

# Call to mark Viking link to Thingwall

**WIRRAL is being urged to follow Scotland's example and use road signs to mark the borough's Viking heritage.**

Viking expert Professor Stephen Harding is calling for the council to prove it has pride in its Norse roots by replacing a missing sign for Thingwall with one indicating the link.

Signs for similarly-named Tingwall in the Shetland Islands have the Old Norse equivalent underneath and a translation.

"Thing" means assembly and ex-



● The sign in the Shetlands Code NA

perts believe Thingwall was once a seat of Viking power, making it potentially one of the most significant heritage sites in Wirral.

The missing Thingwall sign was located at the bottom of Cross Hill and Professor Harding, of the University of Nottingham, believes this may have been the site of a Viking parliament in Wirral.

He said: "Someone sent me a photo of the sign in Shetland and I thought what a great idea it was – why can't we do that?"

Professor Harding made his appeal to the council's technical services department by email but said he was disappointed by the response, which suggested funding for a Viking sign might be available

through an area forum grant.

The council confirmed the sign needed to be replaced but said it would be supplied as a "standard design".

Cllr Harry Smith, cabinet member for streetscene and transport services, said: "We do not consider it an appropriate use of resources to commission and produce specially-designed signs indicating an area's Viking connection.

"However, if residents are particularly keen to do so, each area forum has funding available."



● Professor Stephen Harding with a Norwegian flag at a sign on the way into our Thingwall

Code NA