

## News in brief

### Low Moor: sharing space with biodiversity

Cllr Caroline Jackson (right) responded to concerns that children couldn't play ball games in



a Covid-safe way on Low Moor as the grass was so long. Caroline said: *"I am delighted there is now space on Low Moor for children as well as a wild space to encourage greater biodiversity. Council staff explained the mowing simply hadn't been done because staff were busy all summer with emergency Covid support."*

Meanwhile Green Councillors are pressing for the cricket pitch at the former Moor Hospital site to be given attention as it has also become unusable for ball games.

### Crossing not forgotten!

Green Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox reports: *"I am continuing to press for the zebra crossing on Quernmore Rd, but its fair to say that dealing with Covid is taking priority for staff."*

### Lune flood wall

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox says: *"The Council has confirmed that despite constraints caused by Covid, the Lune flood wall is still due to be finished on time. Another grant has been received and the aim is to ensure the cycle path is completely renewed and more trees are planted."*

### Tow path bollards

The council has installed a bollard on the canal path, in response to numerous complaints about a car, quad and motor bikes running between Ambleside Rd and Newton Beck woods. Tim said: *"The land either side of Newton Beck is a precious haven, and designated by County as a Biological Heritage Site. Please let us know of any more incidents."*

#### How to contact us / Keep in touch

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# Green View



Autumn  
2020

News and Views from the Green Party in Bulk Ward

## Lancaster Covid-Safe businesses

Lancaster City Council has launched a new scheme to support local businesses and to reassure shoppers and visitors that shops, cafes, restaurants and other hospitality premises have been assessed for safety standards. Green Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox, cabinet member with responsibility for Sustainable Economic Prosperity, said:

*"The lockdown, and now Tier 3 restrictions, are having a major impact on many local businesses. The Covid-Safe scheme is there to help customers and staff feel safeguarded. And it's great that the Council has had its work recognised across the country."*

Since the start of the pandemic, the council's Public Protection team has made over 2000 visits to commercial premises to assess safety measures.



## Lucie welcomes Council's work

Green Cllr Lucie Carrington (pictured left), who also owns the Herbarium cafe on Great John St, says: *"The team at Lancaster City Council has been incredibly helpful in guiding businesses like mine to help our customers feel safe. These are strange and strained times for everyone, but especially if you're running a hospitality business. We all appreciate our customers' continued support."*

## Emergency Assistance Grants Available

A new grant scheme is now open to people on a low income or receiving benefits and who are suffering financial hardship because of Covid-19. Help is available - as vouchers, not cash - to cover essential costs such as food and household goods, utility bills, school uniforms, and replacing broken appliances. For more information call the council's Community Hub on 582000 or email: [eags@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:eags@lancaster.gov.uk)



## How can the internet be more sustainable?

**Tuesday 8th December**

**7.30-9pm**

**Online meeting.**

**All welcome.**

Bulk ward Green Party member and digital industry expert, Jack Lenox (above), looks at the climate impact of our internet habit, and what is being done to reduce it. Details on the North Lancs Green Party website or contact councillors. See box.

## Makes Votes Matter

**Tuesday 17th November**

**7.30-9pm**

**Online meeting.**

**All welcome.**

Hear more about the campaign for a fairer voting system with proportional representation to replace the outdated first-past-the-post system. For details, see above.

## Councils to re-organise?

The City Council is working on a proposal to merge with South Lakeland and Barrow councils to form a new Morecambe Bay 'unitary' council, which would provide the services currently provided by the county and district councils. However the County Council Conservatives' plan is to divide Lancashire into three large 'unitaries', with Lancaster merged with Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre, and Ribbles Valley. County Cllr Gina Dowding said: *"There are both potential benefits and significant risks of becoming a unitary, but it's a terrible time to be considering this given the key role councils have in supporting residents through the pandemic, and the need to address the climate emergency."*

## End leaseholds: sign the petition

Residents with both new-build and older leasehold properties like those on Quernmore Park can endure unexpected costs and frustrations. Green Cllr Caroline Jackson, council cabinet member for Housing, said: *"There is a new petition for the Government to ban leaseholds and set ground rents at zero. This Government said it was committed to reforming the leasehold system. But they still haven't done it. Help put pressure on by signing now."*

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/548738>

## Build Back Greener – response to survey

Four hundred residents told Green party councillors what they had learned from lockdown. Cllr Caroline Jackson responds:

*"It's clear that residents want us to 'build back greener' when the threat of coronavirus reduces. You told us: support our local businesses, support our community and voluntary groups, improve roads for walkers and cyclists, consult with the community. "You also wanted to stay in touch with nature and with your neighbours – two good things that came out of lockdown. We think that the '20-Minute Neighbourhood' idea is one which would help create places you want:*

*where you can get almost everything you need within a 20-minute safe and pleasant walk; and where you can cycle and reach public transport easily. Places like Melbourne and Paris are working to implement the idea."*



## Greens invite discussion on transport proposals

Lancashire County Council has launched a consultation on new travel proposals and for remodelling the city centre to reduce through traffic. Join the Greens for a zoom meeting to explore both the 20-Minute neighbourhood and the County transport consultation on 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm. Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lancaster-transport-fit-for-the-future-tickets-126602472403>

## Help to make your home greener

A new Green Homes Grant scheme is currently available until March 2021, for people to make their homes more energy-efficient and to reduce carbon emissions. Grants of up to £5000 are open to everyone to cover two-thirds of costs. Up to £10000 is available to those in receipt of benefits. The grants are for things like insulation, low-carbon heating, and upgrading single-glazed windows and older doors. For more information visit: [www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk](http://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk).