

# ST HELENS BOROUGH LABOUR GROUP



**AUGUST 2021 REVIEW**



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### ST HELENS LEADING THE WAY

**Two world-first projects are underway here in St Helens, putting our borough and the Liverpool City Region at the forefront of the green industrial revolution.**

Essential preparatory work for the ground-breaking £54m Glass Futures development in St Helens has begun. Located on brownfield land on the edge of St Helens town centre next to the Totally Wicked Stadium, Glass Futures will be a 160,000 sq. ft Centre of Excellence, looking at how carbon can be reduced from the glass production process. This phase of the project will now take around a month to complete before the main construction works start in late autumn.

And in another world-first for St Helens, trials have started at Pilkington to produce float (sheet) glass using hydrogen. The natural gas fossil fuel, normally used in the manufacturing process, will be completely replaced with hydrogen – showing how industry can significantly cut carbon emissions and take a big step towards reaching net zero.

Find out more about these exciting projects: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/08/26/worldfirsts/>, and read about a fleet of new hydrogen-powered buses coming to St Helens here: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/08/28/zero-emission-local-buses-another-step-closer/>.

### HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW HOUSING ALLOCATIONS STRATEGY

**Residents are being asked to share your views on how the borough's social and affordable rented housing is allocated to residents as part of a detailed public consultation that launched in August.**

Social housing provided by Registered Housing Providers offers residents an affordable home in local communities, providing stability for individuals and families.

While St Helens Borough Council is no longer directly a landlord, it has a responsibility to co-ordinate the allocation of social housing in the borough and with around 8,000 applicants currently registered for re-housing, the council must set a framework that can meet the needs of residents who urgently require affordable accommodation.

How the system works and who is prioritised is set out in the Housing Allocations Policy and the Council has launched a refreshed scheme, seeking the views of residents to shape this important document.

Find out more: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/08/06/housingpolicy/>.



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### RECOGNITION FOR LOCAL NEWTON HEROES

**A group of teenage boys from Newton-le-Willows who helped to save the life of a friend have received awards from North West Ambulance Service and St Helens Borough Council for their heroic actions.**

In April this year, Connor McManus (14), Harley Molyneux (13), Bradley Poyser (12) and Cori-Lee McCarthy (13) were out on their BMXs over a local landmark known as the Mucky Mountains when Cori-Lee came off this bike, suffering a serious injury. Trying to laugh off the injury at first, Cori-Lee looked down to see he was bleeding heavily, resulting in his friends immediately calling 999, with the call handler advising the group to download the What3Words app to get a precise location of the emergency.

After hearing about the boys' heroic efforts, St Helens Borough Council Deputy Leader and Newton-le-Willows ward councillor, Sev Gomez-Aspron MBE, nominated the group for a North West Ambulance Service 'Life Saver' and Mayor of St Helens Borough 'Good Citizen' award. Also, a cheque for £200 is going to the North West Air Ambulance charity after a local crowdfunding appeal. Read more: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/08/01/lifesavers/>.

### THE TORIES DIDN'T CARE THEN AND THEY DON'T CARE NOW

**Boris Johnson's remarks about pit closures were met with anger and hurt in St Helens borough.** Speaking at an event in Scotland the Prime Minister laughed and claimed the Conservatives under Thatcher had given the UK a "big early start" in tackling climate change by decimating the coal industry.

Council Leader David Baines, Deputy Leader Sev Gomez-Aspron and our MPs Conor McGinn and Marie Rimmer responded, demanding an apology from the PM. Local resident Jim Housley was one of thousands who worked in the coal industry in St Helens. He says the Prime Minister's comments were hurtful and called for him to apologise.

Watch an interview with Jim and read more: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/08/13/theydontcare/>.

### AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR £25M ST HELENS TOWN CENTRE FUNDING

**As reported last month, we have been successful in winning agreement for £25m Town Deal funding for a range of exciting and transformative projects in St Helens town centre.** In August the legal agreement was signed by Chair of the Town Deal Board John Tabern, and work is ongoing on the detailed business cases for each project. Work is also progressing on the full town centre masterplans for St Helens and Earlestown and these will be published shortly.

Find out more: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/08/11/25mfunding/>.





## SPECIAL FEATURE:

# WORKING TO CREATE SAFER, STRONGER COMMUNITIES

**Across the summer Labour have been campaigning nationally and locally on a range of issues, including working with partners to raise awareness of community safety issues.**

Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week took place from 19 - 23 July and Cabinet Member for Safer. Stronger Communities, Cllr Jeanie Bell, led the campaign with the Council Community Safety teams working in partnership with Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) and Registered Providers to undertake a series of local resident engagement events.

Cllr Bell was also appointed to the Local Government Association Stronger, Safer Communities Board last month, a fantastic opportunity for St Helens Labour to be at the heart of policy making for Local Government nationally, and she also spoke at the national ASB awareness day launch alongside Dave Vera Bird QC the Victims Commissioner for England and Wales.

Many of our Labour councillors across the borough got involved in the ASB campaigns supporting local residents. Members joined Marie Rimmer MP for a street stall in St Helens town centre to talk with residents about community safety, and many also took part in walk-about activities with partners to identify hotspot areas for future action days.

The summer has included daily activities and support being provided across the borough including Crime Prevention work, Road Safety Events and supporting MFRS work on Arson Awareness.

Work has also begun on planning for our Autumn ASB work with the members of the Community Safety Partnership.

**Too many parts of our communities and too many lives are blighted by antisocial behaviour and we will do all we can to work with partners and residents to tackle its causes and symptoms.**

**Remember to keep up to date with exciting announcements and all the latest news by following us on social media @StHLabour and online at [www.sthelenslabour.org](http://www.sthelenslabour.org)**





# CONTACT YOUR LABOUR COUNCILLORS:

**Find your councillor:**

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