

CHARTER MARKET

The popular street market, held on Wednesdays and Saturdays, has temporarily relocated to Dalton Square while social distancing measures are in force. Green Cllr Gina Dowding said:

“Please make the effort to visit the market and grab some supplies or pick up some lunch in this lovely spacious location. The traders need your support to keep the Charter Market thriving.”



The Charter Market in Dalton Square

“COMING OFF THE STREETS IS SCARY!”

Members of the community who have lived through homelessness are working together to create their own support service. Former homeless person Dusty, who is writing a Lottery bid to fund the new service, said: *“We want to support others by offering friendship and a helping hand back into ordinary life.”*

Green Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Caroline Jackson said: *“City Council officers did a fantastic job of housing all the street homeless during lockdown. We now have an ambition to keep everyone housed, but we know what a challenge that is to some former rough-sleepers. It is great to have the energy and insight of the lived-experience group involved.”*

DID YOU KNOW?

Paper-based takeaway coffee cups can be recycled with tetrapaks/cartons at the mini recycling site in Auction Mart car park on Thurnham St, or at Salt Ayre recycling centre. Neither should be put in with your normal paper & card recycling, as they can't be separated yet.



Sea beet and seaweed foraging

Join local Green Party member Jamie Melly for an online event to find out how to sustainably harvest seaweed and sea beet, how to store them and how to cook with them.

Including Q&A session.

Sunday 16th August, 4pm – 5pm

To register, contact jamiemelly@cantab.net



Jamie Melly

CITY CENTRE RECYCLING BINS

The decaying recycling bins installed in 2010 have been replaced with new brighter ones, and following a request by Cllr Dave Brookes, additional recycling bins have been rolled out in Dalton Square and Market Square.



Recycling bins in Market Square

LANCASTER AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

Men young and old with time on their hands are being invited to join a new not-for-profit project based at the Kanteena site off Edward Street. The L.A.D.S. aim to do practical work to benefit the community, share and learn skills, and have a bit of fun in the process. Current activities include woodwork, painting, gardening and upcycling. To find out more visit menshedlancaster.co.uk or contact David Munro on 07502 218063.

Castle Ward

Green View

No. 84: August 2020



BETTER IS POSSIBLE!

SURVEY BACKS 'GREENER' FUTURE AFTER LOCKDOWN

Hundreds of people have responded to an online survey set up by Lancaster's Green councillors to gather feedback from residents during lockdown. They say they want a greener future, with fewer cars on the road (92%), a closer relationship with nature (88%), and a continuation of the stronger sense of community spirit (79%). An overwhelming majority say it's very important that the City Council continues to support businesses by buying goods and services locally, and that it should be helping people to get skills in sustainable building trades, and encouraging local food growing.



Green Cllr Paul Stubbins said: *“While the pandemic has had a worrying impact on us all, it is clear that many people experienced some positives as well. It is vital that we try to capture these good things and aim high to build back better for a more sustainable and fair society.”*

Our survey will close at the end of August, and we'd love to hear from more people, so please take part if you can.”

The survey is available via northlancs.greenparty.org.uk or scan this QR code >>> with a smartphone camera to go straight to it. Alternatively call 01524 903701.



COUNCIL RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

The City Council responded to the lockdown by reorganising its operating structure, redeploying more than 300 staff into new roles, and setting aside £2 million of its reserves to provide emergency aid to residents and support to local businesses. Thousands of shielding and isolated households were called every week to check that they were okay and had the supplies they needed. A huge effort was made to get all homeless people into housing, and working closely with Morecambe Bay Foodbank up to 1500 food parcels per week were delivered to people in need. Green Cabinet Member, Cllr Dave Brookes said:

“The City Council did a great job of rising to the challenge, rapidly adjusting to the new reality, and working with the community to keep residents safe and well. It is now looking at how it can keep hold of improved practices such as seven day a week customer services, zero homelessness, joined-up service delivery with the voluntary sector, greater flexibility for staff, and cross-departmental working. This will allow the Council to serve the district in a better way than it has before.”

For more information about our councillors, campaigns, and local policies please visit:



Facebook Lancaster Green Councillors

Web northlancs.greenparty.org.uk



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LANCASTER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

Green councillors continue to have significant concerns about the City Council's Local Plan, due to be adopted at the end of July, having recently been passed by the Planning Inspector.

The Plan identifies sites for new housing and employment land across the district for the period 2011-2031, and sets local policies for determining whether planning applications are acceptable. It says there is a need for 10,440 new homes in the district over the Plan period, the vast majority of which would be on green fields, as few brownfield sites remain.

A large proportion of this new housing is due to be built in the new 'Bailrigg Garden Village', between Scotforth and Galgate. This requires a huge amount of new infrastructure, including a crossing of the West Coast Mainline, and a proposed reconfiguration of M6 J33 with slip roads that bypass Galgate. The government has now allocated £140 million of funding towards this work, but that figure is nowhere near the expected total cost.

Green Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said:

"Greens fear that the level of growth envisaged simply is not compatible with the City Council's 2019 declaration of a Climate Emergency. The Council cannot insist on higher building standards, and the measures to enable greener travel are currently vague and unfunded."

"We recognise that new homes need to be built, but they need to be much more energy efficient to be fit for the future, and supply should more closely reflect demand rather than a desire for never-ending growth."

"Government has a deadline for every council to have a Local Plan in place by December 2023, so Greens are aware that refusing to adopt the completed Plan has its own risks. Having been put in the current position, there is no easy decision to be made."

For more information visit

www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/about-local-plan

PLANS FOR A BETTER CANAL QUARTER

A mixture of housing, culture, office and retail units is proposed in a new planning guidance document, setting out how a locally-led redevelopment of the Canal Quarter could proceed. It is intended that the 16-acre site between the city centre and the canal, which is currently dominated by car parks and the former brewery complex, will also include a number of public squares and green spaces.

Space for local businesses, including the growing digital sector, replaces the emphasis on shopping in previous schemes. Areas are also suggested for expansion of existing arts venues.

Green Cllr Dave Brookes said: *"Greens encouraged a rethink on the inclusion of two multi-storey car parks, and asked that greater consideration be given to removing the through traffic routes. But generally we are pleased with the outcome, and particularly welcome the opportunity for new private housing and council housing so close to the city centre."*

For more information visit www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/canal-quarter

LETTING THE GRASS GROW...

During lockdown, council workers were diverted away from non-essential work, so grass in parks and public spaces has been left to grow, except for paths mown through for exercise and access.

This is temporary, and all grass is due to be cut by the end of September, but over the past year the City Council has been looking at how it will manage grassed areas in the future.

A draft plan will be going out to public consultation soon. It will include a full range of management techniques, from high frequency 'prestige' mowing to establishing wildflower meadows and pollinator patches to improve biodiversity.



Williamson Park in July

LOCKDOWN PLANT PROJECT

At the start of lockdown, local college student Hamish Mills decided to bring a bit of colour and joy into people's homes by delivering free herbs and plants, particularly to those who were stuck at home self-isolating. Hamish and his mum, Green Cllr Abi Mills, put a call out for donations and had a very generous response from residents, allotment groups, and the City Council's garden centre at White Lund. Hamish said:

"So far we've supplied over 650 plants to people. Local churches and community organisations including Marsh Community Centre, City of Sanctuary, Neuro Drop-In, and Westfield Memorial Village (on VE 70 day) helped to distribute the plants. We have had lovely feedback from recipients. I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped with this project."



Hamish Mills

...AND WHAT ABOUT WEEDS?

The City Council has stopped using the herbicide glyphosate, except to deal with aggressive invasive species such as Japanese knotweed. City Council staff are increasingly concerned about the safety of using it, following jury verdicts in the USA.

The County Council is now responsible for dealing with weeds on roads and footpaths. Green County Cllr Gina Dowding has asked for County's online 'Report It' system to include a category for weeds so that they can easily be reported.

WHEN'S BIN DAY?



The City Council has not hand-delivered bin calendars to households this year because of staff shortages due to the pandemic. Instead, the calendars are available to download and print from www.lancaster.gov.uk/bins.

A guide to what can and can't be recycled can be found at www.lancaster.gov.uk/recycling. If you can't access the internet, please contact one of your councillors, who will arrange to get the information to you.

SAFER CYCLING



The County Council used part of an initial slice of the government's pandemic-related Safer Active Travel funding to introduce a 'pop-up cycle lane' on South Road. Green County Cllr Gina Dowding said:

"County had to move quickly to get the money spent, but this left minimal time for consultation. The layout of the scheme has now been tweaked on the southbound side to deal with problems of access for residents. I am looking forward to further measures in the city centre to make walking and cycling safer."

CALMER STREETS

Cllr Paul Stubbins led a call by Green councillors to expand the current widespread 20mph limit on residential roads, to include busier roads in and out of the city centre. Paul said:

"A wider 20mph speed limit will improve the quality of life for residents and especially children crossing roads. Evidence shows that a lower speed limit adds little to journey times, yet calms the traffic and creates less noise and pollution."

The City Council has now asked the County Council to consider this.

Other Greens on the City Council

Cllr Lucie Carrington >
Bulk Ward



< Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox
Cabinet Member; Bulk Ward

Cllr Caroline Jackson >
Cabinet Member; Bulk Ward



< Cllr Mandy Bannon
Marsh Ward

Cllr Tim Dant >
Scotforth West Ward



< Cllr Abi Mills
Scotforth West Ward

Cllr Joanna Young >
Scotforth West Ward

