

## Sea beet & seaweed foraging

Join Green Party member, Jamie Melly, for an on line event to find out about how to sustainably harvest local seaweed and sea beet, how to store and cook with them. Including Q&A!

**Sunday 16 August 4pm- 5pm**

To register, contact Jamie  
jamiemelly@cantab.net

## Hopes for safer A588 measures

Following the tragic accident on the A588 earlier this year, Councillor Gina Dowding has asked for an update on County Council plans to review safety of the A588.

County Highways officers have said:

*"The Safer Road project planned for the A588 includes placement of 'average speed cameras', also plans for highly reflective white road markings and solar powered road studs. We are currently working with the Police on the complex specification for the cameras, ahead of the tendering process. Once the tendering process is complete, we will appoint a contractor in the coming weeks to design, build and maintain the new camera system for the next 5-7 years. We plan to introduce the measures next year, with completion by December 2021."*

Highways staff also say they are investigating and assessing many locations in the county for possible inclusion in other road safety schemes for the next financial year. The focus is on areas with an evidenced safety issue, but they are not yet able to say whether the A588 will get any additional measures on top of those already planned as part of the Safer Road project.

## How to contact your Green Councillor

[www.northlancs.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.northlancs.greenparty.org.uk)

**FB: Lancaster Green Councillors**

**County and City Cllr Gina Dowding**

07838 793674 (Gina will call you back if you are ringing from a landline)

[gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Starter help for aspiring farmers and growers

A Lancaster-based Community Interest Company has successfully launched its plan to ensure that more fruit and vegetables are grown locally.

FarmStart, based at The Plot at Old Holly Farm on the A6 south of Lancaster is a new one-acre market garden which will start training new growers from January next year.

Trainees will work alongside an experienced grower to learn all aspects of running a small-scale growing business.

The Plot aims to supply affordable good quality locally-grown produce to local retailers while building resilient models for farming and distribution.

You can support the project by becoming a 'Food Friend'. Find out more at [foodfutures.org.uk/foodfriends](http://foodfutures.org.uk/foodfriends) or via the Facebook page 'The Plot North Lancashire', or contact Gina.

## Foster Carers Wanted

Have your personal circumstances changed due to the pandemic? Are you looking for a new rewarding challenge? You could do something incredible and change a local child's life by fostering with Lancashire County Council, with ongoing training, 24/7 support and a generous allowance available. See [lancashire.gov.uk/fostering](http://lancashire.gov.uk/fostering) or contact the fostering enquiry line: 0300 123 6723.

## Online reading provided by Libraries

The County's libraries have a new digital service which means free online access to literally thousands of magazines, comics and newspapers for anyone with a Lancashire library card. You only need your library card number and email address to register for an account, at: [lancashire.rbdigitalglobal.com](http://lancashire.rbdigitalglobal.com)

# Green View



Summer 2020

News and Views from the Green Party in Cockerham & Thurnham

## Better is possible!

## Survey backs 'greener' future after lockdown

### Lancaster's Green councillors set up an online survey to hear back from residents during lock down.

Nearly 300 people have responded so far and results reveal a desire for a greener post-lockdown future, with fewer cars on the road (92%), a closer relationship with nature (88%) and a continuation of the stronger sense of community spirit (79%). A vast majority say they would like to carry on working from home and want the appreciation of key workers to continue. Most people want the Council to tackle the climate crisis and keep supporting local businesses by buying goods and services locally and helping people get skills in sustainable building and growing food locally. |



Cllr Gina Dowding said: "While Covid 19 and lockdown has had a worrying impact on us all, it's clear many people experienced some positives and want them to continue. As your local councillors, we will push to ensure the good things continue. Thank you to everyone who filled in the survey and for all your suggestions. We'd love to hear from more people."

To complete this short survey by the end of August, see our website (on back page), call 01524 903701 or scan this QR code with your phone camera.



## Coronavirus Help

The City Council worked with local voluntary groups to help vulnerable residents during and since the lockdown. At the peak, over 1,500 food parcels were being delivered per week.

Green Cllr Joanna Young, Chair of Trustees for Morecambe Food Bank, said: "The Council has pulled together with voluntary groups to ensure no-one in any hardship was forgotten."

**Local response hub for Coronavirus help enquiries**

01524 582000 [www.lancaster.gov.uk](http://www.lancaster.gov.uk)

**Stay Safe: help stop the spread of the virus:**

Wash hands frequently;

Keep a social distance;

Wear masks where advised;

Co-operate with test, trace and isolate scheme if contacted.



County Councillor Gina Dowding represents Lancaster Central, which includes Thurnham and Cockerham, on Lancashire County Council. She is also a City Councillor for Marsh ward in Lancaster.



## Greens' concern about Local Plan

**Green Councillors have expressed concerns about Lancaster City Council's Local Plan, to be voted on by the Council at the end of July. The Plan identifies sites for new housing across the district. The Plan says 10,440 new houses are needed from 2011 to 2031, an average of 522 houses a year.**

As brownfield sites have already been developed, this means building on green fields. South Lancaster is earmarked for the vast majority of new houses, with 3,500 homes in the new 'Bailrigg Garden Village', part of a total of over 8,800 between Hala and Galgate in the next 25 years or so. This requires a huge amount of new infrastructure. Planners propose a Galgate bypass and a new bridge under or over the West Coast railway. The Government has now allocated £140m towards this, but that does not cover anywhere near the total costs.

Cllr Gina Dowding said: "For many years, Green Cllrs have challenged the predictions of growth in population and numbers of jobs that underpin the housing numbers. We recognise that new homes need to be built, but this Plan is based on a vision of unrealistic growth in unsustainable locations. The Local Plan is also meant to provide protection from unwanted housing developments in rural areas. But there is a risk it will not be effective in preventing houses being built in areas not allocated for housing. As Green Councillors, we are also aware that refusing to adopt the Local Plan risks it being imposed by the Government or the task being given to the County Council, so this is no easy decision."

For more information see: [www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/about-local-plan](http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/about-local-plan)

## Letting the grass grow

During the pandemic, many City Council workers were diverted to emergency work. So grass has been allowed to grow in parks and public spaces, with only paths being mown for people to walk in for exercise. This is temporary, but the Council is reviewing how it will cut grass in the future, looking at different techniques from prestige frequent mowing to establishing wildflower areas.

Meanwhile the City Council has stopped using the weed-killer glyphosate, apart from to suppress invasive species on its land. The responsibility for pavement weeds has passed back to the County Council. Gina has asked that problems with weeds are able to be logged via the County's online 'Report It' system.

## Glasson Basin pontoons

British Waterways and Marinas Ltd have applied for planning permission to replace all existing pontoons in the marina basin.

The Ecological Impact Assessment Report says the 10 proposed pontoons are of a similar appearance to the current ones, and in the same location and layout. They will be supported by concrete-coated expanded polystyrene (EPS) floats, allowing the pontoons to rise and fall with changing water levels within the marina basin. This approach reduces the number of piles required to support the pontoons and improves accessibility of the pontoons for staff and members of the public. The proposed composite decking finish should reduce trip hazards.

You can view and comment on the application at: <https://planning.lancaster.gov.uk/>  
Ref. No: 20/00707/FUL

## Calmer speeds

City Cllr Paul Stubbins led a call by Green councillors to expand the current residential roads' 20 mph limit to include main roads such as the A6, where shops, local businesses and pedestrians mix. Local villages could be consulted about opting in to lower speeds.

Paul said: "A wider 20 mph speed limit will improve the quality of life for residents and especially children crossing roads. Evidence shows that a lower speed limit adds little to journey times, yet calms the traffic and creates less noise and pollution." The City Council has now asked County to consider this.

## Pots, tubs and trays ✓ Plastic bags ✗

Two thousand extra tonnes of plastic is expected to be recovered, thanks to County Cllr Gina Dowding who urged the County Council to start collecting pots, tubs and trays from household recycling bins last October. Domestic waste goes to a 'recovery facility' near Leyland, which separates glass, metal and the five main types of plastic which are baled for selling. Plastic wrappers, clingfilm and carrier bags still cannot be recycled, and they mess up the laser sorter.

## Plans for better Canal Quarter

A mixture of housing, culture, office and retail uses is set to be approved as a draft plan by the City Council. The Canal Quarter, which currently contains car parks and the old Mitchells Brewery, will also include green and community areas.

Green Cllr Tim Dant said: "Greens encouraged the removal of a multi storey car park and asked for a no-through traffic route to be considered. We welcome the opportunity to build both private and council housing so close to the city centre."

Space for local businesses, including the growing digital sector, replaces the emphasis on shopping in previous plans. An arts hub will also build on the tradition of theatre, music and film in this part of Lancaster. There will be a final opportunity for the public to comment on the plan.

For more information, see: [www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/canal-quarter](http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/canal-quarter)

The Charter Market is temporarily relocated in Dalton Square (on Wednesdays & Saturdays) while social distancing measures are in place.



## Plants for people in lockdown

Local student Hamish Mills delivered free herbs and plants to self-isolating people. Hamish and his mum, Cllr Abi Mills, called for donations of plants – and many people, allotment groups and the City Council responded. Hamish said: "So far we've given over 650 plants to local residents. Churches, and voluntary groups helped distribute the plants. We've had lovely feedback from residents. Thanks to all who helped us bring some colour and joy into people's homes."

## Lancaster City Council has ten local Green Councillors representing 4 Lancaster wards (but not Ellel ward, which covers Thurnham and Cockerham)

**Marsh Ward**  
< City Cllr  
Mandy Bannon



**Scotforth West Ward**  
< Cllr Abi Mills  
Cllr Joanna Young >  
Cllr Tim Dant >>



**Castle Ward**  
Cllr Dave Brookes  
Cabinet Member >  
Cllr Paul Stubbins >>



**Bulk Ward**  
Cllr Caroline Jackson  
< Cabinet Member  
Cllr Lucie Carrington >  
Cllr Tim Hamilton Cox  
Cabinet Member >>

