



Cllrs Dave Brookes, Paul Stubbins & Gina Dowding

NO. 91 - JUNE/JULY 2022

DALLAS ROAD GARDENS GETS SOME LOVE

Two new highly colourful flowerbeds have been installed in Dallas Road Gardens. They were designed and planted by schoolchildren from Dallas Road and Willow Lane primary schools as part of a Sports England scheme taking place across the district, with beds and bedding plants supplied by the City Council.



Children from Dallas Road School planting one of the two new flower beds in Dallas Road Gardens



Green Cllr Dave Brookes clearing litter around one of the bins

Following repeat complaints about overflowing bins in Dallas Road Gardens, Cllr Dave Brookes asked for the emptying frequency to be increased and for the outdated bins to be replaced. Dave said:

"I'm pleased to report that the bins will now be emptied three times a week, and new higher-capacity bins are expected 'soon'."

HOPES FOR NEW HOUSING IN THE CANAL QUARTER

With reports of a shortage of affordable rented accommodation, Green councillors are keen to ensure sustainable housing schemes get developed. Green Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said:

"Much of the land in the Canal Quarter is owned by the City Council, which gives us an opportunity to increase the supply 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."

ELLEL GOES GREEN!

Green candidate Sally Maddocks won the recent by-election in Ellel Ward (which covers Galgate, Glasson Dock, Cockerham, and Dolphinholme), following the disqualification 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).



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

STREET WEEDS

Following a meeting with Green councillors last autumn, the County Council agreed to significantly increase the budget for weed management in Lancaster district. A request to switch from spraying herbicide to more environmentally friendly alternatives was rejected due to cost. The contract started later than expected, with the work schedule indicating that Castle Ward streets should be 'treated' in early July.

FREEMAN'S WOOD COMMUNITY BUY-OUT

Following the previous success of fighting off developers to achieve Town Green status for the much-loved green space in neighbouring Marsh Ward, the Friends of Freeman's Wood group is ready to go one stage further. The overseas owner of Freeman's Wood has accepted a community buy-out offer of £60,000, including legal costs. The Friends group is now inviting people to sponsor one or more 3m x 3m squares of land - at £5 for each of the 12,000 squares in Freeman's Wood. To donate, visit:

www.lancastergreenspaces.org.uk/freemans-wood-purchase.html

WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES

City Council ward boundaries are set to change at the local elections next May. The main changes affecting Castle Ward are:

- Streets west of the railway (except Aldcliffe Rd and Cromwell Rd) will move into a larger Marsh Ward;
- The Canal Quarter and streets west of the canal move into Castle Ward from Bulk Ward;
- South Rd and surrounding streets will move into Castle Ward from Scotforth West Ward.
- Representation of Castle Ward will increase from two to three city councillors, to reflect the increased population in the ward.

GREENS PUSH FOR ACTION ON WALKING, WHEELING AND CYCLE SAFETY

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



Green Cllrs Gina Dowding and Jack Lenox with County Cllr Charlie Edwards

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 WITH ENERGY BILLS

Cllr Paul Stubbins said:

"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 help 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 those 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

Between now and the end of March 2023, hardship grants will be available via the City Council - details are still to be determined. Check for updates, eligibility and how to apply at:

<https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/community-hub/household-support-fund>

QUEEN STREET ROAD CLOSURE

The County Council has introduced an ETRO (Experimental Traffic Regulation Order) with the aim of making the road closure at the junction of Queen St and King St permanent. The junction previously had a poor record for collisions and near misses, and enabled the street to be used as a 'rat run'. For information on how to comment see: <https://bit.ly/queenstetro>



One of the planters closing off the junction of Queen St and King St

SIBSEY STREET 'SIDINGS'

Non-native shrubs have been cleared from land on the corner of Sibsey St and Westbourne Rd in readiness for the creation of a more welcoming 'pocket park' space later in the year. This follows frequent complaints about littering and fly-tipping. In the meantime, an annual wildflower mix has been sown.

FESTIVAL OF THE EARTH AT THE PRIORY

Lancaster Priory is hosting a four week long Festival of the Earth, from June 24 - July 17. A giant illuminated globe will be hung in the church, and there will be lots of themed events to accompany it. For more info see: <https://lancasterpriory.org/gaia/>

POP-UP CAR PARKS

A number of NCP car parks have appeared on private land in and around the city centre. Green Cllr Gina Dowding said:

"These car parks do not have planning permission and are in unsuitable locations. I've asked the City Council's Planning Enforcement team to investigate and take the appropriate action."

LONG MARSH LANE

A Traffic Regulation Order to stop-up Long Marsh Lane under the railway bridge received final approval in April. The remaining physical works were due to be completed by the end of July. This will improve road safety and prevent rat-running through the Castle Precinct.

GET IN TOUCH

Green Party  **NORTHLANCS.GREENPARTY.ORG.UK**

City Cllr Dave Brookes

dbrookes@lancaster.gov.uk

07817 966949

City Cllr Paul Stubbins

pstubbins@lancaster.gov.uk

01524 807175

County Cllr Gina Dowding

gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk

07838 793674