



As an antidote to Green Belt Blues let's celebrate the open spaces we can all enjoy. They may be huge like the glorious Port Sunlight River Park, full of wild life and great new views, or small like the shady Europa Boulevard in the heart of busy Birkenhead. Make a quest to find them all.

Clockwise - Shorefields - New Ferry, Parade Gardens - Hoylake, Europa Boulevard - Birkenhead, Mayer Park - Bebington



### Hooton Park Hangars Heritage Project.

The Hooton Park Trust (HPT) has received Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant support of up to £25,800 to conduct an archaeological study on parts of the old Hooton Park airfield site at Ellesmere Port. The Wirral Society recently gave them a small grant towards restoration of the World War 1 hangars. [www.hootonparktrust.co.uk](http://www.hootonparktrust.co.uk).

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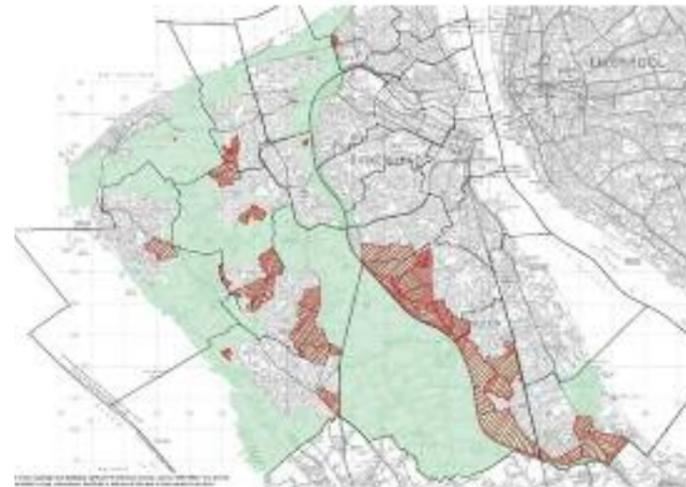


# WIRRAL MATTERS

News and Views from The Wirral Society - founded 1928  
 The Wirral Committee of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)  
 President: Professor John Tarn OBE DL FRIBA FRSA FRHistS FSA  
[www.wirralsociety.net](http://www.wirralsociety.net) FACEBOOK - The Wirral Society  
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**CELEBRATING 90 YEARS - Summer 2018**

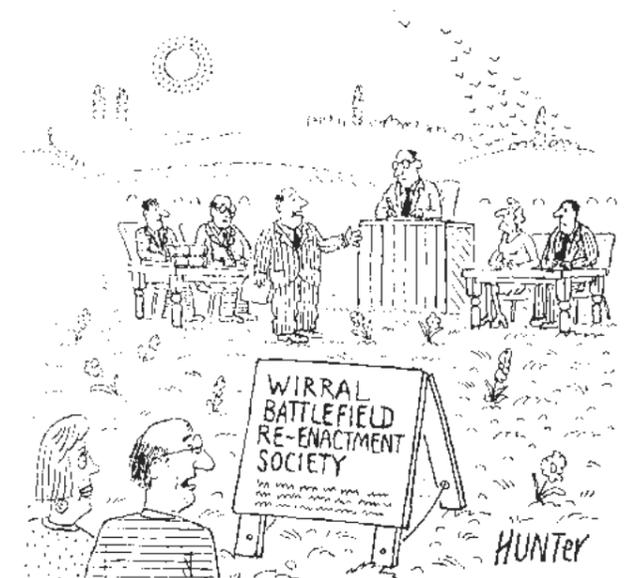
## HUGE THREATS TO THE GREEN BELT

The Wirral Society is constantly lobbying over threats to the Green Belt. Particularly now with these new proposals to provide for house building on large areas of precious Green Belt land - much of which is currently farmed. There are public meetings and online petitions where you can stand up against these proposals. There are huge reserves of Brownfield sites available on Wirral; enough to meet realistic Government targets. Make your voice heard. (Contact details on Page 3)



Areas in red show where the Green Belt is threatened.

Hunter's cartoon of 2008 is just as apt today



"It's a Green Belt Planning Inquiry from the eighties"

In February 2018 the Leader of Wirral Council, Councillor Phil Davies stated "I am not prepared to allow our Green Belt land to be built on. I am resolute about that commitment. It is the Jewel in Wirral's Crown and greatly valued by our residents"

**If this statement is true -**

- a) the Council’s delay in producing a Local Plan has meant there is now an unseemly rush to satisfy unrealistic targets and to release Green Belt land unnecessarily.
- b) the Council should be challenging the unrealistic targets. The target figures stem from the Councils own inflated population and economic growth projections.
- c) there are more than enough Brownfield sites to meet realistic targets without releasing Green Belt farmland.
- d) the Council should be working more closely with Peel Holdings to assist Peel building some of the 13,500 homes at Wirral Waters.
- e) why is the Council prepared to borrow £26 million ( at a reduced rate) to lend to a Developer to build luxury houses for a Golf Resort on Green Belt farmland in Hoylake, but will not borrow money to develop housing on Brownfield sites? Why is it prepared to spend £17million on roads for the Golf Resort yet they say they have no money to purchase or redevelop Brownfield sites - we need affordable housing not executive housing.
- f) the Council should be following a "Brownfield first" policy and should not release any Green Belt land until all the Brownfield has been exhausted and the 6,000 empty properties on the Wirral have been brought back in to use.
- g) New studies show that 78% of houses built on Green Belt are not affordable. Developers used Legal Loopholes (viability assessments) to avoid building affordable homes on premium Green Belt sites. We need affordable homes not executive homes.

**Please ensure you register for tickets to the Council ‘s consultation meetings as soon as possible and send in your comments. See website details below, for meeting dates and response forms. We need to ensure that the Council know that the people of Wirral will not tolerate Green Belt Development when there are sufficient Brownfield sites available.**

**The official Consultation on the content of the Council’s Draft Local Plan, of which this Green Belt issue is a key part, begins in September and continues for 6 weeks. We urge everyone to take an interest.** The Society, for its part, intends to be fully involved. We have plans for meetings to be convened of representative people with a special interest in the matter in order to consider what is being told to us during the consultation process. We can then hopefully benefit from each other’s thoughts and speak with a unified voice **The Society will be publishing updated information as the process continues on its Website.**

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**Tributes to two former colleagues** - their work for The Society and a wider picture of their lives by fellow members of our Committee are now on our website.

To Alan Brack , former editor, by the Society’s Secretary, David Casement

To Doreen Grey, Our most effective, efficient and loyal Minutes Secretary for many years

- by Audrey Platt

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**HOW YOU CAN HELP FIGHT LARGE SCALE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GREEN BELT**

**Ask these questions**

- **why do we need so many extra houses. What is this figure based on?**
- **why are both national and local government proposing Green Belt land grab when their own agreed policies are currently to protect Green Belt?**
- **Why cannot the Council count land which has already been granted planning permission?**
- **what about all the brownfield land that is earmarked for both housing and industrial development in the ‘Wirral Waters’ scheme by Peel Holdings around Birkenhead Docks?**
- **Why are they considering obliterating the ancient character of such villages as Storeton , Barnston, Eastham?**
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- **Contact your local councillor by email or by post to Wallasey Town Hall - find who they are on the Council website - wirral.gov.uk**
- **email your local MP or visit their surgery**
- **email the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, James Brokenshire at james.brokenshire.mp@parliament.uk**
- **email to localplan@wirral.gov.uk**

**Wirral Council Consultation details available at - <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan-10>**

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**Plastic pollution** in our oceans is getting massive publicity. And not before time. Things we thought were fun - like letting fly hosts of balloons in celebration - are revealed as waste which ends up in sea creatures’ stomachs and ribbons which are hopelessly wound round their bodies. Signs like this one at Caldy beach and another spotted at New Brighton act as a reminder to be more responsible.

We note that many businesses and organisations have made a positive stand - no longer relying on single use plastic cups and straws. Many stores have a collection point for plastic bags . I’d like to see this extended to unnecessary packaging that we return to the stores to deal with.