

GREEN VIEW

BOWERHAM & SCOTFORTH EAST

Summer 2023



Cllr Hamish Mills



Cllr Sarah Punshon

SOUTH LANCASTER PLANS SCRAPPED

County Council cancels plans for roads and new town

Funding for building new roads as part of the South Lancaster project has been returned to Government by the Conservative-led County Council in the face of escalating construction costs. This puts an end to the controversial plan to build more than 9,000 new houses on the countryside between Lancaster and Galgate.

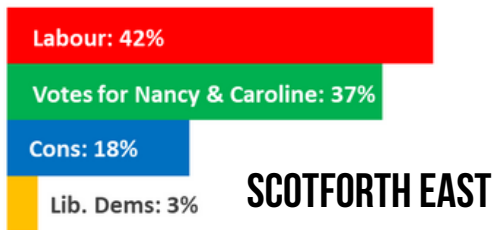
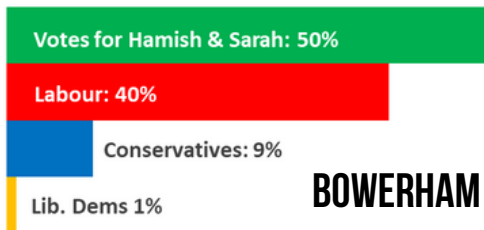
Green County Cllr Gina Dowding said: *"This is great news. The South Lancaster project was very financially risky to both the City and County Councils, because it relied on huge and unrealistic contributions of cash from developers. But just as importantly, it would have had a terrible impact on the local environment and efforts to combat climate change."*

THANK YOU FOR VOTING GREEN!

Greens win in Bowerham, with near-miss in Scotforth East

Bowerham ward's new Green Cllr Sarah Punshon said: *"Thank you to everyone who voted, and especially to all who supported the Greens in Bowerham and Scotforth East. Hamish and I will continue to work hard on behalf of all residents."*

In Scotforth East ward the leading Green candidate, Nancy Mills, was only **3 votes** behind the 2nd Labour candidate. Scotforth East is still represented by Labour.



HAMISH TAKES ACTION IN HALA

Removing an invasive plant

South Lancaster Greens organised a Himalayan balsam-bashing session on Hala Green in early July, after a resident contacted them to express concern about this invasive, non-native plant.

Cllr Hamish Mills said: *"Thank you to everyone who helped out, including Green Cllrs Paul Stubbins, Dave Brookes and other local councillors. It was great to get so much done before the balsam goes to seed and spreads even further."*



Cllr Hamish Mills and other volunteers pulled up Himalayan balsam around Burrow Beck in Hala

STILL TIME TO COMMENT ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Concerns about impacts on local infrastructure and nature.

Story Homes want to build 232 homes on fields by Grab Lane (ref. 23/00324/FUL). Oakmere want up to 120 on fields alongside Newlands Road (ref. 23/00064/OUT).

Sarah said: *"Hamish and I share the concerns expressed by many residents about the likely impacts on local wildlife, schools and traffic, and we think that too few of the proposed homes will be affordable to those who are most in need of housing."*

"After carefully examining the plans and visiting the sites with local residents, we have submitted detailed comments on both applications. As we went to print, no decision date had been set - so there is still time to comment if you would like to."

UPDATE ON STREET WEEDS

County Council contracts Morecambe Town Council (MTC) to tackle street weeds across the Lancaster District for the next 5 years.

Green County Cllr for Lancaster Central, Gina Dowding, said: *"It is good to see MTC's weed control staff using electric quad bikes to get around, and responding more quickly to bad spots. However, it is disappointing that glyphosate herbicide is still being used, despite increasing environmental concerns. I will continue to press the County to insist on alternative methods."*

For any queries about the weed spraying, contact: clerk@morecambe.gov.uk

SOLAR FARM IDEA

Informal consultation on idea for solar farm off Scotforth Road

The City Council is considering building a large array of solar photovoltaic panels on fields between Collingham Park and Bailrigg Lane.

Find out more and submit your views, by 1 August, at: <https://tinyurl.com/solar-say>

HOW TO MEET LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS

Green candidate for MP, Cllr Jack Lenox, calls for immediate review of the Local Plan

Following the cancellation of the planned South Lancaster road and new town, Cllr Jack Lenox said: *"We need to review where well-designed housing can be built without massive new road schemes or unacceptable impacts. The local and national shortage of affordable housing is caused by a reliance on private housing developers who prioritise making bigger profits over meeting local needs."*



Green candidate for MP (Lancaster & Wyre), Cllr Jack Lenox

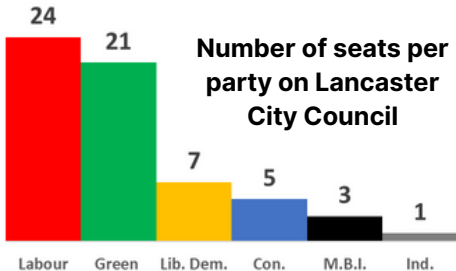
"Driven by the Greens, around 200 affordable homes are now planned for parts of the city centre Canal Quarter site; and over 130 on the former Skerton School site. The Council is also identifying smaller infill sites which could be suitable for building new homes."

GREENS, LABOUR & LIB DEMS RUN CITY COUNCIL

Greens win 21 (out of 61) Council seats



The new group of 21 Green City Councillors at their first Full Council meeting in May



In May's City Council elections, the Green Party won 21 out of 61 seats (up from 10 in 2019).

No party won a majority of seats, so Labour, Greens and Lib Dems have agreed to form a shared administration. It is led by a Labour councillor, with Green Cllr Caroline Jackson as Deputy Leader.

Greens have 4 of the 10 cabinet places, including the 'Climate Action', 'Finance', 'Regeneration, Skills & Digital Innovation' and 'Housing & Homelessness' portfolios. The Green group is more diverse than ever, with a majority of women, and 3 new councillors under the age of 24 (including Hamish in Bowerham!).

FRIENDS OF WINCHESTER FIELD

A new group has been set up to help look after the playpark, playing field and wooded area between Winchester Ave and Cranwell Ave.

The group is meeting regularly to discuss priorities and organise fundraising and volunteering. Members of the group recently met with City Council staff to discuss ideas.

Everyone is invited to get involved or share your own ideas. You can find 'Friends of Winchester Field and Nature Area' on Facebook, or email Hamish or Sarah to find out more.

BOWERHAM ROAD PARKING PROPOSALS

The County Council's revised Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Bowerham Road aims to improve bus services by restricting parking from the Pointer Roundabout up to Golgotha Road.

Green Cllrs responded to the TRO consultation, emphasising concerns from residents who will lose on-street parking. Cllr Sarah Punshon said: *"We're concerned that the plans will cause problems for residents without actually solving the problems with the bus route. We now await County's response to our detailed suggestions for improvements."*



REMOVING NETTLES ON SCHOOL ROUTE

Newly elected Green Cllrs Suhir Abuhajar and Sarah Punshon got frustrated at seeing local children having to squeeze past huge stinging nettles to get to Bowerham School. So they nipped out one Sunday afternoon and dug up the nettles themselves!

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