

£50M FOR EDEN PROJECT

Green Council Leader calls for 'Morecambe Summit' to plan for new opportunities and community involvement

£50m has been successfully secured to build Eden Project Morecambe, from the Government's Levelling Up Fund. A further £50m will come from private and charitable sources already identified by the Eden team. Construction should start later this year. The aim is for the attraction to be open to visitors by 2026.

Green Leader of the City Council, Cllr Caroline Jackson, said:

"This is fabulous news for Morecambe, our whole district, and far beyond. It will directly create around 300 jobs, and bring up to 740,000 visitors each year."



Green Council Leader Caroline Jackson:

"Morecambe has an exciting future with Eden."

"I want to ensure that local people, community organisations and businesses can contribute to and benefit from all the new opportunities Eden will bring. Community involvement is vital."

"I have called for a 'Morecambe Summit' which will be held in March, to bring everyone together. We will look at how to plan for the best possible outcomes for housing, sustainable transport and a thriving local economy."

SOUTH LANCASTER ROAD PLAN CHANGES

Questions over new Galgate by-pass route

The County Council has published significant changes to its plans for the link road from the M6 J33 to the proposed new town on the countryside between Galgate and Lancaster. The new road runs alongside the M6, and is supposed to accommodate the extra traffic generated by thousands of new homes. The plan includes a 'Park & Ride' off Hazelrigg Lane, and a new bridge over the railway line.

Green Cllr Sally Maddocks, who represents Ellel Ward, said:

"The radical changes to the latest link road plans have come out of the blue. The link road now takes a different route, the proposed new slip roads have vanished, and the Park & Ride has moved away from the A6. I remain concerned about how flood risk will be managed, and how the River Conder will cope."

"If these latest changes are attempts to reduce costs, I am concerned about what other impact escalating construction costs will have on the financial viability of the wider plans for South Lancaster."

"This whole project looks even riskier now than when Labour, Morecambe Bay Independents and some Conservatives on the City Council voted for it back in August 2021."

The County Council will now conduct a 'pre-application' public consultation on the latest plans during March.



Cllr Sally Maddocks and local campaigner Paul Tynan:

"We want answers to questions about the impacts and rising costs of County's plans for South Lancaster."

MEET THE GREEN PARTY'S DEPUTY LEADER,

ZACK POLANSKI

Local election campaign launch event. All welcome.

Tuesday 14 March

7.30 - 9.00 pm

in the Friends Meeting House next to Lancaster rail station.



Zack Polanski

PHOTO ID NOW REQUIRED FOR VOTING

Cllr Jack Lenox urges voters to plan ahead

New legislation will mean that people voting in person at the local elections on 4 May will have to show photo ID at the polling station.

Cllr Jack Lenox, the Green Parliamentary Candidate for Lancaster, said: *"This unnecessary new law will make it harder for many people to vote. I fear that lots of voters will be turned away, either because they don't have a passport, driving licence or one of the other accepted types of photo identification, or they have forgotten to bring it with them."*

"This discriminatory law will particularly affect the less well-off, younger people and those who do not drive or travel abroad."

"I urge everyone to plan ahead and either apply for a postal vote which does not require photo ID, or a free Voter Authority Certificate if you haven't already got one of the accepted types of ID."

Visit www.gov.uk/how-to-vote to check the accepted types of photo ID (can include out-of-date ID, if the photo is still a 'reasonable likeness'), or to [apply for a postal vote](#) or a free [Voter Authority Certificate](#).

Green Parliamentary Candidate Jack Lenox is angry about the new law requiring photo ID to vote in person, which seems designed to deter poorer and younger people from voting.



UPDATE ON CITY COUNCIL BUDGET

Lack of Government funding forces Council to make difficult budget savings

The City Council has been forced to make cuts of around £2.5m, which is roughly 12% of its £21m annual budget.

Green Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said:

"The 5 political groups represented in the City Council's Cabinet have had to make some very difficult decisions, including taking £600k out of the Council's increasingly limited reserves."

"This is because Government funding for district councils has ignored inflation, while the Council's costs for energy, fuel and salaries have risen far higher than expected. The Council's reserves are not big enough to absorb this financial shock."

"One positive note is that we have protected funding for the Council Tax Support Scheme which helps some of the poorest residents in our District."

"Greens and Cabinet colleagues have identified alternative ways of providing some services to reduce the impact on the public."

WHICH SERVICES ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY BUDGET CUTS?

- Both Council-run Visitor Information Centres (VICs) are planned to close and move online. Alternative ideas for a face-to-face VIC in Morecambe are being considered.
- Having listened to feedback from residents, the Platform in Morecambe will remain operational for the next year, and the Council will look for new ways, potentially with a commercial operator, to make the venue more financially sustainable in the long run.
- Opening hours for Lancaster museums will be reduced.
- There is a temporary freeze on recruitment to vacant posts in the Council, except in exceptional circumstances.
- Palatine Hall in Dalton Square will be vacated by the Council, then rented out to generate extra income.
- Some Council service costs will increase, e.g. the green waste bin charge is going up by £1 per year, but Pay & Display parking charges have not been increased.

DID YOU KNOW...? The City Council receives only 12% of your Council Tax. The County Council receives 73%, the Police 12% and Fire & Rescue Services 3%.

THE GREEN TEAM

YOUR GREEN COUNCILLORS* AND WARD CONTACTS:

BULK



Caroline Jackson*



Sam Riches



Abi Mills*



Tim Dant*

CASTLE



Shelagh McGregor

JOHN O'GAUNT



Faye Penny*



Suhir Abuhajar



Tim Hamilton-Cox*



Jack Lenox*



Joanna Young*



Dave Brookes*



Paul Stubbins*



Alistair Sinclair*



Grace Russell

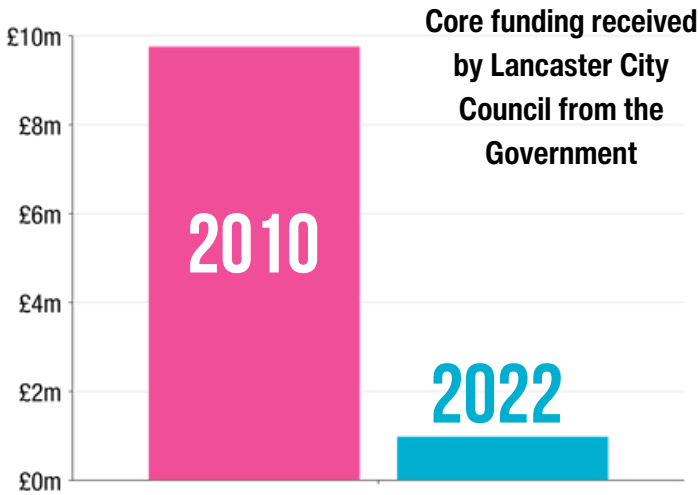
SUCCESSFUL WARM HUBS ROLL-OUT

Greens help residents in fuel poverty

Since Cllr Gina Dowding got the County Council to agree to fund warm and welcome spaces to help people who are struggling to afford heating, 197 'Warm Hubs' have been set up across the County. Sixteen of these are in the Lancaster District.

Warm Hubs are available in libraries and local spaces like community centres and church halls. A list of Warm Hubs and opening hours is on the Lancashire County Council 'Cost of Living' webpage, along with helpful information for residents with financial struggles. Community groups can also find out how to apply for funding for Warm Hubs.

City Council leader Caroline Jackson at Lancaster's 'Reclaim The Night' march against gender-based violence.



Government funding for local councils has drastically reduced over the last 12 years. Lancaster City Council has had to reduce its services and staffing levels, and is now much more reliant on its share of income from business rates, council tax, fees and charges.

CITY CENTRE FLOOD RISK REMAINS

Greens push for action

County Cllr Gina Dowding asked at a County scrutiny meeting why, seven years on from Storm Desmond in 2015, the report on the causes of and solutions to city centre flooding has still not been published. There are still no action plans to address the worries of businesses and householders. County officers admitted that progress was 'glacial'.

Cllr Gina Dowding said:

"City centre flooding is caused mainly by surface water run-off, rather than by the river overflowing. It is a pity that we have had to wait so long for solutions to protect homes and businesses - many of whom cannot get affordable insurance."

The long-awaited County report will be published this summer.



Photo of Cable Street, Lancaster on 6 December 2015, by Christian Cable (Creative Commons BY-NC-SA 2.0)

Cllr Gina Dowding said:

"In the seven years since Storm Desmond, progress on flood prevention has been far too slow."

NEWLANDS NEW HOMES CONCERN

Oakmere Homes have submitted an application for 120 homes on land between Newlands Road and Chelmsford Close (ref. 23/00064/OUT). Extensive work to slow the flow of the stream from Newlands to Burrow Beck was required as part of another recent planning application. Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said: *"The Oakmere scheme is problematic - especially its impact on the careful flood risk reduction plan for Burrow Beck."*

WORKING HARD ALL YEAR ROUND - ALL OVER OUR DISTRICT!

MARSH



Gina Dowding*



Nick Wilkinson

ELLEL



Sally Maddocks*

BOWERHAM



Hamish Mills



Sarah Punshon

SCOTFORTH EAST



Caroline Robertson



Sue Tyldesley*

WARTON

HALTON



Mandy Bannon*



Kevin Frea*



Paul Tynan

BARE & MORECAMBE



James Sommerville



Chloe Buckley

UNIVERSITY



Tom Fish



Isabella Metcalf-Riener

NEWS IN BRIEF

GREENS WIN FUNDING FOR CLIMBING WALL AT GREEN AYRE

Green councillors have secured over £50,000 for a new climbing wall next to the existing skate park at Green Ayre. The money is being contributed by the developers of new student accommodation on Parliament St. The City Council has already submitted the planning application for the wall.

NEW FOODBANK COLLECTION POINT IN HALTON

There is a new regular collection point for Morecambe Bay Food Bank at Halton Mill. Cllr Kevin Frea said:

“Residents can donate items via the Atrium at The Mill between 9am-5pm, with a chance to see the current Art Exhibition at the same time.”

IMPROVEMENTS TO DAMSIDE STREET IN THE CITY CENTRE

Work is underway to improve Damside Street, including widening the paving using natural stone. This is part of the Lancaster Heritage Action Zone works led by the City Council, who won grant funding from Historic England to help improve the historic Mill Race area of the city. The funding is also going towards repairs to historic buildings in the area, including The Grand theatre.

SCOTCH QUARRY COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

A community composting project is coming to Scotch Quarry, promoting local growing and reducing waste. Community walkabouts will help identify the best locations for making compost. Cllr Alistair Sinclair said:

“This is a great project for people who live near Scotch Quarry, particularly for those who don't have much outdoor space to compost at home.”

For details contact Diana McIntyre at Closing Loops: diana_cl@lessuk.org.

HELP KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAN

Scotforth West Ward Cllr Abi Mills said:

“Dog fouling really spoils our local areas, as well as being a health hazard. You can help the Council to identify anti-social dog owners by reporting locations and times when owners are often not cleaning up the mess.”

Contact the dog wardens with as much detail as possible via dogwardens@lancaster.gov.uk or 01524 582757.



After reporting overgrown vegetation from the railway embankment to Network Rail, Castle Ward Cllr Paul Stubbins was disappointed that not as much of it was removed as he had hoped - so he went and finished the job himself!



Cllr Mandy Bannon and local campaigner Nick Wilkinson measured the depth of dangerous potholes on Westbourne Road in Marsh Ward before reporting them to the County Council.

HOW TO REPORT STREET FAULTS

Report potholes, lights, signage, drains, vegetation...
(and, from 23 Feb, also public rights of way problems)
via the easy-to-use [Love Clean Streets app](#)

Do you like receiving our Green View newsletters?

Could you spare an hour to help deliver them?

If you can help with this - or any other volunteering for the Green Party - please contact us. Thank you!

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Green  Party

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Sign up for our fortnightly e-newsletter at: tinyurl.com/nlgp-signup

Contact us: enquiries@northlancs.greenparty.org.uk 01524 807175

GET INVOLVED

KEEP IN TOUCH