

Covid support is available

Help is at hand for anyone needing help as a result of Covid related work and social restrictions. The City Council's Coronavirus Community Hub will provide links to organisations who can help with shopping, picking up prescriptions or food, and deliveries. If needed, people can be referred to receive an emergency food parcel. Also, regular calls can be provided to people feeling very low. Financial assistance is available for those in crisis due to the pandemic.

Ring 01524 582000 or email customerservices@lancaster.gov.uk

Food parcels

Since the start of the year, over 20,000 food parcels have been given out to local people in need. This has been co-ordinated between the City Council and Morecambe Bay Foodbank.

Garden waste

The City Council has frozen garden waste collection charges at £40 per year for a further two years.

Dallas Road pavements

On Dallas Road, County Highways has removed some uneven stone flags and patched gaps with tarmac while it finds a long-term solution. Cllr Dave Brookes has asked County to replace areas under trees with a more flexible, less slippery surface, such as the resin-bound aggregate used elsewhere. He is pressing for the stone flags to be scrubbed to remove the sticky pollen residue that makes them extra slippery when wet.

Long Marsh Lane bollards

The County Council has created a new turning head on the Giant Axe side of the railway bridge on Long Marsh Lane. This is part of a plan, funded by the new housing developers, to install bollards to prevent rat-running through the castle precinct and Long Marsh Lane. When consulted previously, the majority of residents supported the bollards. The final formal consultation on installation of the bollards is due soon.

How to contact us

City Cllr Dave Brookes: dbrookes@lancaster.gov.uk 07817 9966949

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CASTLE WARD

GREEN VIEW

NO. 85: DEC. 2020



Lancaster launches Covid-safe scheme

Lancaster City Council has launched a new scheme to support local businesses and to reassure shoppers and visitors that shops, cafes, restaurants etc have been assessed for Covid safety standards. Green Cllr Gina Dowding said: *"The Covid-safe scheme is there to help customers and staff feel safer. The Council has been recognised nationally for the lead it has taken in this work. Since the start of the pandemic, Council staff have made over 2000 visits to commercial premises."*

Salt Ayre Leisure Centre to go green

The City Council has applied for funds from the Government to expand the solar panel 'array' already planned for Salt Ayre. If successful the new funding will add a new ground source heating system, a buildings retrofit, and battery storage. The aim is for the Leisure Centre to generate as much energy as it uses.



Green Cllrs Gina Dowding (left) and Paul Stubbins (right), together with neighbours, cleared vegetation along the canal wall and weeds on Aldcliffe Road and Brook Street in the autumn



Light Up Lancaster



From now until January there will be lit-up artworks

appearing in empty shop windows in the city centre. Cllr Dave Brookes (pictured above) says: *“As people cannot enjoy the usual seasonal festivals this year, the Keep a Light On displays are a great way to share the joy and fun of art.”*

Universal Basic Income

Green Cllr Tim Dant has submitted a motion asking the City Council to support a trial of Universal Basic Income in Lancaster. Tim explained:

“Universal Basic Income is a non-means-tested payment to cover the basic cost of living. It is paid to all citizens individually, regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status. It has long been Green Party policy but is increasingly recognised as the fairest, most effective way to mitigate the effects of COVID on people’s incomes.”

For more information see www.citizensincome.org.

Councils to reorganise?

The City Council has submitted a proposal to merge with South Lakeland and Barrow councils to form a new Morecambe Bay ‘unitary’ council. This would provide the services currently provided by the county and district councils. Meanwhile, the County Council Conservatives’ plan is to divide Lancashire into three large unitaries, with Lancaster merged with Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre, and Ribble Valley. Green Cllr Dave Brookes said:

“There are potential benefits and significant risks in becoming a unitary, but given the pandemic it’s a bad time to be considering this. The Government has provided a very short window in which to put forward the Morecambe Bay proposal.”

Report anti-social behaviour

Since the beginning of the first lockdown, there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces. Cllr Gina Dowding said: *“Sometimes people don’t report these incidents, for fear of wasting police time. But without evidence, the police say they are unable to target the problem.”* Anti-social behaviour incidents can be reported online via <https://doitonline.lancashire.police.uk/> or by ringing 101. Report anyone damaging property via 999, as that is a criminal offence.

Lancaster Charter Market

The Wednesday and Saturday street market will stay in Dalton Square over winter, providing a spacious and Covid-safe outdoor shopping environment. There are now many more stalls, and extra seating has been installed in the gardens.

City transport system

Following the recent consultation on a new ‘public realm and movement strategy’ for the city centre, Lancashire County Council is due to make a decision in February on which options to take forward for further consideration. Green County Cllr Gina Dowding said: *“A serious effort to reduce air pollution is long overdue, and the focus on public transport, walking and cycling is very welcome. As Green Councillors we hope that the County Council will focus on measures to reduce through traffic and prevent rat-running in residential streets.”*

Support for local renewable electricity supply

Green County Cllr Gina Dowding won support from across all parties on the County Council to support a new green law. Gina said: *“The ‘Right to Local Supply’ of electricity would help small-scale renewable energy businesses get off the ground in Lancashire. Local projects are key to a future low carbon energy supply.”*



Green County Councillor, Gina Dowding (above) visiting the market in Dalton Square

Green Homes Grants now available

Grants of up to £5000 (or £10,000 where a member of the household receives benefits) under the new Green Homes Grant scheme are available to fund works including insulation, low carbon heating, upgrading windows and doors, and improving heating controls. For more information visit www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk Local energy advice service, Green Rose, can provide help and assist in finding local contractors. Ring 0800 7022528 or email info@greenrosecic.org.uk.