

GREEN VIEW**ELLEL WARD****Green Candidate
Sally Maddocks****Green Councillor
Gina Dowding****GLASSON CAR PARK HOPES**

Aquavista runs the car park in Glasson Dock. Their new payment system, based on a smart phone app, has resulted in many visitors being unable to pay.

Glasson resident Sally Maddocks created a petition with local residents and businesses, and The Dalton Arms' online petition gathered signatures from visitors.

The petitions, with over 400 signatures, were presented to Aquavista at the Parish Council meeting in March.

Sally said:

"It is sad that Glasson Dock is losing visitors who are upset and frustrated about parking here.

"With all the pressure from the community, I hope that the company will put in a better system in time for the summer trade."

Cllr Gina Dowding and City Council car park officers also met with Aquavista managers. The City Council's car parks have more flexible payment options, using the RingGo app and accepting payment by debit card as well as cash.

**Sally Maddocks has been selected as the Green Party candidate for Ellel ward****GREENS CALL FOR HELP WITH ENERGY COSTS**

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

Cllr Young said:

"The Government's response of small council tax rebates and upfront loans for heating bills are just not enough for those on low incomes. A windfall tax on energy companies' soaring profits would be a fair way for Government to raise the money."

Green councillors have pushed for the Council to create an exceptional hardship fund to assist those most in need.

HOPES FOR VIBRANT DALTON SQUARE



Cllr Jack Lenox in Dalton Square

Lancaster's Charter Market moved back to Market Square after consultation with market stallholders, and the County Council reversed the temporary ban on vehicles in Dalton Square.

Green Councillor Jack Lenox said:

"We are delighted that a new group has formed to support the City Council's hopes for Dalton Square to be more widely used for public and community events. There would be great benefits to it being pedestrianised."

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW: ADDRESSES CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Local Plan, which provides the standards required in developments and buildings, has been partially reviewed by the City Council in light of the climate emergency.

New developments should protect the environment, reduce the risk of flooding, support walking and cycling and include renewable energy. Cllr Gina Dowding said:

"The most significant proposal is for high levels of inbuilt energy efficiency – also reducing running costs. We hope that these high environmental standards will be approved by the Planning Inspectorate and applied to all new house building."

NEW GROUP TO CAMPAIGN ON SOUTH LANCASTER ROADS & NEW TOWN

Last summer Lancaster's 10 Green Councillors argued against the plans for new roads and 9,000+ houses between Lancaster, Galgate and Conder Green, but it was voted through by Labour, Morecambe Bay Independents and some Conservatives.

The City Council is now working on an Area Action Plan for the new town which will be open for public consultation this Spring.

Cllr Gina Dowding said:

"Like many of the people who contacted me, I am deeply disappointed with the decision. There is a huge gap between the Government's contribution to the infrastructure and the actual costs of all that is required to make the new town sustainable. I want to protect both the City and County Councils from the financial risks due to this gap, and to ensure that the promises of affordable and low carbon homes can be delivered."

A new campaign group has formed to oppose the plans. Sustainable Lancaster in Climate Emergency (SLICE) welcomes new members who agree with the group's aims. Contact slicecampaign@gmail.com or visit www.slice.org.uk.

FINES FOR SPEEDING ON A588 AWAITED

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Andy Pratt, attended both Cockerham and Thurnham with Glasson Parish Councils in March to hear concerns about speeding on the A588. While the new raised edging white lines are in place, the introduction of speed cameras is still awaited. Andy agreed to push for an on-site meeting with the County Council highways department and parish councillors to ensure the new speed limits have maximum effect on road safety.



Andy Pratt, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner, with Green County Cllr Gina Dowding

STODDAY PICNIC AREA TO GET A MAKEOVER

Aldcliffe with Stodday Parish Council and Green Cllr Tim Dant have raised £5,000 for refurbishment of the picnic area on the Lune Estuary path at Stodday. The cash is from Lancaster University Wind Turbine Fund and Lancashire County Council. Meanwhile the surface of the cycle way from Aldcliffe Hall Lane to Conder Green is being improved by the County Council. The preliminary works involved clearing overgrowth and cutting back the hedges more severely than usual, followed with some resurfacing. Cllr Gina Dowding has requested that the benches also be replaced.

COUNCIL QUICK ACTION ON RODENTS IN GLASSON

In February, residents of Glasson Dock's East Quay were horrified to find rats running past their windows and across their gardens. Sally Maddocks, who contacted Lancaster City Council, said:

"We were really pleased with the Council Pest Control's quick response to address the problem. We are delighted that the Council has now also placed extra waste bins and two recycling bins in the village."



SPRING FAIR

Saturday 7 May

10 am - 4 pm

Lancaster Quaker Meeting House

(next to rail station)

Lots of stalls, live music & cafe

Admission 50p (children free). Fundraiser for North Lancs Green Party.



Glasson Dock Artisan Markets

Easter Saturday 16th April 10am-3pm & Sunday 24th April 10am-3pm

NEWS IN BRIEF

Loss of local hospitality

The tenant manager of The Plough will be leaving at the beginning of April as the landlord - Punch Pubs - has not renewed the tenancy. Steven Greenhalf has run the pub for 20 years. Sally Maddocks said:

"The Plough has built a tradition of a warm welcome. The loss of the staff's welcoming approach is a blow to everyone, including the canal community. The closure of the Green Finch cafe at Conder Green is also a loss to both locals and visitors. It's heart-breaking to hear that the business is closing due to an anomaly in the way the bank mortgage system works."



Sally Maddocks

Planning permission for 10 floating pontoons at Glasson Dock

This was originally granted in 2020. A recent 'variation' application 21/01207/VCN requests changes to the access route and ancillary infrastructure on site.

Post office in Glasson Village Hall

This has now reopened in on Tuesdays, 10.30 - 1.00, to coincide with the popular coffee mornings.

Glasson Dock Swing Bridge

Cllr Dowding reports that the bridge is due to have the traffic signals updated during the next year - as part of the County Council highways capital programme.

GET IN TOUCH

Green Party



NORTHLANCS.GREENPARTY.ORG.UK

County Cllr Gina Dowding

gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk

07838 793 674

Ward contact Sally Maddocks

sasrichardson@aol.com

07837 796 304

We help local people with local community issues.

We would love to hear from you if you want help too.

If you can help deliver our regular newsletters locally, please get in touch.

HELP FOR UKRAINE

An online community meeting organised by the City Council, and chaired by Green Council leader Cllr Caroline Jackson, agreed to set up an emergency fund to support the Council's twin city in Poland. Lublin has welcomed hundreds of thousands of people fleeing from Ukraine. To donate online, go to: www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/lancaster-lublin

WHAT'S ON IN GALGATE

Galgate has lots going on in Ellel village hall. See their website: ellelvillagehall.co.uk/whats-on/