



Cllrs Tim Dant, Gina Dowding, Abi Mills & Joanna Young

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IMPROVING THE PLAY AREA IN GREAVES PARK

Final plans have been drawn up for new play equipment (and improved drainage and surfacing) in Greaves Park. Cllr Abi Mills has secured nearly £53,000 in grants for this project, but slightly more is needed.

Abi said:

"I have written to all local businesses and schools for their support. We are hoping that the new park will be ready for everyone to use by late Autumn."



Green Cllr Abi Mills at the Greaves Park consultation



If you would like to donate, please scan the QR code or go to:

<https://friendsofgreavespark.weebly.com>

CANAL QUARTER - HOPES FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES

With evidence of a shortage of affordable rented accommodation, Green councillors are keen that sustainable housing schemes get developed as quickly as possible. Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said:

"Much of the Canal Quarter land is in council ownership, so this 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. The Canal Quarter Masterplan will be out for consultation this summer."

Tim added:

"Councillors are now able challenge applications to convert family homes to Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs), where there is already a high concentration of them. Using this new rule, an application for conversion to an HMO in Franklin Street, Greaves, was recently rejected."



Green Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox

ELLEL GOES GREEN!

Green candidate Sally Maddocks won a by-election in Ellel Ward (covering Galgate, Glasson, Cockerham, Dolphinholme) on 19 May, 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). Greens now have more than 550 councillors across England and Wales.



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

WARD TOUR FOR NEW COUNCIL BOSS

Scotforth Councillors were quick to take up the offer of the Council's new Chief Executive to visit local areas with ward councillors.

Cllrs Abi Mills, Tim Dant and Joanna Young highlighted the many green spaces in the area and the valuable work done by volunteers of the 'Friends of' groups.

Since the tour, the broken rails in Dorrington Wood have been fixed. Many other ward issues were also pointed out, including the need for improvements in Arcon House.

PHONE MAST PROPOSED FOR ASHFORD ROAD

The mobile network provider EE is proposing to put a 20 metre-high phone mast and equipment boxes on the green area near Hibbert Terrace. Cllr Tim Dant said: *"It would tower above local houses, trees and lamp-posts. Permitted development rights mean that EE doesn't need permission, but some local people have written to object."*

If you would like to add your view, write to m.curle@harlequin-group.com who is in charge of acquiring the site.

Contact Cllr Tim Dant (see contact box) if you would like more details of the proposal.

WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES

City Council ward boundaries are set to change at the local elections next May. In South Lancaster, a new Bowerham ward will include some areas of both Scotforth West and John O'Gaunt. South Road area will move into Castle ward. The new Bowerham, John O'Gaunt, Scotforth East and Scotforth West wards will each be represented by two councillors.

BRIDGE ROAD TRIANGLE

To get involved in the Friends of Bridge Road Triangle, contact Abi.

More than 80 people completed the survey about what they would like to see in Bridge Road Triangle - the land off Bridge Road, accessed by the steps by the railway bridge. Abi said: *"I am so pleased that so many people responded. The general view is that some gentle improvements will benefit wildlife, with places for people to sit and enjoy the peace. Thank you also to those people who are willing to volunteer."*



Green Cllr Abi Mills in the wooded area off Bridge Road

HELP AVAILABLE WITH 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 what financial support may be available, depending on your circumstances.

Type of help	Who gets it?	Amount?	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 still to be determined. If you are struggling, please see the list of support services at: www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/community-hub/support-available.

UPDATE ON BOWERHAM GARAGE SITE

Planning permission for a shop on the site was refused in December, due to concerns about the design and traffic implications. The site owner has appealed against the decision. Cllr Tim Dant has written supporting the reasons for refusal. Tim said: *"However much we want to see something happen on this site, it has to be right for the area"*.

NEWS IN BRIEF

✓ Roadworks safety on A6

Cllr Abi Mills, working closely with residents, reported safety issues regarding the roadworks along the A6.

Initially, the pavement space was too narrow, there were no pedestrian phases on traffic lights, and work was being carried out when pupils were walking to school.

These have all now been resolved.
Contact Abi if further problems are seen.

✓ Path to Ripley Heights

Cllr Joanna Young successfully requested improvements on the path going over Ripley Heights.

The new surfacing should make the path less muddy.

✓ Dangerous parking in Greaves

Cllr Abi Mills continues to push for double yellow lines on the corner of Binyon and Brunton Road.

They are needed for pedestrian safety and so that bin wagons and emergency vehicles can get past.

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 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 and more thriving place for all."



Green Cllrs Gina and Jack showing County Cllr Edwards (centre) the cycling danger spots around Lancaster

GET IN TOUCH

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