

## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

### **Mr Heaton, Wallasey**

Question:

How many dogs are allowed to be kept in a single dwelling and how long can they be left alone for?

Answer:

Colin Clayton (Senior Manager Environmental Health/Trading Standards)

There is no definitive answer as it would come down to the welfare needs being met for that particular dog and situation. Useful information from DEFRA's (the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs will be emailed to Mr Heaton.

Any concerns about a dog's welfare should be reported to the RSPCA or Wirral Council Environmental Health.

Additionally, if the property is rented from a private or social landlord there may be limitations on whether pets can live at the property or alternatively, restrictions on the number and type.

### **Mr Croston, Wallasey**

Question:

What is happening to the vacant land in Walmsley Street, Egremont. A surveyor has been taking measurements, what are they relevant to?

Answer:

Planning permission was granted to Wirral Methodist Housing Association on 22 February 2018 for the construction of two semi-detached wheelchair accessible bungalows (reference: APP/18/00002).

### **Mr Ellis, Moreton**

Question:

The streetlights in the car park next to Moreton Library have not been working for months now. Is there any plan to have them repaired?

Answer:

Paul Graves (Senior Assistance Engineer - Street Lighting)

Jeannette Royle (Senior Manager – Asset Management)

Repairs were undertaken on some of the lights recently, however a number of these columns require full replacement. Any longer term replacement required will be

incorporated into the regeneration activity which will be undertaken by the Wirral Growth Company.

**Mrs Mullen, Wallasey**

Question:

I would like to see police presence on Leasowe Road for a time, because of the now continual under-taking that has become dangerous on the road. This is happening at the traffic lights by Wallasey Village station and by the junction of Bayswater Road. Frightening to see, and there are a number of schools in the vicinity. Possibly a speed camera would help.

Answer:

Inspector Paul Harrison (Merseyside Police) has raised this issue with the schools officer for the area Constable Kelly Atherton and the local Leasowe/Moreton team to review. Contact will be made with the questioner to discuss and progress.

**Mr McCracken, Wallasey**

Question:

I filled an online questionnaire concerning the proposed change over our recycling system. I received a letter asking me to display a NO to this system, which I have done. Why does the council want to spend £1.5 million pounds on this when it is obvious as soon as you step out of your front door (depending on where you live) that this money could be used to improve other areas?

Answer:

Claire Brandwood, Team Leader (Waste Prevention)

The Council carried out a thorough investigation into the potential changes to the waste collection system, which are required for the Council to meet the national 50% recycling target by 2020. At this time, a final decision is yet to be confirmed, we do not anticipate a service change in the near future.

In the meantime, the Council has implemented a new Waste Management Plan, to maximise the efficiency of our current collection systems and help our residents to manage their waste correctly and recycle all that they can from the kerbside.

This plan includes:

- A full review of the additional bin authorisation list – to ensure that only those residents that meet the criteria and demonstrate that they are recycling fully are permitted to present an additional green rubbish bin.
- Implementation of the new requirement for a waste audit to be carried out for any new additional bin requests – where a property meets the thresholds to be considered for an additional bin, but is not recycling correctly, advice will be provided.
- Continuing subsidy of the grey recycling bins.
- Targeted recycling communications to those areas where recycling participation is low.
- Review of the Council's own waste management arrangements.

- Working with partners to promote recycling.

### **Mr Dodd, Wallasey Village**

#### Question:

Can something be done about the parking/abandoning of vehicles in Village Way during term time they are causing hazards to services such as the refuse collection and access to Emergency vehicles. At the end of the school day parents totally disregard waiting and parking restriction signs and wait on pavements and block access to junctions again causing access restrictions to all vehicles.

#### Answer:

Sgt Marc Roberts (Merseyside Police)

The local PCSO has been tasked to call into the school and ask them to put signs up re double parking. It will also be ensured that staff are made aware of the issues and be visible during dropping off times. If they are clearly blocking junctions or parked dangerous then police have the power to issue obstruction notices if appropriate.

Andy McCartan (Commissioning Services Manager)

Our enforcement officers have visited this location and a request has been made for the yellow lines to be re-painted on the highway, this should enable a more proactive enforcement of vehicles that are parked in contravention of the restrictions. It has been noted that the main occurrences are during a short period at the end of the school day.

### **Miss Stothard, Birkenhead**

#### Question:

When will WBC stop spending public money on the felling of and dismemberment of trees across the Borough and in all settings? Since 2011 many thousands of trees have been felled for no scientifically verifiable reason at enormous cost to the public. The rate at which this has happened is increasing year on year. Many are felled during the nesting season, which is illegal under the Wildlife & Countryside Act. Twenty plus healthy white poplars at the Gunsite, Leasowe and all of the willows surrounding one of the Greasby ponds on Saughall Massie Road are just two examples of multiple fellings.

Parks & Countryside employs 150 plus persons and yet [named officer] has proved unable and unwilling to meet with me and/or to justify this Borough-wide policy.

No investment is required to leave trees standing in the ground. So my question is, when will WBC stop committing public spending on this willful destruction, instead of saving money, trees and our future at the same time?

#### Answer:

Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council recognises that trees present across the council's estate provide a wide variety of benefits to the organisation, to individuals, visitors, the local

community and to society as a whole. As a consequence, WMBC accepts, among a number of responsibilities in connection with the estate, a commitment to protect and enhance the benefits provided by the trees as far as possible as part of the overall estate. The benefits provided by the trees within WMBC's estate include:

- Public and visual/landscape amenity
- Leisure/recreation
- Ecological – biodiversity/habitat/protected species
- Public health and well being
- Historic/landscape/heritage
- Timber production/coppice products
- Environmental – global climate change and local climate regulation

In addition to protecting and preserving the benefits provided by the trees across WMBC's estate, WMBC acknowledges that it has a legal duty to take such reasonable care that might be considered to be expected of a reasonable and prudent landowner and to manage risks to a level that can be considered to be as low as reasonably practicable.

WMBC aims to exercise a balanced and proportionate management strategy with regard to tree risk and risk management decisions are made whilst also taking into account the benefits of trees within the estate.

#### **Questions to which the individual has requested to ask themselves:**

Mr Ogorman, Upton

##### Question:

Stop Magenta and Bamboo selling our houses is it lawful?

##### Answer:

##### **Magenta Living:**

Magenta Living has provided an extract from a recent tenants' newsletter which explains the position.

#### **Mr Simpson, Greasby**

##### (first question)

Question: Does Wallasey, Seacombe, Moreton, need affordable homes, when the homeless and people using food banks are crying out for social housing. Is this council once again, ignoring the wishes of its residents.

##### Answer:

Lisa Newman (Head of Housing)

Nationally it is recognised that there is a shortage of affordable homes and Wirral is no different with some 2,200 people registered on the Council's housing register with a priority need. There is need for affordable accommodation across a number of areas in the borough and that includes Moreton, Seacombe and Wallasey. The Council works on a number of levels to deliver affordable housing for people who need it including working with registered provider partners (such as Magenta, Regenda, Wirral Methodist Housing Association to name a few). We do this by working together to secure funding from Government and

using our own local authority land assets to build on. The Leader of the Council also specifically set aside a programme of investment to target new build provision in areas including Seacombe, Moreton and Wallasey so they could benefit from affordable housing. Since 2011 301 units of affordable homes have been built in these areas through the Council and partners working and investing together with a further 61 units currently on site and another approx. 150 in design stage, a demonstration of our commitment and recognition.

In respect of foodbanks we are aware by working in partnership with the Food Bank that many people who are using this service are not homeless they have homes and are feeling the financial pressure due to a range of issues. In 2018 alone we know that 49% of people referred into the service was because of needing help due to benefit changes and delays - increasing as a result of the roll out of Universal Credit, 1% of those accessing the service were homeless demonstrating that access to this service is wider than a homelessness issue. However through programmes such as those highlighted we are helping increase the provision of accommodation that is affordable for local people.

## Golf Resort

Mr Simpson, Greasby

### Question:

Why does WBC, ignore the wishes of the majority to accommodate the few. I am talking of course about the closures within the constituency. That of Girtrell Court, the closure of Upton fire station and the removing of the night shift at Wallasey fire station. The building of Hoylake Golf Resort, when so many people are against it at a current rate of 15 to 1 against. The impact of the New Service Road will have on Saughall Massie. The borrowing and then loaning of £26m to a flawed joint venture vehicle, when shops in New Brighton, Wallasey and other areas are closing. Would this money be better spent elsewhere to help the community? Why are WBC going against Labour Party Policy and that of the Local campaign forum. Do you think that this is what we have voted for?

Mr McDonald, Liscard

### Question:

Why is Wirral Council lending money to a developer to fund a speculative housing/ golf course development on green belt land? Could the money not be better used to fund local social care budgets?

Ms Adamson, Saughall Massie

### Question:

In light of budget proposals, reduced services and staff how can Wirral council justify borrowing 26 million pounds to build a Luxury housing complex and golf course, borrow millions of pounds to other councils and print a paper the vast majority of Wirral people have never seen?

Miss O'Rourke, West Kirby

### Question:

New research by Newcastle University has found that urban areas could be much more severely affected by climate change than previously thought. In some cases the amount of water per flood could double. With properties in Moreton already having regular flooding problems, is it a good idea to be reducing the capacity of the Birket flood plain by building a golf resort and luxury housing estate on it?

Ms Clough, Upton

### Question:

Wetlands are increasingly being seen as a sustainable way to manage flood risk. With climate change, Moreton is likely to suffer even more flooding problems. So why is Wirral Council refusing to fund a £10k feasibility study into a wildfowl and wetlands centre as an alternative to the Hoylake Golf Resort?

Dr Jones, West Kirby

### Question:

I would like to ask what the effect of the proposed Hoylake Golf resort will be on the risks of flooding downstream of the Birket as the flood plain will be affected.

Also, whether there is a greater need for affordable housing in Saughall Massie, Moreton and Wallasey than for high value housing in the West Wirral constituency.

Ms Stothard, Prenton

Question:

1. The CPRE has released a study into new roads that were justified on the basis that they would benefit the local economy. It found that economic benefit was slower than expected, did not materialise at all or was just as likely to suck money out of the local area as to bring it in. So why is the Council proposing to spend £16million on roads straight from the motorway to the Hoylake golf resort and what impact will it have on passing trade in Moreton?
2. Wetlands are increasingly being seen as a sustainable way to manage flood risk. With climate change, Moreton is likely to suffer even more flooding problems. So why is Wirral Council refusing to fund a £10k feasibility study into a wildfowl and wetlands centre as an alternative to the Hoylake Golf Resort?

Mr Barnes

(question sent to Michelle Gray, Engagement Officer)

Properties in Moreton have suffered repeated flooding because the surface water sewers are unable to discharge into the River Birket and Arrowe Brook. Why is the Council proposing to add to the problem by increasing flood flows discharging into these rivers from a proposed golf resort and housing estate built in a known flood zone?