



Cllrs Mandy Bannon & Gina Dowding

# FREEMAN'S WOOD COMMUNITY BUY-OUT!

The overseas owners of Freeman's Wood have accepted a community buy-out offer of £60,000, including legal costs. The Friends of Freeman's Wood group is now inviting everyone to sponsor one or more 3m x 3m squares of land - at £5 for each of the 12,000 squares in Freeman's Wood.

More info at: [www.lancastergreenspaces.org.uk/freemans-wood-purchase.html](http://www.lancastergreenspaces.org.uk/freemans-wood-purchase.html)

Cllr Mandy Bannon said:

*"This is a very exciting opportunity. I am delighted that local 'Friends of' groups are doing great work to protect and improve our green spaces."*



Cllr Mandy Bannon on the new bench in Coronation Field play area, part-funded by a £700 Local Members Grant from County Cllr Gina Dowding. The City Council has plans to replace the much-missed swings soon too.

## SAD LOSS OF SANDRA GREAVES



Sandra Greaves with Jon and Gina celebrating their election in 1999.

Cllr Gina Dowding said:

*"It is with deep sadness that we report that Sandra Greaves died suddenly in May. She will be much missed by the many people who knew her."*

Sandra was elected with Gina and Jon Barry in Castle Ward in May 1999, as three of the first Greens ever to join Lancaster City Council. Jon said:

*"Sandra was Marsh through and through. She loved animals and wildlife and was always watchful for any threats to green spaces in her local area. People who use these areas have a lot to thank her for."*

The Green Party presented Sandra's family with a hornbeam sapling in honour of Sandra's love of trees. The Council has agreed to plant it in Coronation Field when big enough.

## ELLEL GOES GREEN!

Green candidate Sally Maddocks won a by-election in Ellel Ward (covering Galgate, Glasson Dock, 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).



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

## MARSH WARD CHANGES

City Council ward boundaries are set to change at the local elections next May. Marsh Ward will be extended to include Fairfield streets, and it will be represented by three councillors (up from the current two), reflecting the increased population of the ward.

## CANAL QUARTER HOUSING TO RENT

With reports of a shortage of affordable rented accommodation, Green councillors are keen to ensure sustainable housing schemes come forward. Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said: *"Much of the land in the Canal Quarter is owned by the council, so this gives us an opportunity to increase numbers of units to rent. There are plans for around 70 two-bedroom flats on one of the sites, which are at the design and costing stage. I am pressing for this to be progressed as quickly as possible."*

## LUNE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE CONCERNS

There have been large puddles in and around the Lune Industrial Estate, including on Willow Lane and Europa Way, for months. Mandy contacted United Utilities and County Highways to get the gulleys on Willow Lane cleared.

### Reporting unpleasant smells

The City Council's Environmental Health team is trying to get action to reduce the plastic smells emerging from Lune Industrial Estate. Some residents nearby are keeping incident diaries, but the more reports the better. Some people have also noticed strong muck-spreading smells affecting residential areas. For both issues, contact: [environmentalhealth@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalhealth@lancaster.gov.uk) or ring 01524 582935.

If you have a concern about a company that deals with waste (these are regulated by the Environment Agency (EA), not the City Council), you should contact the EA's incident hotline 0800 80 70 60, or search for 'report an environmental incident' at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

## NEW COUNCIL BOSS VISITS MARSH

Marsh Councillors Mandy and Gina were quick to take up the offer of the Council's new Chief Executive to visit local wards. Mandy said:

*"We highlighted various issues as well as the valuable work of the Marsh Community Centre, volunteers, and 'Friends of' groups."*



**Cllrs Mandy and Gina with Mark Davies (City Council Chief Executive) & Debz (Marsh Community Centre Manager)**

## 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 £1,500 per year. Below is a summary of what financial support 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 in receipt of 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 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](http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/community-hub/support-available).

## WEEDY STREETS

The County Council has responded to calls by Green City councillors to increase the resources invested in street weeding in our district. Sadly, calls to switch from spraying herbicide to more environmentally-friendly alternatives have been rejected due to costs. The schedule indicates that Marsh ward streets should be 'treated' by early July.

## Sycamore Grove play park

Liaising with Cllr Mandy and Friends of the Marsh, the City Council has consulted with local residents and parents of children at Willow Lane School and Apple Tree Nursery about ideas for the much-needed renewal of the Sycamore Grove Play Park. Council staff will make recommendations based on feedback soon.

## Sunnyside Lane puddling solved

Following persistent requests by Cllrs Mandy and Gina, County Highways has improved the drainage of surface water at the end of Sunnyside Lane, at the junction of Piggy Hill and the allotment path.

## Litter bin added

Following requests by Cllr Mandy, an extra litter bin has been placed on Willow Lane at the snicket to Sycamore Grove.

## 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/>

GET IN TOUCH

Green  Party

[NORTHLANCS.GREENPARTY.ORG.UK](http://NORTHLANCS.GREENPARTY.ORG.UK)

Cllr Mandy Bannon

[mbannon@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:mbannon@lancaster.gov.uk)

07813 334018

County Cllr Gina Dowding

[gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk)

07838 793674



Cllrs Gina and Jack showing County Cllr Charlie Edwards the cycling danger spots around Lancaster

## Greens push for action on walking, wheeling and cycle safety

During the spring, Green Cllrs 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, to Cllr Charlie Edwards (cabinet member for highways), and Andrew Pratt (Road Safety Partnership chair).

Cllr Jack Lenox said:

*"We are pleased the County Council has refreshed cycle lane markings in the city centre. However, with more people choosing to walk or cycle, 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 everyone."*