



Community Newsline

January 2025 Cloughton and Noctorum

News from the local Conservatives. Join us at www.conservatives.com/join

INSIDE
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Council seeks £40m Government bailout

Councillors are struggling to set a budget, after years of plundering 'emergency' reserves were criticised by auditors.

Council Tax bills are set to rise, and services cut back, after Wirral Council's auditors reported on major weaknesses in the Borough's finances.

Decisions by previous Labour leaders of the Council to use the Council's reserves to prop up day-to-day spending mean there is now little left to meet the crisis which the Town Hall is now in.

At the same time, rapidly rising costs of care for vulnerable adults and children, are putting

extra pressure on the Council.

The council is legally-required to provide these services. As a result other services face cuts.

Councillor Jeff Green, Leader of Wirral's 17 Conservative Councillors, said: "Relying on funds set aside for a 'rainy day' was never going to end well.

"Over the last few years, Labour has used more than £84m of reserves."

An extraordinary meeting of all councillors was called by the

Council's auditors, Grant Thornton, to make them all aware of the seriousness of the situation.

The Council is seeking an emergency bailout of £40m from the Government to cover the next two years. This 'loan' will be repayable, with interest, over 20 years.

At the same time, the Chancellor's budget last July has added to Council's costs with higher National Insurance bills.

News in brief Noctorum and Cloughton



2,501 local pensioners lose Winter Fuel help

In spite of protests from Age UK and the other political parties, Labour removed Winter Fuel Payments from millions of pensioners.

In Cloughton and Noctorum, 2,501 pensioners lost the help they'd been promised towards this year's fuel bills.



Green Belt at risk from new housing targets

One of the first decisions of the new Government last July was to impose higher housing targets on Wirral Council.

The new target of 35,000 new houses means Green Belt will be developed and more pressure on local green spaces such as Noctorum Fields.



79 crimes reported in Cloughton

The latest crime report for Cloughton and Noctorum reveals 79 crimes were reported in November 2024.

The top crimes were violence or sexual offences. More information can be found at www.police.uk



Welcome to our new members

More people in Cloughton and Noctorum have joined the local Conservatives than anywhere else in Wirral.

Every new member makes us stronger. Join for around £3.50 a month at www.conservatives.com/join

Promoted by Ian Lewis, on behalf of Wallasey and Birkenhead Conservative Federation, both at PO Box 269, Wirral CH129 9GB. Printed by Paragon, Unit 1, Potter Place, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 9PW.

www.birkenheadconservatives.org.uk

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Labour planning more cycle lanes

While the results of the failed Fender Lane cycle route have still not been published, Labour Councillors are pushing ahead with a big expansion of 'segregated' cycle lanes.

Here in Claughton and Noctorum this includes Shrewsbury Road, Upton Road and Park Road North.

Residents would, in many areas, lose on street parking near their homes, making parking in side roads even worse.

Most people are unaware of the plans and the Town Hall's consultation on the plans has been slammed by the Conservatives. Barely 1% of people who responded were from Claughton and Noctorum.

The proposals will be put to a vote of Councillors on Monday 27 January at Wallasey Town Hall.

Read more at www.birkenheadconservatives.org.uk



Whether you are in favour of more cycle lanes or not, why didn't Labour do more to seek your views?

How councillors have voted...

Wirral's 17 Conservative Councillors have voted...

- For Winter Fuel Payments** – we oppose Labour's cuts and wrote to pensioners in Claughton and Noctorum with fuel bill advice
- Against car parking charges** – we did not support the plan by Labour and the Greens to extend parking charges to local shopping areas.
- To reject the housing targets** – Labour's demands to build 35,000 houses in Wirral means our Green Belt will be lost forever.

OR

How Wirral's Labour Councillors have voted on key issues...

- Labour Councillors voted against a call to reject cuts to Winter Fuel Payments
- Labour Councillors, propped up by the Greens, ignored the results of the consultation and pushed through more parking charges.
- In an emergency debate called on the Green Belt, Labour councillors did not support our call to reject the new housing target.

Every member makes us stronger: www.conservatives.com/join

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Have your say on what matters in

CLAUGHTON AND NOCTORUM

As well as our local newsletters and surveys, we've set up an online survey. The Town Hall may not be listening, but we are. Have your say on issues such as Winter Fuel Payments or calls for a national inquiry into the so-called 'grooming gangs'. It doesn't matter which party you usually support - every opinion matters.

Or go to www.birkenheadconservatives.org.uk

