



Green Party

GREEN VIEW

MARSH & CASTLE



Cllrs Mandy Bannon, Gina Dowding, Dave Brookes & Paul Stubbins

NO. 90 - FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU, CATH!

In December, Police Community Support Officer, Cath Elliott retired after 19 years on the beat in Castle and Marsh wards. Cllr Mandy Bannon said:

“Cath has been a highly valued member of the neighbourhood policing team in our area and will be much missed.”



Cllrs Gina and Mandy with former PCSO Cath

PCSO Tony Routh is the new contact for this area. The Lancaster policing team can be contacted via 01524 596649 (Use 101 to report a crime or 999 for emergencies.)

STREET WEEDS

Green Cabinet Members presented the results of their residents' survey on weeds to City and County officers. Cllr Dave Brookes said:

“Our aim is to ensure that street weeds don't create problems, while minimising the use of chemical herbicides. Council officers are looking at prioritising high profile areas, and older pavements that let through more weeds. We are pleased that the County Council has proposed an increase in budget for this work.”

FUTURE OF DIRECT LONDON TO LANCASTER TRAINS

Cllr Gina Dowding said:

“At a meeting with HS2 in Lancaster, some reassurance was given that direct London to Lancaster train services will remain after the high speed line opens. However, the West Coast Partnership will be key to the decision making.”

The City Council is launching an online survey of residents to collect evidence of the value of direct services, in case this will be required at a later stage.

HOPES FOR VIBRANT DALTON SQUARE

The 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.

Bulk ward Councillor, Jack Lenox, said:

“Green councillors support the City Council’s hopes for the square to be more widely used for public and community events. There would be great benefits to it being pedestrianised.”



**Cllr Jack Lenox
in Dalton Square**

LANCASTER TRAVEL SURVEY

The County Council conducted a travel survey of Lancaster residents. Postcards were sent to 13,600 properties in January from the contracted company, Accent.

Cllr Gina Dowding said:

“As local councillors we were not informed in advance about this survey, nor its details. I’m also disappointed that County’s timetable for improving cycling and buses has slipped, and no new date is being given. It appears that road building is being prioritised over sustainable transport measures.”

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW: ADDRESSES CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Local Plan, which provides the standards required in developments and buildings has been 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 a ‘Fabric First’ approach to building. This means high levels of inbuilt energy efficiency – also reducing running costs. I hope that these high environmental standards are approved by the Planning Inspectorate.”

COULD YOU BE A TREE WARDEN?

Thanks to a new Tree Warden scheme launched by the City Council, everyone can play an active role in planting and looking after trees and woods in our neighbourhoods. City Cllr Mandy Bannon said:

“This is a great initiative and training is provided. Trees and woods provide huge benefits for the whole community. I am hoping that volunteers can help improve the triangle of woodland in the southeast of Freemans Wood, which is owned by the Council.”

To find out more or express an interest, email milliontrees@lancaster.gov.uk.

LUNE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE EXPANSION

The Lune Industrial Estate was granted permission for major re-development which includes new business units, a nursery, a pharmacy, a convenience store and a café. The developers should now provide funding towards a bus service. While welcoming these improvements, Green councillors objected to the poor state of the roads -especially for walking and cycling- through the site. Cllr Mandy Bannon presented the findings of her early morning traffic survey in November and spoke at the planning committee to highlight the dangers that extra traffic will bring.

Cllr Bannon says:

"We will keep campaigning for road safety improvements, particularly on Europa Way which links Willow Lane with Fife Street. And we are also pushing for better signage so HGVs go via New Quay Road rather than Willow Lane."



**Cllr Mandy Bannon
surveying traffic on
Willow Lane**

GREENS CALL FOR HELP WITH ENERGY COSTS

With energy bills due to increase by over 50%, Green Councillors led the City Council in January to call for Government action to prevent serious hardship, especially to those worst hit.

Cllr Paul Stubbins said:

"Recently announced Government measures of small council tax rebates and loans for heating bills are just not enough for those on low incomes."

"A windfall tax on these unplanned excess profits of energy companies would be a fair way for Government to raise the money."

Green Cabinet Members are now exploring how the Council can create an exceptional hardship fund to assist those most in need.

EDEN NORTH was granted planning permission for the visitor attraction and environmental project in Morecambe, a major milestone in this becoming a reality.



Cllr Paul Stubbins

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>

NEWS IN BRIEF

SOCIAL CLUB FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The Friendship Centre is back open Mon, Wed and Fri mornings 10am - 12 noon at the church halls on Robert St, next to the Town Hall. It offers a range of activities including Gentle Exercise, Knit & Natter, and a Local History group. For more info see www.thefriendshipcentre.co.uk or call in.

BRIGHTER BLADES STREET

Cllr Gina, with support from the Blades St community, persuaded the street lighting department to raise the height of an existing lighting column at the end of the back alley on Blades Street.

FAIRFIELD PLAYGROUND

A 'Friends of Fairfield Playground' group has been formed to raise funds to replace some equipment at the popular play area run by the Fairfield Association. See www.facebook.com/fairfieldplayground for more information or to get involved.



Cllr Brookes with the knitted poppies

YARN BOMBING AT ALDCLIFFE TRIANGLE

Residents of Spinners Court and friends 'yarn bombed' Aldcliffe Rd Triangle with knitted items to bring some winter cheer to visitors.

MARSH CENTRE GARDEN GROWS

County Cllr Gina Dowding has granted £500 of her 'Local Members Grant' to the Marsh Community Centre for plants and equipment for their allotment area.

NON-SLIP CANAL BRIDGE

The Canal and River Trust has responded to calls from Green Councillors to make the pedestrian bridge near the Waterwitch safer and have installed a non-slip surface.

GET IN TOUCH

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