



Cllrs Tim Hamilton-Cox, Caroline Jackson and Jack Lenox

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HOPES FOR NEW HOMES IN CANAL QUARTER

With evidence of a shortage of affordable rented accommodation, Green councillors are keen that sustainable housing schemes get developed.

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said:

“Much of the Canal Quarter land is in council ownership, which gives us an opportunity to increase numbers of homes to rent. There is a plan being designed and costed for around 70 two-bedroom flats on one of the sites. I am pressing for this to be delivered as quickly as possible. The Canal Quarter Masterplan will be out for consultation this summer.”

Tim also commented on the high concentration of HMOs in some areas:

“Councillors are now able to challenge applications to convert family homes to Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs), where there is already a high concentration of them.”



Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox has been pushing for years, alongside all Green councillors, for affordable and sustainable housing to be built in the Canal Quarter

This new rule was recently used to reject an application for conversion to an HMO in Greaves.”

POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO GREEN AYRE

Developers have indicated their enthusiasm for supporting improvements to Green Ayre. The area runs along the river north of Sainsbury's. Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox has been successful in pressing the County Council to remove a development compound that had been taking up a lot of space. At a meeting with developers of a new student accommodation block at the site of

The Old Rope Walk, developers responded positively to Cllr Jack Lenox's request for contributions to improving Green Ayre.

Jack said:

“I'm very keen to see more facilities for teenagers, such as a pump track, at Green Ayre. The challenge has been securing funding, so this commitment is good news.”

GREENS TAKING ACTION ON GRAFFITI

Graffiti on Moor Lane concerns Bulk residents and councillors. City council staff say the hoardings at the foot of Moor Lane will be removed soon to reveal the refurbished building. Plans are in place for the replacement of hoardings above Brewery Lane; private owners are being approached

about removing graffiti on the Heron works.

Cllr Caroline Jackson said:

“We know graffiti has to be addressed proactively. We have pressed for action and are pleased to receive this news from city council staff.”

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE TOURS WARD WITH GREEN CLLRS

Green councillors have been taking Lancaster City Council’s new Chief Executive Officer, Mark Davies, on ward tours. Cllrs Caroline Jackson and Tim Hamilton-Cox have so far toured the Ridge and Freehold areas of Bulk ward, and identified action points. Including:

- Overgrown pavements and areas in need of weeding on the Ridge
- Bin missing from canal towpath at Shaw Street bridge
- Need for repair and enhancement of Thirlmere Road play area
- Need to remove invasive Japanese knotweed from park at top of Park Road
- Request for added security around streets after the Highest Point festival
- Possible on-street electric car charging to be added to Dalton Road

All points are being actioned by the Council.



Cllr Caroline Jackson: “I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to show Mark around our ward, and highlight issues that need addressing.”

BELLWAY REVISES HOUSING APPLICATION BUT PROBLEMS REMAIN

Earlier in the year Bellway reduced the number of houses planned for its Quernmore Rd scheme from 151 to 116 and revised the layout. But objections remain; especially around lack of proposals to mitigate the extra traffic and to deal with increased flood risk.

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox adds:

“As we are failing to meet housing targets on land designated for housing within the Local Plan, developers can propose housing on undesignated land. We are pushing for improvements from the developer.”

GREENS PUSH FOR ACTION ON WALKING, WHEELING AND CYCLE SAFETY

During the spring, Green councillors Jack Lenox and Gina Dowding took leading County officials on guided cycle safety tours of Lancaster. They highlighted dangerous spots and worn out lines on Lancaster's limited cycle network.



Cllr Jack Lenox taking Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner Andrew Pratt for a cycle safety tour of the city centre

Cllr Jack Lenox said:

“We are pleased the County Council has refreshed cycle lane markings in the city centre. However, Lancaster urgently needs proper, segregated cycle lanes. Safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists will make our

city a happier, cleaner and more thriving place for all of us.”

HELP AVAILABLE FOR ENERGY BILLS

It is being predicted that energy costs will continue to soar as we head for winter, causing household heating bills to rise as much as £1500 per year. Below is a summary of financial support that may be available, depending on your circumstances.

Type of financial help	Who gets it?	How much?	When?
Council tax rebate	Households in council tax bands A-D (with a few in higher bands) including households receiving council tax benefit	£150	May/June 2022. Those not paying council tax by direct debit will get vouchers cashable at post offices.
Discount on energy bills	All households	£400	October 2022
Welfare Cost of Living Payment	Means-tested benefits recipients	£650	£325 in July; £325 in autumn
Pensioner Cost of Living Payment	Pensioner households	£300	Nov/Dec. 2022 alongside winter fuel payment
Disability Cost of Living Payment	Individuals in receipt of 'extra cost' disability benefits	£150	By September 2022

Hardship grants will also be available via the City Council - details still to be determined.

Check the webpage for updates, eligibility and how to apply:

www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/community-hub/household-support-fund

ELLEL GOES GREEN!

Green candidate Sally Maddocks won the recent by-election in Ellel Ward (covering Galgate, Glasson, Cockerham, Dolphinholme), following the dismissal of a Conservative councillor for not attending any Council meetings for six months.

This takes the number of Greens on Lancaster City Council to 11 (out of 60), and makes the Green Group the second largest after Labour. This is part of a national trend, with the Greens now having more than 550 councillors nationally.

SALLY

40%
(+20)

LAB
30%
(-2)

CON
27%
(-15)

LD
3%
(-3)

Ellel by-election results from 19 May 2022

FESTIVAL OF THE EARTH AT THE PRIORY

Lancaster Priory is hosting a Festival of the Earth, from June 24 - July 17. A giant illuminated Gaia globe will be hung in the church. There will be lots of themed events. For more info see:

<https://lancasterpriory.org/gaia/>



New Green Councillor Sally Maddocks
(with her dog Harry who won his first dog agility competition in Cockerham the same week!)

Story Homes still stalling over High Wood roads adoption

Information received from County Highways in May is that Story is still to provide the evidence that it has entered into a legal agreement with United Utilities over drainage from the site. County will not proceed to adopt the estate roads until it has this evidence.

But slightly better news for Quernmore Park residents: adoption by County Highways of the roads there is proceeding, though Barratt has not yet satisfied all requirements.

GET IN TOUCH

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