

Footpath between Crag Rd and Esthwaite Gardens

In partnership with the council, a Community Payback team is set to repair the steps at both ends of the footpath and to cut back vegetation across it.

Quernmore Park embankment

Although ward councillors are pleased that the play area is completed, we have not yet received satisfactory assurances about the long-term maintenance of the embankment on the west side of Nightingale Hall Rd.

Eight more EV charging points to be installed by council

Lancaster city council has received government funding for 8 more electric vehicle (EV) charge points across the district. To see the locations of all current charging points go to: www.zap-map.com/live

Bulk councillors have asked if the city council can work with Lancashire County Council to start installing kerb-side charging units in places remote from public car parks, like Freehold.

Council's digital strategy looks to deliver ultrafast broadband

The city council is collaborating with local telecoms specialists to devise a plan to install fibre-optic cables, initially around the Lancaster city centre, to enable very fast broadband – around 1Gb/second – and 5G mobile services. In addition the strategy identifies a collaboration, or 'hot desking', space in the city centre where small businesses can share the facilities and ideas. The strategy will be launched formally in early March.

How to contact us / keep in touch

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Bulk ward drop-in - in the Gregson bar on 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3.00-4.30pm. Please get in touch about any local issue.

Facebook: **Lancaster Green Councillors**

Website: northlancs.greenparty.org.uk



Greens' focus for Canal Quarter is housing

Green Councillors are pushing for well-designed, highly sustainable new homes, and new green space, to be the focus of Canal Quarter development. Green Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox comments: *"The housing needs to be of mixed tenure and include genuinely affordable homes. There is money in the council's 2020-2021 budget to work up the design and cost of a first-phase housing scheme on one part of the site. What we won't be supporting is a multi-storey car park on the northern corner of the Canal Quarter facing St. Leonard's Court and Alfred St. It's unfortunate that this proposal made it into the masterplan consultation, and we understand that many residents have objected to it."*



The former Macari ice-cream depot, now owned by Lancaster City Council

Lancaster City Council has completed purchase of the former Macari ice-cream depot on St. Leonardsgate, in order to strengthen its control over land use across the Canal Quarter.

The other major land-owner in the Quarter is London-based property fund Revcap, which now controls the former Mitchell's brewery site.

Public Meeting - all welcome

GREEN NEW DEAL: WHAT IS IT?

"How can we improve our local environment, tackle the climate crisis, and improve everyday life for workers and residents?"

Speaker: Cllr Gina Dowding
Tuesday 10 March 7.30pm
Friends' Meeting House

Greens take a lead on better-balanced communities

The City Council is consulting on plans to introduce tighter controls on the conversion of houses to HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation, typically occupied by students).

If approved, all HMO conversions in Lancaster would require planning permission, and applications could be refused where more than 10% of houses within 100 m are already HMOs.

The Council is also proposing to restrict the use of 'to let' boards, so that they can only be displayed on genuinely vacant properties.

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said: *“Green councillors have been lobbying for these changes for many years, and they should in time help to maintain more balanced communities. Please respond to the consultation, which can be found on the Council’s Planning and Place web pages.”*



Green activist Jamie Melly on a street with 'to let' signs

Success! Freeman’s Wood is now a Town Green

Jon Barry with Marsh Ward Green Cllrs Mandy Bannon & Gina Dowding



Freeman’s Wood, a large green space at the end of the quay, has been used by the Marsh community for informal recreation for decades, but has recently been threatened with development of 250 houses.

A Town Green application was made by former Green Cllr Jon Barry in 2012. A public inquiry was held in August 2019, where 16 local residents gave evidence in person. The local community, with generous support from the Open Spaces Society, raised £17k for legal help. The inquiry inspector ruled in favour of the Town Green application, and Lancashire County Council has now formally designated it. Green Cllr Mandy Bannon said: *“This is a great victory for the local community, protecting the land from development.”*

Action on city centre anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour has been increasing in Lancaster city centre. The City Museum closed its front door because of aggression from street drinkers on the steps and the build up of rough sleepers’ abandoned belongings.

In response, the police deployed more officers and 48-hour Dispersal Orders to prevent large gatherings. The Council cleared the steps, employed a temporary security team and the Museum reopened the front door. Business Improvement District (BID) members – local shops and businesses – are now developing better links to the Police and Council, in order to report anti-social behaviour, including shop-lifting, more rapidly.

Green Councillor Caroline Jackson, cabinet member for housing said *“The city centre belongs to all of us, and Green councillors are concerned for everyone’s safety. I have been impressed by the cooperative way in which the Police, BID and Council worked together, and the compassion that was expressed for rough sleepers.”*

Green Cllr Caroline Jackson outside the City Museum, a focus of recent anti-social behaviour



Riverside trees re-used in 'leaky dams'

Many residents have understandably been dismayed by the loss of so many trees to enable construction of the Lune flood protection wall. Cllr Lucie Carrington reports: *“In a project managed by the Lune Rivers Trust last year, some of the trees were carried by soldiers of the Territorial Army across the canal to Newton Beck. There they have been used to create 'leaky dams' to 'slow the flow' into the Lune.”*

Lune flood wall construction gets under way

To keep up to date on the wall construction and the diversionary route along Caton Road, go to: <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/lancaster/>

The need for the wall was further evidenced when some Caton Road business premises were flooded again during Storm Ciara on 9th February.