

ST HELENS BOROUGH LABOUR GROUP



MAY 2021 REPORT

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LABOUR WIN LOCAL ELECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We're delighted to say that St Helens Borough Labour won the local elections with the most votes and seats, winning Newton and Bold after losing both in 2019, regaining Windle, and holding Blackbrook and Sutton despite a determined effort from other parties. Our vote share increased from 36.4% in 2019 to 41.9% this year.

We're also delighted that Steve Rotheram and Emily Spurrell were both elected with huge majorities for the posts of Metro Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner, and we look forward to working together with them both.

As the following report shows, we are straight back to working hard for you, your family and our great borough.

CLLR SUE MURPHY SWORN IN AS NEW MAYOR OF ST HELENS BOROUGH

Billinge and Seneley Green ward councillor Sue Murphy has been sworn in as Mayor of St Helens Borough.

Councillor Murphy has been involved in local politics for the past 27 years after first being elected onto Seneley Green Parish Council before being elected to represent the people of Billinge and Seneley Green on St Helens Borough Council 17 years ago. During her time on the council, Councillor Murphy has held a number of high-profile roles including deputy leader of the council and a number of cabinet positions – while she has also served as Deputy Crime Commissioner for Merseyside Police as well as Chair of Governors at Garswood Primary School.

Blackbrook ward councillor Linda Maloney MBE has been sworn in as Deputy Mayor, and the whole Labour Group and wider party send our congratulations to both Sue and Linda and best wishes for the year ahead. Read more: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/05/19/sue-murphy-sworn-in-as-the-new-mayor-of-st-helens/>.

NEW MEMBER CHAMPIONS APPOINTED TO SUPPORT VITAL ISSUES

Our Labour council's work to support important issues will be supported by four Labour councillors who have been chosen as member champions. Cllr Jeanie Bell will champion Equalities, Cllr Lynn Clarke the Armed Forces, Cllr Sweeney Mental Health, and Cllr Uddin Climate Change.

In their roles they will lead on promoting the importance of these issues and tracking the council's progress in each area and helping us to work with residents, partners, community groups and volunteers to help raise the profile of these vital issues. More: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/05/26/labour-introduce-new-member-champions-to-highlight-key-issues/>.



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FIRST STEPS TAKEN TOWARDS NEW LEISURE FACILITIES IN PARR

The first steps are being taken to develop new leisure facilities in Parr and also create a modern, elite sports training venue in partnership with Saints. The council is keen to explore how the current ageing building in Parr, whose popular pools were forced to close in November 2019 due to structural issues, could be replaced with new leisure facilities alongside elite sports training facilities for the back to back Champions and all the club's squads.

The council is now seeking to appoint a consultant to undertake a feasibility study for the new centre, with proposals to include a clear vision, exciting concepts and financial deliverability. Read more: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/05/20/parrleisure/>.

NEW SUTTON MANOR COLLIERY BANNER UNVEILED

Mayor of St Helens Cllr Sue Murphy, Bold Labour councillors Stuart Barton and Lisa Preston, Council Leader David Baines and Cllr Martin Bond were among the crowd at the Dream for the unveiling of the new Sutton Manor Colliery banner. Created by members of the Northwest Miner's Heritage Association, the banner marks 30 years since the closure of the colliery: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/05/23/sutton-manor-colliery/>.

EARLESTOWN TO BENEFIT FROM HIGH STREET TASK FORCE

Regeneration plans for Earlestown have received a boost after the iconic market town was selected as the borough's chosen location to benefit from a government initiative to help transform high streets.

In April, St Helens Borough was selected as one of 70 local authority areas to receive support from a High Streets Task Force, with Earlestown as the chosen location. Cabinet member for Regeneration and Planning Cllr Richard McCauley, Cabinet member for Education, Skills and Business Cllr Kate Groucutt and Earlestown Labour councillors Dave Banks and Jeanette Banks are working together and determined to make the most of this opportunity. Find out more: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/05/18/earlestown/>.

GLASS FUTURES AND PENKFORD SCHOOL REBUILD APPROVED!

At planning committee in May several important projects gained approval including the ambitious and world-leading Glass Futures project, and the complete rebuild of Penkford School on the former Red Bank site.

Find out more about the Glass Futures project here: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/05/26/glass-futures-approved/> and Penkford here: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/05/26/penkford/>.



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COUNCIL MARKS GEORGE FLOYD ANNIVERSARY WITH RACE EQUALITY DECLARATION

On 25th May the council announced its Declaration of Intent on Race Equality, recognising that racism is a structural problem that exists in nearly all major institutions and organisations, and is an issue that can no longer go unaddressed.

The date of the declaration is purposeful, marking one year since the murder of George Floyd, a black man who died during arrest by four Minneapolis police officers, one of which knelt on his neck and back for 9 minutes and 29 seconds. George Floyd's death sparked protests against systemic racism and police brutality, which quickly spread across the US, the UK and the rest of the world with the Black Lives Matter movement.

Council Leader David Baines and Cllr Jeanie Bell, Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities and the council's new member champion for Equalities, joined representatives from the borough's community safety partnership and members of the council's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff network at St Helens Town Hall to sign 'racism stops with us' pledges, supporting Black Lives Matter and the council's long-standing #BetterThanThat equality campaign.

Find out more at <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/05/25/raceequality/>.

JOIN THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

Cllr Andy Bowden (pictured right), Cabinet member for Environment and Transport, is encouraging residents to join the Great British Spring Clean taking place until 13th June. Led by Keep Britain Tidy, the event encourages local people to tackle litter in their communities, in the hope that by the summer everyone can enjoy a cleaner, greener, litter-free environment.

Throughout the campaign and all year round the council will continue to lend its support by providing litter pickers and orange bin bags to local volunteers, as well as arranging for the waste to be collected from agreed times and locations that are accessible to vehicles. We are also working hard to pursue and prosecute flytipping. Find out more: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/05/28/greatbritishspringclean/>.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF THE LIBRARY SERVICE

The council have launched a draft 5-year Library Strategy, with a public consultation beginning on 7th June. The proposals set out ambitious plans to create a modern, inclusive library service over the next five years to respond to the needs of library users and embrace community involvement. Find out more at <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/05/26/librarystrategy/>.



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