

GREEN VIEW BULK WARD



Caroline Jackson, Jack Lenox, Tim-Hamilton-Cox (Bulk Ward Green Councillors), & Sam Riches

NO. 94

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

KEEPING BULK WARD CLEAN

Cllrs Jack & Tim work hard with volunteers to clear ginnel

Green Cllrs Jack Lenox and Tim Hamilton-Cox worked alongside volunteer Jim to clear a well-used ginnel between Dalton Road and Mill Street.

They filled 17 bin bags with soil, weeds and litter, and managed to uncover a drain that hadn't seen sunlight in years!

Cllr Jack said:

"Thanks also to the volunteer who litter-picked between Moor Lane and DeVitre Street at the same time. We hope that it makes walking around this area of the ward more pleasant! If anyone else would like to join us for a future session, please use the contact details on the back page to get in touch."



Green Cllrs Jack Lenox and Tim Hamilton-Cox get stuck in to keep Bulk ward clean

SAM RICHES JOINS BULK GREEN TEAM



Sam Riches is excited to join the Bulk Green Team

A woman who will be familiar to longer-standing Bulk residents is getting more involved in the Bulk Green team.

Sam Riches represented the ward a few years ago when she was the County Councillor for Lancaster East. Since then she has been active in the Green Party at a national and regional level.

Sam volunteers as a trustee for Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions (LDCVS), and Friends of Lancashire Archives.

GREENS CALL FOR WATER TO BE PUT BACK IN PUBLIC HANDS

Privatised water: a 'scandal that needs to end'

Thousands of local residents had their water cut off just before Christmas, after icy weather damaged the water supply network. Lancaster's Green parliamentary candidate, Cllr Jack Lenox, said:

"Huge thanks to staff from the City Council and United Utilities who worked hard to support residents and businesses during the loss of supply."

"While this was caused mainly by the cold weather, it was not helped by chronic under-investment in the water supply network since privatisation in 1989. It's a scandal that needs to end."

Eye-watering figures:

- 3 billion litres of water are wasted every day in England and Wales, due to leaks.
- The annual pay package for the boss of United Utilities is reported to be £3.2 million.
- Privatised water companies paid £57 billion in dividends to share-holders over 30 years.



Green Cllr Jack Lenox:
"Privatised water companies waste a lot of our money and water."

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET PRESSURES

High inflation forces difficult decisions

Lancaster City Council is facing very significant financial pressure, mainly because Government funding has not increased in line with big hikes in energy, fuel and wage costs. The funding increase from Government for the next year amounts to less than 1.5% of the budget, whereas general inflation is more than 10%.

Green cabinet member Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said:

"Cabinet members are working together to identify savings which have the 'least worst' impact on services. The Council cannot rely on increasing income to fill the gap."

Some services will inevitably have to be reduced, but we are prioritising maintaining things like street cleaning, parks and green spaces, support for the poorest and most vulnerable people, and delivery of new - especially affordable - housing."

Greens have successfully pushed the Council to invest in energy-saving and generating its own renewable energy. Without this, the Council's budget gap would be much worse."



Green Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox speaking at a Council meeting

CANAL QUARTER UPDATE

Housing plans boosted by government grants of £2.8m

Grants from the Brownfield Land Release Fund will help Lancaster City Council to bring forward plans for up to 233 new homes on sites in the Canal Quarter.

The grants, worth £2.8m, will help to offset the escalating cost of construction.

The proposed homes will be a mix of social, affordable and shared ownership (from a registered provider), and some for private rent.

Bulk Cllr Caroline Jackson, who is the Leader of the City Council, said:

“A key ambition of the Canal Quarter Masterplan is to provide local people and families with housing of all types, including new council housing.”

“Proposals still need to be worked up in detail, including designs which achieve much higher energy-efficiency standards than most new homes.”



Cllr Caroline Jackson: “It looks like we’re finally going to start building a better future on Canal Quarter.”

EDWARD STREET CROSSING DANGER

Awareness of new rule needed

Pedestrians in Bulk ward cross Edward Street at the Moor Lane junction in their hundreds every day. At peak times the traffic turning off Moor Lane is continuous, making it difficult for pedestrians to cross.

Cllr Caroline Jackson said:

“Every day many young and older people are taking their lives in their hands. They dodge fast-turning cars or thread their way through moving traffic.”

“But the new Highway Code rule is clear: drivers should stop to allow pedestrians waiting to cross a junction.”

“We have challenged Lancashire Road Safety Partnership and the deputy Police and Crime Commissioner to allocate resources to raise awareness of the new code, and make the Edward Street junction safer for all road users.”



Changes were made to the Highway Code last year which state drivers should give way to pedestrians crossing at junctions

NEWS IN BRIEF

RIDGE ALLOTMENTS SEEK NEW GROWERS

Grow some of your own food in a lovely, safe space. No experience necessary. Contact Veronica Blackwell on 07956 270670, or email: blackwellveronica@hotmail.com

OBJECTING TO MILL HALL EXTENSION

Green councillors object to the proposed extension to Mill Hall, a listed building located near to the canal on Moor Lane. Cllr Tim said: *"It is four storeys high and clad in rusty steel – totally inappropriate for this building."*

NEWTON TREES PRUNING

After being chased by Green councillors, the County Council will finally be carrying out overdue work to prune back trees in Newton.

EFFORTS TO SOLVE PARKING WOES

Residents in Back Gregson and Dry Dock areas have suffered years of distressing access problems from commuter parking. Cllr Caroline Jackson said: *"The new County Council Cabinet Member for Highways is visiting Bulk in February. I want him to see for himself that we need more flexible policies from County to stop this parking misery."*



JACK ON BBC RADIO LANCASHIRE

Cllr Jack Lenox took part in a political discussion on BBC Radio Lancashire before Christmas. Hosted by Mike Stevens, Jack – who is the Green Party's national Culture Spokesperson – debated a wide range of issues including local democracy, the World Cup in Qatar, and more.

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