

GREEN VIEW

JOHN O'GAUNT WARD

Summer 2023, No. 97



Cllr Suhir
Abuhajar



Cllr Grace
Russell

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 over 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 a huge financial risk to both the City and County Councils, because it relied on unrealistically large 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."*

"The project had been pushed through at the City Council level in 2021 by Labour and some Conservatives and Independent councillors, despite well-founded arguments from Green councillors, who did not vote for it."

THANK YOU FOR VOTING GREEN!

Greens win John O'Gaunt with more than half of total votes

Cllr Suhir Abuhajar said: *"Thank you to everyone who voted, and especially to all who supported me and Grace. We will work hard on behalf of all residents."*



Green Cllrs Grace Russell and Suhir Abuhajar were elected in May

Votes for Suhir & Grace: 51%

Labour: 41%

Conservatives: 6%

Lib. Dems: 1%

GREEN COUNCILLORS WORK HARD ALL YEAR ROUND – NOT JUST AT ELECTION TIME!

GREAVES PARK — NEW PLAY AREA NOW OPEN



Green cllrs at the opening event for the new play area in Greaves Park, June 2023

Cllr Abi Mills co-ordinated the new play area project

Green Cllr for Scotforth West, Abi Mills, said: *"The launch event was buzzing, with children enjoying the new, inclusive play equipment, and the games and face-painting. A huge thank you to the funders, and to the City Council for their contribution to the project. Since the opening it has been good to see so many children enjoying the park!"*



Green cllrs Jack Lenox and Sam Riches at the Co-op on Quernmore Road. This would be an ideal place for a new postbox to serve residents nearby in Bulk and John O'Gaunt wards.

GREENS TAKING ACTION TO GET POSTBOX REPLACED

Greens in negotiations with Royal Mail and Co-op to get postbox reinstated

Green Cllr Jack Lenox has been urging Royal Mail and the Co-op to get a replacement postbox installed at the shop on Quernmore Road. The previous postbox on Quernmore Road was removed after it was vandalised late last year.

Royal Mail has said they'll consider installing a new postbox if the Co-op requests one. Cllr Jack Lenox has asked the Co-op to make this request, and has proposed establishing a community postbox until this happens.

Cllr Jack said: *"This part of the city is already poorly served for basic facilities. The next nearest postbox is almost a mile away on Windermere Road. I want to set up a community-run postbox at the Co-op until a proper one is installed. Please get in touch with me if you'd like to help with this."*

HOW TO MEET LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS

Green general election candidate, Cllr Jack Lenox, calls for immediate review of 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 for Lancaster & Wyre, Cllr Jack Lenox

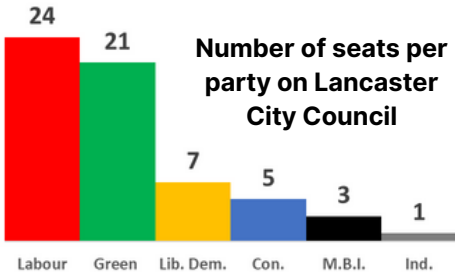
"Driven by the Greens, around 200 affordable homes are now planned for parts of the Lancaster centre's Canal Quarter site; and over 130 on the former Skerton School site. The Council is also identifying smaller infill sites which could be suitable for building new homes."

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 Grace in John O'Gaunt ward!).

NEWS IN BRIEF

CLLR SUHIR ON EQUALITY COUNCIL

Cllr Suhir Abuhajar has been elected to serve as Lancaster City Council's representative on the Preston and Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council, taking over from Cllr Jack Lenox who served on this body for the past two years.

STREET WEEDS UPDATE

Lancashire County Council has contracted Morecambe Town Council (MTC) to tackle street weeds across the district. Green County Cllr for Lancaster Central, Gina Dowding, said: *"It is good to see their 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. We will continue to press the County to insist on alternative methods."* For any queries about the cyclical weed spraying, contact MTC via clerk@morecambe.gov.uk

DAMAGED BIN OR RECYCLING BOX?

Residents have been in touch about damaged/unusable bins and recycling boxes. The council replaces these for free. You can report yours as damaged via 01524 582000 or online at: www.lancaster.gov.uk/bins-recycling/report-a-damaged-bin-or-box



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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