



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

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 build up to 233 new homes on the first phase of sites in the Canal Quarter.

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

The homes will be a mix of social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership, and private rent.

Green Cllr Dave Brookes said:

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

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



Cllr Dave Brookes supports the progress at the Canal Quarter

£2 BUS FARES TIL END OF MARCH

The Government is encouraging more use of buses, with single bus fares capped at £2 for everyone, from January until the end of March this year.

Castle Green Team member Shelagh McGregor, said:

“The £2 fare is a great incentive to use the bus. See lancsbus.blogspot.com for more info.”



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

GREAVES PARK NEW PLAY AREA OPEN SOON

Green Councillor helped raise over £60,000 for the project

Cllr Abi Mills has successfully raised over £60,000, with Friends of Greaves Park, to purchase new play equipment which is currently being installed.

The equipment and surfacing will be fully accessible so all children can enjoy the play area together.

Abi, who works part-time as a child-minder, said: *"We can't wait for the play park to be open again. I have been visiting it regularly to keep an eye on progress. I am grateful to County Councillors, the community and other funders who have contributed."*



Cllr Abi Mills visiting Greaves Park to see the construction of the new play park she raised funds for.

For more info about the park, see <https://friendsofgreavespark.weebly.com/>

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LOCAL CO-WHEELS CAR CLUB EXPANDS

More electric cars available for residents to hire

The City Council has added more electric vehicles to its local partnership with Co-Wheels, including an MG5 estate based at Dallas Road Car Park.

This is available to the public to book 24/7 with a hire cost of £6.70 an hour (or £53.60 for a day) plus 12p per mile, including insurance.

Green Cllr Paul Stubbins, who recently opted out of owning his own car, said:

"Car clubs are ideal for city centre dwellers who have great access to local facilities within walking distance, but occasionally want to use a car for longer journeys or to transport heavy items."



Cllr Paul Stubbins visiting the new Co-Wheels car based at Dallas Rd car park

For more information visit www.co-wheels.org.uk/lancaster and use the code **LANCASTER40** to get membership for £1, plus £40 credit and no monthly fees.

..... NEWS IN BRIEF

LONG MARSH LANE RAILWAY BRIDGE LIGHTING

Lancashire County Council has repaired the longstanding lighting fault under the railway bridge on Long Marsh Lane following a request from County Cllr Gina Dowding, responding to residents' safety concerns.



County Cllr Gina Dowding checking on the lighting under Long Marsh Lane bridge

RAILWAY EMBANKMENT VEGETATION

Cllr Paul Stubbins has arranged for Network Rail to remove vegetation from the railway embankment growing over the footpath at the corner of Brook Street and Aldcliffe Road.

LINDOW HERITAGE LIGHTING REPAINTED

The peeling heritage lighting columns on Lindow Street and Square have been repainted by the County Council following a request by Cllr Dave Brookes on behalf of a resident.

CARR HOUSE LANE AND DALLAS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Cycle markings on Carr House Lane and Dallas Road have been refreshed, and damaged pedestrian guard railing has been repaired on King Street and Penny Street following reports by Green Cllr Gina Dowding.

WHEATFIELD MEWS GRIT BIN REFILLED

Cllr Dave Brookes arranged for grit bins at each end of Wheatfield Mews to be cleared of litter and refilled with grit.

GET IN TOUCH

Green Party

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To receive our local fortnightly email newsletter, sign up at: tinyurl.com/nlgp-signup

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Please contact us!