

EYESORE REMOVED

The rusting container at the River St entrance to Quay Meadow has been taken away by the City Council after a request by Cllr Dave Brookes on behalf of local residents.

BANDS AT THE TOWN HALL?

Green Cllr Joanna Young produced a report on making better use of the Ashton Hall event space as a music venue after organising a sell-out gig in aid of Morecambe Bay Food Bank.

Joanna said: "*Lancaster needs a good sized venue to attract bigger-name acts, and with a bit of investment to improve facilities the Ashton Hall could bring in much-needed extra revenue for the Council.*"

SMOOTHER ROAD

West Road (by the railway station) was resurfaced in February. County Cllr Gina Dowding said: "*I'm really pleased that this has happened at last, having requested it in previous budgets.*"

SPEEDING

A new website for reporting speeding problems has been launched by the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership. Visit www.lancsroadsafety.co.uk and select 'contact' to report concerns.

ALMSHOUSES AVAILABLE

The Lancaster Charity manages a number of one-bedroom bungalows and flats in and around the city centre, available at affordable rates inclusive of energy and water bills. To qualify applicants must be aged 55 or over and have lived in the district for at least 3 years. For more information call Yvonne Kent on 01524 842663 or visit www.lancastercharity.org.

RAMP AT LINDOW CLOSE

Residents of the Lindow Close and Queen St Bungalows almshouses can now enjoy step-free access to the street, following the construction of a new ramp as part of a programme of property improvement works being carried out by the Lancaster Charity. Cllr Dave Brookes, who is a trustee of the charity, produced the initial design and level calculations proving that a Disability Act compliant ramp could be achieved in the space available.



Give and get stuff for **FREE** nearby!

ilovefreecycle.org

Don't throw it away, give it away!

Castle Ward

Green View

No. 83: March 2020



FREEMAN'S WOOD VICTORY!

A campaign to save a much-loved local green space from development has ended in success with its recent official designation as a Town Green. The application was made by former Green Councillor Jon Barry in 2012, and a public inquiry was finally held in August 2019, with several Castle Ward residents in attendance to give evidence. Over £10K was raised by local people to help cover legal fees.

Marsh Ward Green councillor, Mandy Bannon, said: "*This result is a great victory for the Friends of Freeman's Wood and the local community. It's fantastic to know that people will still be able to walk their dogs, play, exercise and explore there, and the wildlife will still have a home.*"

The Friends are now looking into the possibility of buying the land.



Former Green Cllr Jon Barry with Marsh Ward Green Cllrs Mandy Bannon and Gina Dowding

RECYCLING

The City Council agreed in November to find new ways to work with residents to promote recycling. Green Cllr Paul Stubbins, who brought a motion to Council, said: "*It is important to make sure everyone has the information they need on what can be recycled, how clean it has to be, and where it can go - especially now that we can recycle more plastics.*"

A councillor task group has been set up to look at the subject in detail, and make recommendations. If you have ideas about what would help you to recycle more, please contact Paul (details on back page).

HOW TO CONTACT US

City Cllr Dave Brookes dbrookes@lancaster.gov.uk 07817 966949

City Cllr Paul Stubbins pstubbins@lancaster.gov.uk 01524 807175

County Cllr Gina Dowding gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk 07838 793674

Please get in touch with any issue, or if you would like to get involved.

Facebook Lancaster Green Councillors Web northlancs.greenparty.org.uk

ACTION ON CITY CENTRE ASB

The Police, City Council, and Business Improvement District have been working together to respond to an increase in anti-social behaviour in the city centre. This followed a number of violent incidents amongst groups of young people, and a period where the City Museum had closed its doors due to aggression from street drinkers on the museum steps.

More police officers have been deployed and 48-hour Dispersal Orders have been used to prevent large gatherings. The City Council cleared the museum steps and employed a temporary security team, enabling the museum to re-open. Local shops and businesses are developing better links to the Police and City Council in order to report problems more rapidly.

Green Cllr Caroline Jackson, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: *“The city centre belongs to all of us, and everyone should be able to feel safe. I was impressed by the high level of co-operation at our meetings, and the amount of compassion that was expressed for rough sleepers.”*

BALANCED COMMUNITIES

Years of work by Green councillors is set to come to fruition, with the City Council currently consulting on plans to introduce tighter controls on the conversion of houses to HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation, typically occupied by students). If introduced, all HMO conversions in Lancaster and Galgate would require planning permission, and applications could be refused where more than 10% of houses within 100m are already HMOs. The Council is also proposing to restrict the use of ‘to let’ boards, so that they can only be displayed on vacant properties.

Green Cllr Dave Brookes, who helped to persuade planners to put the underlying policy in place for this in 2018, said: *“This isn’t about making life difficult for students or landlords, but about ensuring that streets and neighbourhoods can maintain a sense of community. It is hard to do this where large numbers of residents only stay for a year or two at a time.”*

For more info visit www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/ppc .



Green Cllr Caroline Jackson

GINA RETURNS FROM BRUSSELS

Cllr Gina Dowding’s term as the North West’s Green Member of the European Parliament ended on 31st January. During her time in Brussels, Gina worked as part of the European Green Group, made up of 75 MEPs from all over Europe.

As an MEP, Gina produced a number of special reports, including one on a Green New Deal for the NW, and most recently ‘A Sustainable Transport System for the North West’, launched in Lancaster in January.

Gina said: *“It was a privilege to be an MEP, and I’m now more determined than ever that we can - and must - work at a local level to tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis, while creating jobs and ensuring that everyone feels the benefit of a greener society.”*



County and City Councillor and former Green MEP, Gina Dowding

PURPOSE-BUILT STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Following the approval of another city centre student accommodation block at Planning Committee in February, Green councillors called for a proper study of need.

Green Cllr Tim Dant said: *“The University has recently cast doubt on whether there will still be unmet demand for student bedrooms once current developments have been completed. Planners say that no evidence has been supplied to back up these claims, so they can’t be relied on when assessing future applications. It is about time that this situation was remedied.”*

‘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?

With Gina Dowding

**Tuesday 10th March,
7.30pm, at the Quaker
Meeting House, LA1 1TX**

Everyone welcome!