



## **PARKING MISERY SET TO END**

### **Residents celebrate new scheme for Rodney Street and Argyle Street South**

A year long campaign to secure resident-only parking for Argyle Street South has succeeded. It will join Rodney Street in a new scheme set to be implemented over the next few months. This follows years of misery for car owners who have struggled to park near their homes.

When a residents parking scheme was proposed for Rodney Street Cllr Pat Cleary worked with residents to lobby Wirral Council to also include Argyle Street South. Thankfully the council listened and both streets will now be incorporated into the scheme.

Pat Cleary says; *"I would like to thank residents for their patience. I know this has taken a long time but hopefully it will significantly improve the quality of life for everyone. I also know that people elsewhere, especially those living near **Green Lane** station, will be interested in similar measures. Please contact me if you would like to explore this further."*

## **BENTINCK STREET RESIDENTS DEMAND ACTION**

### **Measures needed to tackle crime**

Cllr Pat Cleary has taken action following a lot of complaints about criminal activity in the Bentinck Street area. Residents have complained to Pat about damage to property, drug dealing and other criminal acts. Some people feel afraid when walking in their own neighbourhood. This is not acceptable.

Pat has been in contact with the police. They have stepped up their activity in the area and this has already had some positive results. The police need your help to defeat crime. Ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. You can do this anonymously if you want or contact Pat if you prefer.

Sadly, Wirral Council has failed to respond as well as the police. Pat has pressed to have broken street lights and cctv equipment repaired but the council is dragging its heels. It is ridiculous that basic equipment that can keep residents safe is not working and takes so long to repair. We will continue to press for action and demand that the council does more to support residents.



Pat Cleary by the new "allotments" site on Bentinck Street. Many neighbours have expressed dismay at its condition and feel it acts as a magnet for poor behaviour.

# 200 UNIT BLOCK PROPOSED FOR CLEVELAND STREET

## Former Council building could become a student hub

A planning application to convert the Municipal building on Cleveland Street by **Hamilton Square** into student accommodation has been submitted to Wirral Council. The existing building would have two floors added and would contain 200 studio flats.

Nearby residents, particularly those in **Brunswick Mews** have raised concerns about the potential impact of this development. They are naturally worried about being overlooked from the new larger facility and the potential for noise.

In response, Cllr Pat Cleary arranged for residents to meet the developer to discuss their concerns. Pat has also sent a detailed list of questions about the application to the planning department.



Cllr Pat Cleary outside the council-owned block on Cleveland Street. A developer wants to convert it into student accommodation

Pat says; *"This is a major application which, if approved, would change the character of the area. While more young people would bring many positive benefits it is also vital that the concerns of existing residents are fully considered. I am therefore working to ensure that any approved proposal is for student use only and includes the strongest possible conditions to reduce noise and minimise the impact on neighbours."*

The application is expected to come before the planning committee early in 2018.

## COUNCIL REJECTS DERBY ROAD PETITION

### Road safety officer refuses to meet residents

Wirral Council has rejected a plea from residents on Derby Road to address road safety concerns. In its response to a petition the council said the new traffic calming scheme for Elm Grove (*see page 4*) would improve safety at its junction with Derby Road while the rest of the route has *"a comparatively good safety record."*

However, data from [www.crashmap.com](http://www.crashmap.com) shows that, over the last five years, there have been multiple collisions on Derby Road with 14 personal injuries. Without any additional road safety measures we can expect further crashes and injuries in the years to come. Indeed, with St Caths Hospital expanding, traffic on Derby Road is increasing.

The council's response is therefore very disappointing. Also, the road safety officer refused Pat Cleary's request to walk the route with residents to discuss their concerns. This is unacceptable and shows that road safety is not a high enough priority at Wirral Council.



Residents on **Woodchurch Road** are also demanding action to address traffic speed and help pedestrians cross the road. Here, local resident Simon Jackson-Twist hands over a petition to Pat Cleary signed by 189 people. Pat presented the petition to council in December. We are waiting for a response.

# LAND SALE ON BALLS ROAD EAST WITHDRAWN

## Green space preserved as council backs down

Wirral Council has scrapped plans to sell land on Balls Road East. The land is a welcome green space in a built up area. This was threatened as any sale would probably have resulted in the land being cleared for housing.

This is good news for Birkenhead and especially the residents of **Mount Grove** which backs on to the site. The land in question is very steep and not suitable for modern housing. We are therefore pleased that the council has responded to concerns and will retain the land as public green space.

Meanwhile, the **new LIDL store** nearby is due to open in February. It should have opened last year but contract disputes delayed construction. It is pleasing to see that pedestrian access to the store from Balls Road East has been included. This was requested by Cllr Pat Cleary during the planning application stage.



This land on Balls Road East has been withdrawn from sale and will remain in public hands.

## GREEN SUCCESS AS COUNCIL BANS SINGLE USE PLASTIC

Wirral Council has agreed to phase out single-use plastic from all of its activities over the next two years. Pat Cleary brought a motion to council in December. This was approved unanimously. Councillors from all parties agreed with Pat that the council must take a lead in cutting the damage to our health and environment from plastic waste.

*Pat says: from the litter on our streets to the deadly harm for marine animals, single use plastic items have many negative impacts. They need to become a thing of the past. I'm very pleased that council has adopted this Green policy. I will be holding them to account and making sure it is fully implemented. Hopefully this will encourage everyone in Wirral to cut their use of plastic and reduce waste.*

## A WARM WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS ON CHURCH ROAD

### Final stage of scheme set for completion in 2018

Cllr Pat Cleary has been visiting residents at the new housing in and around Church Road. The scheme has been a very long time coming. It is therefore welcome that most of the new houses are complete. A planning application for the final 35 houses has just been approved and should be completed during 2018.

Pat has been following up on issues relating to the scheme. Some residents have had delays in receiving phone/internet services. These now seem to be resolved but there are still issues relating to the quality of pavement work and missing street signs. However, the site managers did act swiftly to remove fencing that blocked the view for vehicles leaving the shopping area.

We would like to welcome all the new residents to Tranmere and wish them every happiness in their new homes.

The scheme includes these new flats on Ravenshaw Close. They have their own bike store which Pat insisted on as a condition of the planning approval.

GREEN PARTY, SUPPORTING YOU ALL YEAR ROUND

# COUNCIL NEWSPAPER, GOLF RESORT AND EXECUTIVE PAY TOP WASTE WATCH LIST

## You want less waste and more cash for cleaner streets and public services

Thank you to everyone who recently completed our 60 second survey. We received hundreds of replies. It's clear that many of you are angry about some of the ways Labour-run Wirral Council spends public money:

1. Wirral View. The council's monthly newspaper has already cost £275,000 and should be delivered to every home in Wirral. However, it's clear that many don't receive it and most don't want it. Now we learn the council has committed a further £750,000 to publish Wirral View for the next three years.

2. With Birkenhead crying out for investment, residents are angry that Wirral Council has spent over £1 million promoting its unpopular golf resort in Hoylake. The Labour leader of the council has admitted that there is a "national down turn in the amount of people playing golf". This has resulted in a £180,000 shortfall in income from the council's golf courses across Wirral this year. So, why is the council spending vast sums on even more golf?

3. Wirral's chief executive now costs over £190,000 p.a. Why is a Labour-run council paying top bosses more and more while services are being cut?

More than anything, people complain about the lack of street cleaning. Surely keeping our area tidy is more important than producing newspapers nobody reads or a golf course nobody wants?



Crazy golf! Labour run Wirral Council has already spent over £1 million promoting a golf resort in Hoylake.



Pat with new speed bumps on Elm Grove

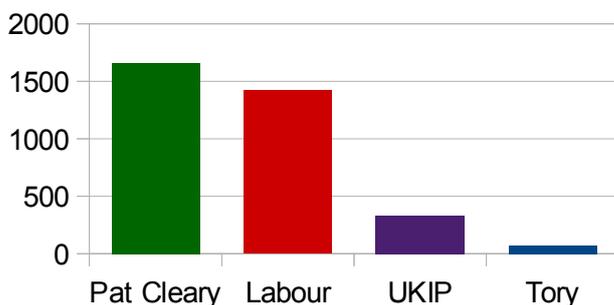
## NEW TRAFFIC CALMING FOR ELM GROVE

Elm Grove now has a new traffic calming scheme. Speed bumps and 20mph signs will slow traffic and encourage more drivers to access Whetstone Lane via the junction with Derby Road. Pat Cleary secured the investment via the Birkenhead constituency committee.

Far less welcome is the recent theft of the street's Victorian post box. This would have been used by the family of war poet Wilfred Owen who lived on Elm Grove. The police are investigating.

## GREENS CAN WIN HERE

Local election result, 22/05/14



## CONTACT PAT



If you have a comment or question about our area please let Pat know:

Tel: 0151 632 5366  
Mobile: 07852 842 559  
patcleary@phonecoop.coop  
Twitter: @PatCleary2  
www.patcleary2.blogspot.com

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