



Green Party

GREEN VIEW

BULK & JOHN O'GAUNT



Cllrs Tim Hamilton-Cox, Caroline Jackson and Jack Lenox

NO. 90 - FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022

CITY COUNCIL DESIGNATES NEW CONSERVATION AREA

'Lancaster Moor' became a new conservation area on 7th January, recognising the 'architectural and historic quality of buildings in the area' and 'the superb landscape grounds'.

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said:

"The conservation designation was carried out under emergency powers and prevented the immediate proposed demolition of the former, though vandalised, Ridge Lea hospital. The conservation area runs from Ridge Lea south to include the Moor Hospital, Standen Park and Fenham Carr, the wooded area to the east of Williamson Park."



Cllrs Caroline Jackson and Tim Hamilton-Cox outside the Ridge Lea site

HOPES FOR VIBRANT DALTON SQUARE



Cllr Jack Lenox when the market was held in Dalton Square

The Charter Market has moved back to Market Square following consultation with market stall holders. As a result the County Council has reversed the temporary ban on vehicles in Dalton Square. Bulk ward Councillor, Jack Lenox said:

"Green councillors support the councils' hopes for the square to be more widely used for public and community events and want County to make the legal order to pedestrianise it permanently."

GREENS CALL FOR HELP WITH COST OF LIVING CRISIS

With energy bills due to increase by over 50% for some, hitting those on low incomes hardest, Green Cllr Joanna Young led the City Council in January to call for Government action to prevent serious hardship.

Cllr Young said:

“The recent measures announced by the Government of small council tax rebates and upfront loans for heating bills are just not enough for those on low incomes. What is needed is a windfall tax on energy companies.

“Green cabinet members have identified potential council funding and are exploring how to use it to create an exceptional hardship pot to assist those most in need with their energy bills.”



Cllr Jack Lenox speaking outside the town hall about the cost of living crisis

COUNCIL HOUSING RETROFIT PROGRAMME SHOWS THE WAY

Twenty-five council houses in Skerton have now been fully refurbished. Renovations include much higher levels of insulation and air tightness to hold heat for longer.

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said:

“Tenant feedback has praised the project team, the standard of the new work, and the comfort it provides. The council is aiming to step up the retrofit project to include another 800 homes by 2030.

“But I’m also involved with a ‘green skills’ group including Lancaster and Morecambe College, aiming to increase the numbers of people skilled up to do the work needed to make heating comfort affordable for many more of our residents.”

LARGE SOLAR FARM PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMITTED

A development of ‘Moorside Solar Farm’ is planned in the fields east of the M6 motorway, from the prison northwards up to Grimeshaw Lane. Subject to planning consent, the Spanish company Opdenergy says that construction could start in autumn 2022.

Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox reported:

“Opdenergy claim that this solar farm will be able to power up to 5,900 homes. You can see details and make comments by going to the council’s planning web pages and searching for application 22/00017. There is a question mark over access to the site.”

Farewell, Dora

Dora Carr, Ridge resident and valued community member, died in January. She was chair of the Tenants' and Residents' Association and a founder member of the FareShare Food group. Dora was famous for her bobble hat, bingo sessions and for the coach trips she organised to enjoy markets in various Lancashire towns. She is much missed.



RIDGE FOOD GROUP RE-OPENING

The Ridge Food Group re-starts on 28th February and then is open every Monday at 6.30 pm – next to the chippy on Ridge Square. Members can choose fresh and packet food, bread and baked goods for a weekly membership of £4. Food is brought that day from local shops and FareShare in Preston.

Cllr Caroline Jackson, who helped start the group, said:

"It will be great to welcome people back into our refurbished unit. We will have brews, soup and cakes again and people can choose what they want. Using food that otherwise goes to waste is good for the planet and it saves money for your energy bills."

PUBLIC MEETING

Can the Power of Money Change the World?

With former Green Party MEP and green economist

Prof. Molly Scott-Cato

Tues 8 March, 7.30-8.30pm on Zoom.

Free event: everyone welcome.

More info and register at:

<https://tinyurl.com/molly8march>

Local Plan: Fitter for the Future

New developments should include renewable energy, protect the environment, reduce risk of flooding, and improve walking and cycling provision, according to proposals in the revised Local Plan which seeks to respond better to the climate emergency. Cllr Gina Dowding said:

"The most significant change is a 'Fabric First' approach to building new homes in the district, which means high levels of inbuilt energy efficiency – reducing energy demand and running costs. The new standards would become effective from 2025 and 2028 if approved by the Planning Inspector. But there has been pushback from some house builders, who claim that the higher standards might make schemes unviable."

Mainway refurb moves forward

Councillors have voted through the first phase of plans to create modern low-carbon housing on the Mainway site.

Cllr Caroline Jackson said:

"Two blocks will be stripped back to the concrete core and then the living space rebuilt to provide low energy homes, as a pilot for future redevelopment of all the blocks. Community engagement will be key as we move to wider site planning."

STUDENT STUDIOS PLANNED

Plans for a total of 429 studios aimed at postgraduates have been drawn up by developer for the site of the Bulk Rd car wash, opposite the Caton Court tower and across from Green Ayre. Cllr Tim said:

"The rooms in the blocks are designed to be able to be converted to rented studios if the housing market changes."

Another development, which includes the long-time derelict building on the corner of Bulk Rd and Parliament St, has already been submitted for planning permission."

CONCERNED ABOUT NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS?

GREENS TO HOLD ONLINE MEETING

Your Green City Councillors are holding an open meeting about proposed new housing developments in our ward. There has been a lot of planning activity recently and the councillors want to share some updates, and hear your questions and concerns.

The meeting will be held online on Tuesday 15 March at 7:30pm on Zoom, you can register at: <https://tinyurl.com/4hvse526>



CO-OP BICYCLE PARKING

Cllr Jack Lenox is in contact with the Co-op in relation to the lack of bike parking at their store on Quernmore Road.

Planning permission for the site clearly stated that the retail unit "shall not be occupied or brought into use until the covered and secured cycle storage... [has] been fully implemented."

GET IN TOUCH

Green  Party NORTHLANCS.GREENPARTY.ORG.UK

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox

thamiltoncox@lancaster.gov.uk

07894 587927

Cllr Jack Lenox

jlenox@lancaster.gov.uk

01524 881590

Cllr Caroline Jackson

cjackson@lancaster.gov.uk

07958 434549