



GREEN VIEW LANCASTER DISTRICT

WARM HUBS GIVE HOPE THIS WINTER

As a result of a suggestion made by Green County Cllr Gina Dowding, warm and welcoming public spaces will be made available and promoted across Lancashire this winter, amid fears that rocketing energy bills could leave residents in need of somewhere to go to escape the cold in their own homes.

Gina said:

"We cannot risk people freezing to death in their own homes because they can't afford to heat them. I never thought it would come to this, but local councils are having to provide for basic survival needs because of government failures."

A similar motion was also presented by Green City Cllr Sally Maddocks, calling on the City Council to support the County plan and make some funding available from a Household Support Fund which the Council receives from Government.

Sally said:

"I am disappointed that Labour and Conservatives voted against committing any funding. We need to widen the warm places offer to more residents across the district."

The Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) offers free advice and support for households who are struggling with their energy bills or are vulnerable to the cold.

Call freephone 0800 060 7567 or visit

www.applyforleap.org.uk

GREENS KEEP GROWING!

The Green Group on Lancaster City Council has grown from 10 councillors to 14.

Sally Maddocks won a by-election in Ellel in May after a Conservative Councillor was expelled for failing to attend Council meetings for six months.



New Green Councillors: Alistair Sinclair & Faye Penny (John O'Gaunt ward), Kevin Frea (Halton-with-Aughton) and Sally Maddocks (Ellel)

In July, councillors Kevin Frea, Alistair Sinclair and Faye Penny joined the Greens (having originally been elected for Labour in 2019).

Greens hope to win a by-election in Warton ward on 8 September, triggered by a Tory councillor resigning. Green candidate Sue Tyldesley was formerly the Head of Development Control at Sefton Council.



Sue Tyldesley - Green candidate for Warton

Green Cllr Mandy Bannon helped to organise a community consultation about the future of Freeman's Wood



PEOPLE POWER SAVES FREEMAN'S WOOD

The Friends of Freeman's Wood (FFW) group is hoping to buy the 27-acre woodland which is just beyond the end of the quay in Lancaster. More than 750 people helped to raise £60,000 to buy the land by sponsoring 3m x 3m squares of land with quirky names from the What3Words app.

Green Cllr Mandy Bannon, a FFW committee member, said: *"We protected the wood from development by getting it designated as a Town Green in 2020. Now we'll be able to improve public access and make it better for wildlife too."*

LEVELLING-UP FUNDING FOR DISTRICT

The City Council has a £5.3 million investment plan to help level-up the local economy and support local communities, using the district's share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Green leader of the Council, Caroline Jackson, said: *"Local businesses, community groups and other partners helped to shape this investment plan. It will support initiatives that contribute to the district's goals to reduce carbon emissions and improve the local environment."*

Areas for investment include: improvements to our town centres and high-streets and access for disabled people; funding for local skills support; community measures to reduce the cost of living; arts, culture and heritage, and research and development.



Green Council Leader Caroline Jackson at the cycling Grand Prix event in Williamson Park in July

CLIMATE ACTION: HEAT NETWORK IDEA

The City Council is looking into the feasibility of local 'decarbonised heat networks'.

Green Cllr Kevin Frea said: *"Heat networks recover heat from industry or water-source heat pumps, and deliver it to homes and businesses via a series of insulated pipes. Crucially, they do not rely on burning fossil fuels, thus reducing CO2 emissions and potentially reducing heating costs. Around 37% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions are generated by heating."*

Green Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox speaking at a recent Council meeting. Tim is the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economic Prosperity.



UPDATES ON HOUSING & PLANNING

- Greens are successfully pushing the City Council to prioritise building new and affordable homes on Council-owned urban sites such as the Canal Quarter.
- The Council is also refurbishing Council-owned homes (e.g. in Skerton) to make them more energy-efficient.
- At a controversial meeting in August 2021, the City Council voted to collaborate with the Conservative-controlled County Council and Government to allow new roads and a large new town of 9,135 new homes to be built in South Lancaster. This was strongly opposed by Green councillors and many local residents, but a majority of councillors (including the Labour group and some Tories) voted it through.
- The City Council is now working on a 'South Lancaster Area Action Plan', for public consultation this autumn and possible adoption in early 2024. This will set the rules for where and how the new town will be developed. Unfortunately, some developers are trying to side-step this process, because over-ambitious annual house-building targets are not being met. They have already submitted planning applications to build hundreds of houses on unallocated fields at the edges of Lancaster and Galgate.

GET IN TOUCH

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YOUR GREEN COUNCILLORS* AND WARD CONTACTS:

BULK



Caroline Jackson*

SCOTFORTH WEST



Abi Mills*



Tim Dant*

CASTLE



Shelagh McGregor



Tim Hamilton-Cox*



Jack Lenox*



Joanna Young*



Dave Brookes*



Paul Stubbins*

JACK'S CALL TO MAKE VOTES MATTER

Green Parliamentary candidate for Lancaster, Cllr Jack Lenox, led Lancaster City Council to join calls for a fair voting system in general elections.

Jack said:

"I'm delighted that the 'Make Votes Matter' campaign has cross-party support from so many councillors. I believe the greatest problems we currently face as a country stem from a lack of fair representation.

"Proportional representation is used to elect governments in more than 80 countries. Those countries tend to be more equal and greener."



Green Parliamentary Candidate Jack Lenox speaking at a 'Make Votes Matter' rally in June

COUNTY DELAYS CITY TRANSPORT PLAN

The County Council's 'Transforming Travel in Lancaster' project appears to be on hold. The County distributed letters to thousands of residents in 2020/21, and held a consultation about changes to the one-way system, but no update has been provided on what happens next.

The County Council is required by Government to introduce measures to prevent traffic growth by 2026 (i.e. 10 years after the opening of the Bay Gateway).

Green Cllr Tim Dant said:

"Lancaster urgently needs improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and better bus priority on our busy roads.

"The County Council has funding for many safety measures, including for the Pointer roundabout. But they still have no plan for addressing traffic in the City.

"The lack of a plan is affecting planning proposals and the daily lives of everyone who has to put up with traffic congestion and breathing polluted air. It is the County's responsibility and they are failing us."

MAKE ELECTRICITY COSTS FAIRER

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox is working with the Green Party nationally to campaign for lower electricity prices - before the price cap increases again in October.

Tim said:

"The Government's current pricing system means that electricity costs are determined by the price of gas - which has massively increased over the last year.

"This is unfair on customers because it doesn't reflect the far lower cost of generating electricity from renewables, which together with nuclear power now account for around 60% of the market."

Greens also want to:

- End the huge subsidies to oil and gas companies
- Introduce a more effective Windfall Tax on energy company profits
- Ban fracking and phase out fossil fuels.

WORKING HARD ALL YEAR ROUND - ALL OVER OUR DISTRICT!

MARSH



Gina Dowding*

JOHN O'GAUNT



Faye Penny*

ELLEL



Sally Maddocks*

BOWERHAM & SCOTFORTH EAST



Hamish Mills



Sarah Punshon



Sam Riches

WARTON



Sue Tyldesley

MARSH



Mandy Bannon*

JOHN O'GAUNT



Alistair Sinclair*

HALTON



Kevin Frea*

BARE & MORECAMBE



James Sommerville



Chloe Buckley

UNIVERSITY



Jamie Payne

NEWS IN BRIEF

GREEN COUNCILLOR-LED INITIATIVES

As Cabinet member for Environmental Services, **Dave Brookes** has helped introduce initiatives related to recycling and fly-tipping, and has influenced a re-think by County on incineration plans and carbon emissions.

Joanna Young led on a call for action on the cost of living crisis. Supported by Full Council, it asked Government for specific interventions based on research from local and national poverty charities.

Abi Mills has helped to raise the funding to get the Greaves Park play area fully refurbished and inclusive for children with disabilities by the end of this year.

Sally Maddocks campaigned for Aquavista to replace the car park payment system at Glasson Dock. It will soon be possible to pay using a contactless bank card.

EXCITING PLANS FOR MORECAMBE

Another milestone has been reached in the plans to develop an 'Eden Project North' in Morecambe. Planning permission was granted earlier this year, and the City Council made a £50 million funding bid to the Government in July.

The City Council is inviting formal expressions of interest to develop the former Frontierland site, which has been derelict for nearly two decades. Already informal offers have been made to create a quality hotel-led development.

TIDYING UP THE QUAY



Cllrs Dave Brookes and Paul Stubbins with Shelagh McGregor at a successful community weeding session near the Millennium Bridge in August

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY WEEDING SESSIONS

Sunday 11 September, 10am - 12pm

Meet by the entrance to the Castle, or at the bottom of Moor Lane. All welcome. Equipment provided.
Contact: enquiries@northlancs.greenparty.org.uk

UPDATE ON STREET WEEDS

The County Council's weed contractor completed a first treatment of all kerbs and pavements in July, with variable results. They will carry out a second treatment in September.

Back alleys were not included in the contract, but the County recently agreed to pay the City Council to do them.

HOW TO REPORT STREET FAULTS

Potholes, lights, signage, drains, vegetation and more!
www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/
or download the Love Clean Streets app

Do you like receiving our Green View newsletters?
Could you spare an hour to help deliver them in your area just a few times per year?
If you can help with this - or any other volunteering for the Green Party - please contact us. Thank you!

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