

# ST HELENS BOROUGH LABOUR GROUP UPDATE

MARCH 2021

## COMMEMORATIONS OF FIRST LOCKDOWN ACROSS THE BOROUGH

**Permanent commemorations to those in St Helens borough who have lost their lives to Covid and giving thanks to the NHS, carers and all keyworkers has been installed** at Mesnes Park in Newton-le-Willows and at St Helens Cemetery.

The inscription on the stones read: "In commemoration of the lives lost to Covid-19 and with thanks for the selfless commitment of our NHS, carers, and all keyworkers." The St Helens stone bears the additional inscription "St Helens Together". They also features a quote from Captain Sir Tom Moore – "Tomorrow will be a better day."

Cherry blossom trees have also been planted in all 16 wards of the borough and St Helens and Newton-le-Willows cemeteries as part of local activities marking the one-year anniversary of the first Covid-19 lockdown. These ornamental trees bearing memorial plaques will flourish in remembrance of all those who have sadly died during the last year, and in honour of the local people who have worked tirelessly in aid of the coronavirus pandemic response.

## LABOUR AGREE SIGNIFICANT NEW STRATEGIES; PROGRESS AKNOWLEDGED BY THE LGA AND DfE

We have published a new [Arts Strategy](#), a [Commercial Strategy](#), and a [Localities Model to bring services closer to communities and target support where it's most needed](#).

These follow other recently agreed plans including an [Economic Recovery Plan](#), a [detailed Borough Strategy](#), a [Climate Action Plan](#), including the creation of a cross-party, multi-agency commission to help the borough and region achieve net zero carbon by 2040, and a [£100m investment plan](#) for projects across the borough including repairing the historic Gamble Building and Earlestown Town Hall and rebuilding schools. Please click the links to read more.

Our Labour council's progress has been recognised by the Local Government Association: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/03/24/improvements/> and the DfE have recognised improvements in Children's Services: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/03/24/childrensservicesimprovement/>.

## LABOUR BACK THE RIGHT TO FOOD CAMPAIGN

At the March meeting of Council, Cllrs Andy Bowden and Nova Charlton brought a motion **calling for the Right to Food to be included in the government's new National Food Strategy**. We're proud to support this important and sadly necessary campaign: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/03/04/righttofood/>.





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## SUPPORTING BUSINESSES WITH REOPENING; REGENERATION UPDATE

The council has been offering **support to businesses as many get set for reopening** in the coming weeks: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/03/23/businesses-can-have-their-say-on-high-street-reopening/>.

We're also **asking businesses in St Helens town centre to get involved in plans for the future use of the Chalon Way car park site** which is currently being demolished: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/03/25/businesses-asked-to-get-involved-in-future-use-of-chalon-way-site/>

Demolition of the eye-sore car park is an important step in the wider development plans for the area. The site will be completely resurfaced ready to house pop up stalls and units for local traders as well as providing a space for local artists, musicians, entertainers, and performers. It is also hoped the site could be home to a fan zone for the Rugby League World Cup in October and November with games taking place at the nearby Totally Wicked Stadium.

Our regeneration partners English Cities Fund have also confirmed that **masterplans will be published later this summer** for redevelopment of St Helens and Earlestown town centres: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/03/11/regenerationlatest/>.

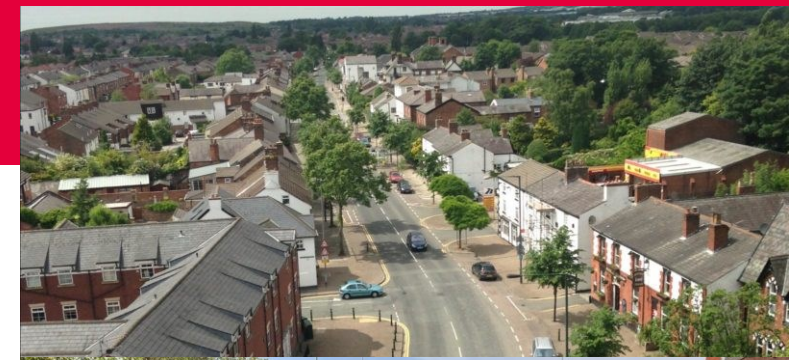
## RECOGNISING OUR NHS HEROES AND DAVE WATTS

With our colleagues in Knowsley, our Labour Groups have agreed to **nominate our local NHS Hospitals Trust for Freedom of the Borough** in recognition of the exemplary service provided during the COVID-19 pandemic. It's the highest honour we are able to bestow: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/03/01/nhshonour/>. We will be taking the nomination to the meeting of council on 14<sup>th</sup> April and we will also be nominating Dave Watts, our former Council Leader, Member of Parliament and now Lord. Dave has served St Helens proudly for decades and we thank him for all his work.

## GET READY TO VOTE

The elections are nearly here. Please **think about registering for a postal vote** if you haven't already got one: <https://earlyvote.labour.org.uk/> or call the St Helens Council elections team on 01744 676464. Your Labour candidates and councillors will be working hard in the coming weeks to deliver leaflets, promote information online, and call voters using Dialogue. If you would like to find out more or would like to help, please email [buildbackbetter@sthelenslabour.org](mailto:buildbackbetter@sthelenslabour.org).

**Also look out for our Manifesto launch soon!**





## CONTACT YOUR LABOUR COUNCILLORS:

**Find your councillor:**

[www.sthelenslabour.org/your-labour-councillors](http://www.sthelenslabour.org/your-labour-councillors)

## STAY IN TOUCH ALL YEAR ROUND:

**Twitter, Facebook and Instagram:**

Search @StHLabour

**Online:**

[www.sthelenslabour.org](http://www.sthelenslabour.org)

## APPLY FOR A POSTAL VOTE:

Elections will take place this May for the council, Metro Mayor, and Police and Crime Commissioner.

**Don't miss your chance to vote early and safely for Labour. Apply for a postal vote today:**

Visit [www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote) or call the St Helens Borough Council elections team on 01744 676464 for help.



**Vote  Labour**

Published and promoted by David Baines on  
behalf of St Helens Borough Labour Group