



Cllrs Mandy Bannon & Gina Dowding

## ECO-FRIENDLY HOUSING FOR MARSH

Sheltered housing on Alder Grove will be expanded from 53 to 57 homes, using eco-friendly building methods. The innovative 'modular' construction will be the first development of its kind in the North West.

The City Council will replace the derelict former manager's house with a two-storey building providing four one-bedroom flats, a manager's office and a community room.

Green Councillor Mandy Bannon, who

spoke in favour of the proposal at the Planning meeting in November, says:

*"This new building will greatly improve the Alder Grove facilities, and enable more elderly and disabled residents to live independently. It will help to keep fuel bills down thanks to its high energy efficiency and use of solar power."*



Cllr Mandy Bannon: "This is great news for Alder Grove and will help more people who need affordable sheltered housing."

## FREEMAN'S WOOD COMMUNITY BUY-OUT

Former Green Cllr Jon Barry said:

*"The community purchase of the land has been much slower than expected, due to some tricky legal issues. However, we hope to be able to exchange contracts very soon."*

### Free Guided Walks in Freeman's Wood

Monthly family-friendly walks, led by a local wildlife expert

#### Tree Walk: Sunday 26th February, 2pm

Meet at the notice board, Willow Lane play area

Organised by the Friends of Freeman's Wood

More info: [www.freemanswood.com](http://www.freemanswood.com) or 07419 209964

# A1 SUPASKIPS SITE UPDATE

Cllrs Gina and Mandy have met with local agencies responsible for monitoring the former A1 Supaskips site on the Lune Industrial Estate. The company went into administration in April 2022. The Environment Agency (EA) are conducting a criminal investigation, so information that can be shared at this stage is limited. Gina said:

*“The waste on site and the future of the premises is a big worry to local people and businesses. Regular meetings are taking place between Lancashire Fire & Rescue, the Police, EA and City and County Councils, to consider the risks to local people and environment. City Council Pest Officers are regularly checking on the site and the surrounding area.”*

Issues with pests can be reported to [environmentalhealth@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalhealth@lancaster.gov.uk)

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## £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. Green Cllr Abi Mills, Vice Chair of the local Bus User Group, said:

*“The £2 fare is a great incentive to use the bus. See [lancsbus.blogspot.com](http://lancsbus.blogspot.com) for more info.”*

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## ALDCLIFFE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Aldcliffe Hall Drive, leading up from the canal to Aldcliffe, was agreed as a Public Right of Way and as a ‘restricted byway’ by Lancashire County Council in 2018.

Now a diversion has been proposed by the owner of the renovated East Lodge.

County Cllr Gina has objected to the diversion, along with many residents. Gina said:

*“I welcome the fact that the East Lodge is being renovated, but diverting the path would involve removing more trees and shrubs, and it is just not necessary.”*



Cllr Gina Dowding attended the unveiling of a plaque on the Luneside student halls, on the site of the former St George’s Works on the Quay. That was the first purpose-built, high-rise factory producing oilcloth. Gina said:

*“Thanks to Lancaster Civic Vision for highlighting these gems of local history.”*

# 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."*



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

### 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.

## 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**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### LIGHTING UNDER LONG MARSH LANE BRIDGE

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.

### NEW ROLE FOR CLLR MANDY

Cllr Mandy Bannon is now the City Council's representative on the Local Government Association Coastal Issues Special Interest Group. Mandy said:

*"I hope this role will help me to support local conservation groups who are campaigning to protect our precious estuary and tidal habitats for birds and other wildlife."*



Cllr Mandy is helping the Friends of the Marsh fundraise for new equipment for the Sycamore Grove Play Park, including a grant application to the Lancashire Environment Fund.

### FUNDS FOR FAIRFIELD PLAY PARK

Gina helped the Fairfield Association to source funding from the County Council for a disability-friendly piece of play equipment, as part of the revamp of the Fairfield play area.



Volunteers at the Community Tidy-Up on Short Marsh Lane Bridge in December

### JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TIDY-UP

Saturday 25th February

10am - 12pm

Meet outside Willow Lane School.

All welcome. Equipment provided.

Contact:

[enquiries@northlancs.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@northlancs.greenparty.org.uk)

### GET IN TOUCH

Green  Party

[NORTHLANCS.GREENPARTY.ORG.UK](http://NORTHLANCS.GREENPARTY.ORG.UK)

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