

Around Bulk Ward ...

Ridge food group works through pandemic

The Ridge FareShare Food group has continued to run throughout lockdown. Every Tuesday, up to 40 households have been able to buy a £3 food bag. Bags have been delivered to older and "shielded" people, others have been collected as usual. Cllr Caroline Jackson said: "We have been able to give out extra big bags because EggCup, the food redistribution centre, has given us free milk, bread, and eggs for 3 months. But the group can't run without its volunteers - the six people who turn out week-after-week to help have been fantastic."

Sea beet & seaweed foraging
Join Green Party member, Jamie Melly, for an online event on how to sustainably harvest local seaweed and sea beet, and how to store and cook with them.
Including Q&A!
Sunday 16 August, 4-5pm
To register, contact Jamie: jamiemelly@cantab.net

Heritage Grant funding for Grand Theatre works

Lodge Street will be closed from 3 August to enable essential weather-proofing works to take place on the street-facing side of the historic theatre.

The works are substantially grant-funded by the new High Streets Heritage Action Zone fund, to which Lancaster City Council and Historic England are each contributing over £1m.

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said: "Over the next four years there will be a number of measures to help bring heritage buildings back into use, and to improve the public realm in an area broadly stretching between the Grand Theatre, St. John's Church and Lower Church Street."

Newton wall to be re-built

Thanks to the careful observation of a local resident, a retaining wall at the northern end of Langdale Road is to be re-built, to make it safe as it is currently leaning in to the pavement.

New tarmac for Ridge roads

Resurfacing of Ridge estate roads resumes with Keswick Road (from Patterdale to Derwent) and Ambleside Road included in the latest schedule. Tim says: "It's welcome news. This stretch of Keswick was first due to be done 5 years ago, and sections of Ambleside are in a dire state."

Fruit to pick on Ridge Lane

Cllr Caroline Jackson writes: "If you are out for a walk along Ridge Lane, keep an eye out for raspberries, blackcurrants and jostaberries growing in the Claver Hill fruit hedge just inside the fence. If you can reach the fruit from the lane you are welcome to take some.

Our fruit hedge has been in place for about 5 years and we have added a damson tree, pears and wine berries this year, after talking to passers-by about what they would like.

Enjoy the fruit - but watch out for prickles when you are picking."



Cllr Caroline Jackson foraging for fruit

Green View



Summer 2020

News and Views from your Green Councillors in Bulk Ward

Green survey: how can we 'build back better'?

Lancaster's Green Councillors set up an online survey to hear from residents during lockdown.

Nearly 300 people have responded so far, and results show a desire for a greener post-lockdown future.

The vast majority said that they want fewer cars on the road, a closer relationship with nature and the stronger sense of community spirit to continue.

Many residents feel it's very important that the Council continues to support local businesses, by buying locally and helping people to get skills in sustainable building trades and growing food.



To complete the survey by the end of August, visit our website (see p4), call 01524 903701. or scan this QR code with your phone camera →



New plan for the Canal Quarter

A mixture of housing, cultural venues, office and retail uses is set to be approved in a new planning document drawn up by the City Council. The Canal Quarter site, currently dominated by car parks and the old Mitchells brewery, will also include green and community spaces.

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox, cabinet member for the local economy, said: "Green councillors pushed for the multi-storey car park to be removed and for the canal towpath to not be developed, to protect its tranquillity and wildlife. We welcome the opportunity to build both market and affordable housing so close to the city centre."

More information can be found at: www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/canal-quarter

Credit where it's due!

Green Councillors have paid tribute to the outstanding work of the staff of Lancaster City Council in responding to the pandemic. Over three hundred staff were redeployed to new roles to deliver new or enhanced services.

Cllr Caroline Jackson is the cabinet member for housing, and has led the Council's effort to house all homeless people. Caroline said:

"In particular, the assistance given to vulnerable people has seen the Council at its very best. The Council has worked brilliantly with local voluntary sector groups, with 1,500 food parcels per week being delivered at the peak. Local organisations and volunteers have really pulled together to try to ensure that no-one in hardship was forgotten."

Please get in touch about any local issues

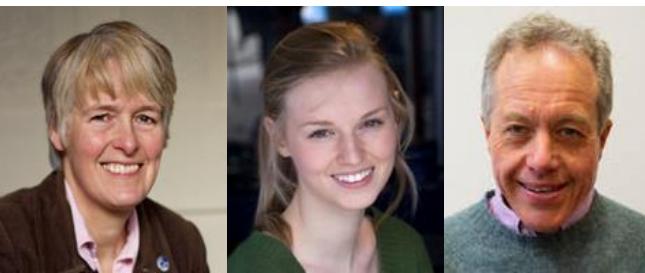
How to contact us / keep in touch

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Your Green Councillors for Bulk Ward:

- Cllr Caroline Jackson, Cabinet Member >
- Cllr Lucie Carrington >>
- Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox, Cabinet Member >>>

Lancaster also has seven other Green City Councillors (see middle pages)



Greens' concerns on Local Plan

Green Cllrs continue to express concerns about Lancaster City Council's Local Plan, due to be voted on by the Council on 29th July.

The Plan identifies sites for new housing and employment across the district for the period 2011-2031. Green Cllrs say that the target for the number of new homes is far too high; linked to over-estimating the growth in (non-student) population and numbers of new jobs.

The Plan says that 10,440 new houses are to be delivered over 20 years, an average of 522 houses a year. Because of under-delivery against that target, it will increase to around 700 per year by 2024. As many 'brownfield' sites have already been developed, this means allocating a lot of green fields to try to meet the target.

Most of those fields are to the north, east and especially south of Lancaster. Lancaster East, north of the prison, has an allocation of 930

homes with access routes from Caton Road and Quernmore Road.

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said: *"We recognise that new homes need to be built – though they need to be much more energy efficient. It's a matter of matching supply more closely to likely demand, not adopting a vision of unrealistic growth. In practice, this will lead to piecemeal development without local services like schools and shops."*

On Lancaster East, there is no through-route planned that would relieve Bulk streets of the extra traffic generated.

The government has set a deadline of every council having a Local Plan in place by December 2023. Greens are aware that refusing to adopt the current plan has its own risks, and is not an easy decision to make."



Green volunteer Hamish Mills delivering plants

Plants for people in lockdown

At the start of lockdown, local college student Hamish Mills decided to bring a bit of colour and joy into people's homes by distributing herbs and plants, especially to those self-isolating.

Hamish and his mum, Green Cllr Abi Mills, started with a call-out for pots, plants and compost. Hamish said: *"Many local residents, allotment groups and the City Council generously donated, and so far we have given more than 650 plants to local people. Thanks to all the voluntary organisations who helped distribute the plants."*

Bin schedule now online only

Information about collections of household waste and recycling are now online only, available here: www.lancaster.gov.uk/bins-recycling/bin-collection-calendar

Contact your ward councillors (details in the box on page 4) if you would like a paper copy and don't have a printer yourself. We will need your address and postcode to make sure you get the right version of this year's bin schedule.

Council support for businesses during the pandemic

Many businesses across the district have been badly impacted by the lockdown. The City Council has distributed around £30m of government-funded grants to smaller businesses in the district which have property-related costs.

In addition, the Council has allocated £1m from its own reserves to support the recovery and future resilience of businesses. For example, a 'Virtual High Street' project will provide an online presence for local businesses who want to provide services to people who may be reluctant to visit shops.

The Council arranged for the Charter market to be temporarily re-located in a traffic-free Dalton Square, to create more space for physically-distanced shopping both in the square and in the city centre streets.

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox identified the square as an attractive, safer alternative. Tim said: *"It's fair to say that traders have been concerned about the loss of footfall away from the city centre, but trade has grown as people get more used to where the market is, and there have been many appreciative comments about the new location. Please support the market on Wednesdays and Saturdays if you can."*



"Coming off the streets is scary!"

Members of Lancaster and Morecambe's community who have lived through homelessness are working together to create their own support service. Dusty, a member of the 'lived experience group' who is writing a Lottery bid to fund the service, said: *"We want to support others by offering friendship and a helping hand back into ordinary life."*

Cllr Caroline Jackson said: *"City Council officers did a fantastic job getting all homeless people off the streets during lockdown."*

Now we have an ambition to keep everyone housed, but we know what a challenge that is to some rough sleepers. It is great to have the involvement, energy and insight of the lived experience group."

More bus services for Moor and Ridge

Lancashire County Council has secured Government funding to expand its supported bus services. There is now an hourly Sunday and Bank Holiday service for the no.18 which returns along Quernmore Road, and also for the no.10 service to the Ridge.

Slower speeds saves lives

City Cllr Paul Stubbins led a call by Green Councillors to expand the current 20 mph limit on residential roads to include main roads such as the A6, where there are shops.

Paul said: *"A wider 20 mph speed limit will improve the quality of life and safety for residents, and especially for children crossing roads. Evidence shows that a lower speed limit adds little to journey times yet calms the traffic."*

The City Council has now written to ask County to consider this.



< Cllr Abi Mills
Scotforth West

Cllr Joanna Young >
Scotforth West



< Cllr Tim Dant
Scotforth West



< Cllr Paul Stubbins
Castle

Cllr Dave Brookes >
Castle
Cabinet Member



< Cllr Mandy Bannon, Marsh

City and County Cllr
Gina Dowding >
Marsh Ward
& Lancaster Central Division

