improving the way in which existing trees are looked after and maintained. More information at

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

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, Ian, Lesley and Paul 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 Wallasey. Here's how:

**SS Peter & Paul & St Philomena's Church** - PPE for volunteers who are stewarding and cleaning, equipment for deep clean, hand sanitisers and alcohol spray.

**Belvidere Centre** - additional cleaning & PPE equipment, wipes and distancing tape.

**Wallasey Village Library Friends Tree Planting Group** - Tree Planting Project at Wallacre Playing Fields & Belvidere Playing Fields.

**Wallasey Village People** - PPE and signage for local shops and small businesses.

**The Gorse Millennium Green Trust** - Improvements to The Gorse Millennium Green

**Claremount Methodist Church Hub** - PPE to keep volunteers and public safe at all times.

**Wallasey Village United Reformed Church** - anti-bac cleaning equipment.

**Wallasey Scouts** - PPE for all the local Scout hubs/sites.

**Friends of Harrison Park** - Floral tribute to the NHS & in memory of those who lost their lives to Covid.

**Wallasey Rugby Club** - Purchase of additional cleaning & PPE equipment to make Club safe to open.

**Wallasey Village People** - Christmas Lights project 2020.

**Defibrillator repairs** - new pads and batteries for the 'defibs' in Wallasey Village.

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

One of the top complaints from Wallasey 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 Wallasey was left behind.

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

Councillors Lesley Rennie, Ian Lewis and Paul Hayes have been pushing for a fairer share of the Council's highways budget to be spent in Wallasey.

**Since Labour lost their majority in the Town hall, we secured cash to resurface:**

Grove Road, Parkway, The Leas, The Willows, Bowden Road, Halton Road, Knowsley Road, Inchcape Road, Northcote Road, Wallacre Road,

## Wallasey Village Post Office re-opens

**Welcome to Harshad and Manilal, who have taken over Grove Road Post Office.**

While our previous campaign to have it reopened was a success, it closed again last year as negotiations between the former Postmaster and Post Office Ltd and their lawyers dragged on.

At the same time, Councillor Ian Lewis met (virtually) with the Postal Affairs Minister, Paul Scully MP, to press the case for Grove Road to be re-opened.

Ian said: "More than 1,000 people backed our campaign two years ago and were dismayed when it closed again last March. The Post Office is a vital asset for many in our community, especially since so many banks have closed their branches."



Resurfacing of Hose Side Road had been promised, but not delivered, for three years. It was only after the 'Cabinet' was scrapped that Ian, Lesley and Paul were able to have the works done.

Hosside Road, Mayfield Road, and St Hilary Brow. Valkyrie Road and Malpas Grove will be done shortly.

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

Seaview Road, Mockbeggar Drive, Greenleas Road

(pavements). North Drive, Gloucester Road, Paignton Road (again!), Broadway, the entry points to The Banks and The Channel, Northcote Road (pavements), Warren Drive (pavements) and footpaths between Linksway and Warren Drive and between Hillam Road and Green Lane.

## YOUR COUNCILLORS TOP THE CASE WORK TABLE



213 issues raised

Requests for action by councillors in each ward in 2020

 Wallasey Conservatives

Source: Freedom of Information Act request to Wirral Borough Council via What Do They Know

