



# LITTER FINE FIASCO

## Council backs down over crazy fine for dropping cherry stones outside Library



Pat Cleary helped Jeff Hughes avoid an unfair fine.

Wirral Council has been forced to back down after its litter enforcement firm Kingdom fined a local man for dropping three cherry stones in the bushes outside Birkenhead Library. Jeff Hughes was fined for doing the right thing. The cherry stones would compost naturally rather than going to land fill but Kingdom insisted he should pay a fine.

When the story was covered in the local media Cllr Pat Cleary contacted Jeff. Pat encouraged Jeff to stand up to the council. For months, they insisted that Kingdom was right and Jeff needed to cough up or go to court. They even insisted he would have to travel from York where he currently lives to plead not guilty. But, when Jeff contacted the court, he was told he could submit his plea via email.

Jeff followed this advice and the council backed down. But even then they refused to admit they were wrong. Their letter to Jeff insisted he was wrong but they wouldn't be taking the case any further.

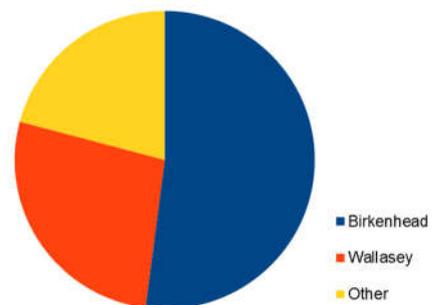
Jeff says, "*Kingdom and Wirral Council really lost the plot. I couldn't believe their attitude. I almost caved into the pressure. I'm really grateful for Pat Cleary's help. He supported me throughout the process and gave me lots of good advice. I really think people here are fortunate to have someone like Pat who fights so hard for them.*"

## LABOUR'S LITTER POLICE: HEAVY-HANDED AND INEFFECTIVE

Labour-run Wirral Council wants to look tough when it comes to litter. It uses a private company Kingdom to enforce litter fines. Many are rightly unhappy that a private company is profiting from this work. Figures obtained by Cllr Pat Cleary show that **most fines were in the Birkenhead area** and the overwhelming majority related to cigarette litter.

Pat says; "*We all want cleaner streets and litter is a blight on our community. But deliberately targeting smokers does little to reduce litter. However, it does make plenty of profit for a private company. This sucks money out of the local economy and gives it to wealthy shareholders.*"

Many people have complained about Kingdom's sometimes aggressive approach. **Other local authorities have dumped Kingdom. Wirral Council should do the same.** Litter enforcement should be brought back inside the council."



Figures obtained by Cllr Pat Cleary show over half the fines issued by Kingdom in Wirral were in the Birkenhead area. 80-85% of fines were for cigarette litter.



## #DEFEND OUR NHS

Our NHS is the best public service we have ever created. But competition has poisoned it and privatisation is eroding it. That's why we need to take profit out of health and restore a public NHS that will last for generations to come. Join us in supporting the cross-party campaign to defend the NHS in Wirral. Search for "defend our NHS" on Facebook to learn more and get involved.



Greens are working hard in parliament and on councils across the country to put an end to NHS privatisation and secure additional funding.

Want to learn more about what is really happening to our NHS? Search for "defend our NHS" on Facebook to join the Wirral campaign.

**Hamilton Medical Centre update:** Following news that the Hamilton Medical Centre on Market Street was planning to move from its current location, Cllr Pat Cleary held a constructive meeting with management at the centre. Pat emphasised his main concern that the growing population in and around Hamilton Square retains secure and permanent access to vital health services. We urge everyone to bear this in mind and look forward to further updates in the near future.

## ANOTHER GREEN WIN AS MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND DUMPS FOSSIL FUELS

A long Green Party campaign to encourage the Merseyside pension fund to dump dirty and risky fossil fuels has paid off. For the past three years, Cllr Pat Cleary has used his position on the pensions committee to encourage a move away from fossil fuels. As well as wrecking our climate, fossil fuels are very risky investments for pensioners as green energy takes over.

In January, councillors from all parties agreed with Pat that pension funds should move away from fossil fuels. This means that £370 million will be switched to low carbon investments. Pat says, "This is good news for our planet and our pensioners whose income will be more secure in the future. I'd like to thank officers at the pension fund and all the other councillors who supported my position."



Green win as pension fund dumps fossil fuels. This follows last month's news that Wirral Council will phase out single use plastics.



**Menai Street:** Pat Cleary supported the recent Regenda Homes event to talk to residents and address ASB issues.

## GREEN ACTION STREET BY STREET

Here are some recent examples of issues followed up by Cllr Pat Cleary and the Green Party. You can report most issues via [wirral.gov.uk](http://wirral.gov.uk). Contact Pat if you don't get the response you need or don't have internet access.

- Magenta Living adds **Beech Court** to its weekly watch list for fly-tipping - contact them direct on 666 6938
- Drains on **Fox Street** were cleared following Pat's report.
- Blocked alley between **Willmer Road** and **Larch Road** has had a deep cleanse after Pat referred it to the grot spot team
- The council demands clean ups from owners of untidy plots on **Victoria Fields, Ridley Street** and **Caerwys Grove**.

**GREEN PARTY: SUPPORTING BIRKENHEAD & TRANMERE ALL YEAR ROUND**

# ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

## Residents demand compulsory purchase order for Victoria Lodge Hotel



Residents living near the Victoria Lodge Hotel have had enough. For five years they have had to put up with endless problems - fly-tipping, arson, drug dealing. The building is a magnet for anti-social behaviour. It has dragged the whole street down. Even worse, Magenta Living has now closed the car park opposite the Lodge. This has turned a public asset into a liability.

Meetings have got us nowhere. The site continues to deteriorate. The house next door has been boarded up and empty for two years. How many more will follow?

Residents are angry that the Victoria Lodge has sat empty for five years with no sign that the owners will redevelop the site.

The owners have failed to put in a planning application to redevelop the site or sell it to someone who will. **As things stand, we face more years of blight and decay.**

**This situation can no longer be tolerated.** The market has failed and we expect public authorities to act. Wirral Council has the power to compulsory purchase properties when there is a clear public need. This was used recently to buy the derelict buildings by Central Library. That has made a huge difference. The same needs to happen with the Victoria Lodge.

Cllr Pat Cleary has written to Wirral Council's head of regeneration to formally request that Wirral Council begin compulsory purchase proceedings. The letter has been signed by dozens of local residents. You can read it at [www.patcleary2.blogspot.com](http://www.patcleary2.blogspot.com).

Pat says; *"Everyone's patience has run out. The owners need to redevelop the site or sell it to someone who will. In the meantime, Wirral Council must do its duty by the people it serves and use its powers of compulsory purchase."*

## FIVE YEARS OF BLIGHT AT THE VICKY LODGE



March 2013: Once thriving pub closed and up for sale



2014: Greens report many problems at the site



2016: Cllr Pat Cleary demands action as complaints soar



2017: Residents' fury mounts as neighbouring properties are affected and car park opposite closes

**COUNCILLOR PAT CLEARY, WORKING WITH PEOPLE AND GETTING THINGS DONE**

# BIG CONCERNS OVER CONDITIONS AT QUEENS HOTEL

Concerns have been raised about living conditions at a house of multiple occupation on **Park Road East**. In 2014, the owners got planning permission to convert the top floors of the Queens Hotel into 16 bedsits. At that time, Cllr Pat Cleary insisted that a condition should apply limiting the number of residents to 16 i.e. one person per bedsit.

Last year, the owners appealed that condition. They wanted the restriction on the number of people living at the Queens Hotel removed. A planning inspector visited the hotel. His report makes for grim reading. It says:

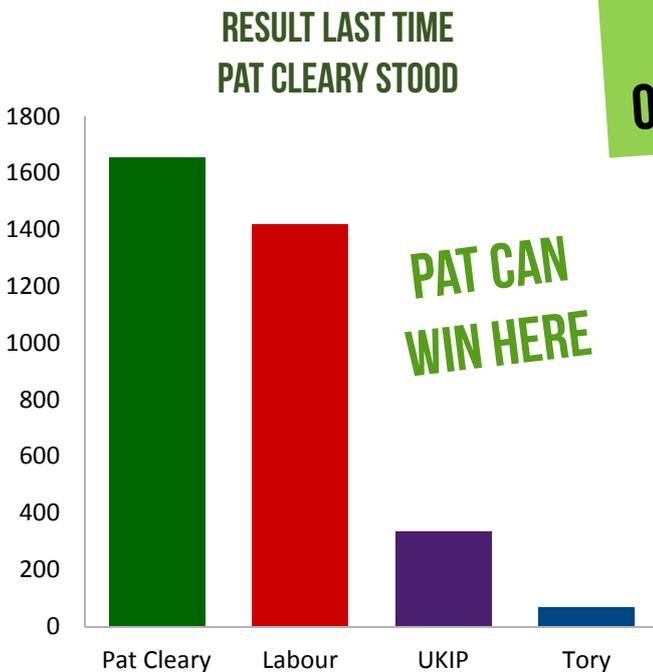
- "Bedrooms had already been formed in place of a lounge and a shower and WC on the first and second floors.
- Consequently, the building consists of 20 bedrooms in total.
- Thus, [some of] the rooms provide for a cramped living environment.
- As a result, the property is not of sufficient size to accommodate 20 bedrooms."

**In other words, the number of bedrooms had been illegally increased and living conditions were unacceptable.**



Pat Cleary outside the Queens Hotel on Park Road East

Cllr Pat Cleary has demanded that planning enforcement tackle this as a matter of urgency. Pat says: "It's incredibly important that everyone has a decent place to live. **It is unacceptable that greedy landlords break the rules. I will continue to demand better conditions for private sector tenants.**"



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**LOCAL ELECTIONS IN MAY  
ONLY PAT CLEARY TICKS ALL THE BOXES**

**HARDWORKING.** No candidate works harder for Birkenhead and Tranmere



**EXPERIENCED.** Pat has nine years campaign experience, the last four as your local councillor



**INDEPENDENT.** Pat is free to vote in our area's interests



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