

LEADING SOLICITOR LAUNCHES ANTI-SLEAZE BID TO BECOME INDEPENDENT MP

A LEADING solicitor today (May 19) launches a campaign to become an Independent MP in the wake of the expenses scandal gripping Parliament.

David Kirwan revealed that if elected he will take only the MP's salary and not accept a single penny in expenses, except for the cost of travel to and from Westminster.

Mr Kirwan, Senior Partner with Merseyside-based Kirwans Solicitors and an Independent Councillor says he has been "appalled" by the daily revelations about MPs of all parties.

The solicitor believes that his declaration will encourage other prominent figures in towns and cities across the UK to consider taking on candidates from the mainstream parties.

While the need to clean up Parliament will be at the heart of Mr Kirwan's campaign, he will also use his local knowledge to bring attention to a number of issues affecting people in Wirral.

The solicitor and councillor for Hoylake and Meols has been leading the campaign against the threatened closure of libraries and other cultural amenities in the borough. He also blew the whistle on the axing of jobs at the Burton's biscuit factory two years ago.

Mr Kirwan will be standing in Wirral West, already a knife-edge seat with sitting Labour MP Stephen Hesford up against Tory Esther McVey.

Mr Kirwan said today: "Day after day, night and night, the reputation of our Parliament is being besmirched by MPs from all sides on the take.

"Millions of hard working, law abiding people are rightly disgusted by each new revelation to emerge in what has been the darkest week in the history of Parliament.

"I have therefore taken the decision to show voters in Wirral West that there is an alternative at the ballot box to this immoral and shameful system.

"In announcing my candidacy today to become Independent MP for this constituency, I pledge that I will not take a single penny in expenses other than the cost of travel. This means I will pay for a second home in London out of my own pocket and not be dependent upon the taxpayer."

Mr Kirwan added: "There will therefore be no claims for fixing leaks under tennis courts, repairing moats, non existent mortgages and bags of manure.

"There will be no flipping of homes or claims on two second homes. There won't even be claims for kettles, televisions and ironing boards.

"If by throwing my hat into the ring I can make a small contribution towards the huge task of cleaning up our Parliament, then I will have been a cause for good.

"I hope, too, that my actions encourage other similarly disgusted people to seek to challenge the status quo in their constituencies the length and breadth of Britain."

NOTES TO EDITORS

- For interviews with David Kirwan or further information, please call Nick Mason on either 0151 239 5050 or 07903 237008.