

## News in Brief

### Light Up Lancaster

Until January there will be lit-up artworks appearing in empty shop windows in the city centre. Cllr Gina Dowding 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.”*

### 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 are unable to target the problem.”*

Report anti-social behaviour incidents via <https://doitonline.lancashire.police.uk/> or ring 101. Report anyone damaging via 999, as that is a criminal offence.

## Coronavirus Support is Available

Help is at hand for anyone in need as lockdown measures continue. Contact the Coronavirus Community Hub via the City Council with any queries or worries. The hub has details of organisations who can

- provide help with shopping
- pick up prescriptions or food deliveries.

People can be referred to for an emergency food parcel, or even a regular call for those feeling very low.

Emergency Assistance Grants are now available for people in financial crisis as a result of the pandemic, for help with bills and essential items. Ring 01524 582000 or email [customerservices@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@lancaster.gov.uk)

## Crossing not Forgotten!

Green Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox reports: *“I am continuing to press for the zebra crossing on Quernmore Rd, but it’s fair to say that dealing with Covid is taking priority for council staff.”*

## How to Contact us

JoG ward contact Jamie Melly: 07429 990048 [jamiemelly@cantab.net](mailto:jamiemelly@cantab.net)  
Castle Ward Cllr Paul Stubbins: 01524 807175 [pstubbins@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:pstubbins@lancaster.gov.uk)  
County Cllr Gina Dowding: [gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/LancasterGreenCouncillors](https://www.facebook.com/LancasterGreenCouncillors)  
[www.northlancs.greenparty.org.uk](https://www.northlancs.greenparty.org.uk)



## New Developments at University of Cumbria Site

The University of Cumbria has submitted three separate planning applications outlining huge changes to its campus buildings, and changes to the landscaping, access and service infrastructure. These include replacing



Site of the existing Tennis Courts

the William Thompson Tower with a 7-storey student residence (20/00550/FUL) and an extra care living facility replacing an existing building (20/00554/FUL), with traffic at the top of Golgotha Road being made two-way. The third application (20/00762/FUL) is to build over the old tennis courts with a 2-storey supported living facility (see map) which includes a new access road off Anderson Close created where the current cul-de-sac ends.

You can find full details of the proposed developments on the City Council planning website

<https://planning.lancaster.gov.uk/online-applications/>

JoG ward contact Jamie Melly said *“Many residents have made comments and objections on these proposals. It will be important that access for pedestrians and cyclists across the campus is not blocked during building works”*



JoG Ward rep Jamie Melly

## Foodbank Works with Council

Morecambe Bay Foodbank has given out over 20,000 food parcels since the start of the year. A report about the work, in partnership with the City Council, was released this week. See: <https://bit.ly/3ksfLOk>. *“The pandemic has caused a huge increase in numbers of people needing help”* said Cllr Joanna Young, who is also Chair of Trustees at the Foodbank. *“The City Council’s community hub is here to support residents with food parcels, access to shopping, prescriptions, mental health issues or financial difficulties. You can call them on 0524 582 000.”*



City Councillor  
Joanna Young on the BBC  
talking about the Foodbank

## Local Clean Electricity Supply

Cllr Gina Dowding won support from across all parties on the County Council to support a new green law. Gina said, *“Local and small-scale renewable energy projects are key to a future low carbon energy supply.”*

## Residents Say Build Back Greener

The overwhelming response to the Lancaster Green Councillors’ Lockdown Survey was for the City Council to support local communities, help local businesses and tackle climate change. Cllr Abi Mills said, *“Local people are telling us that they want to ‘Build Back Greener’ after lockdown. We think the ‘20 Minute Neighbourhood’ idea would help the Council create the kind of places that people want. This means you can get almost everything you need within a 20 minute walk, and where you can cycle and reach public transport easily.”* More information about 20 Minute Neighbourhoods and the survey are on the Green Party website.

### Help to make your Home Greener

The Green Homes Grant scheme is now available until March 2021 to make homes more energy efficient. Grants of up to £5000 for everyone to cover two thirds of costs, and £10,000 to those in receipt of benefits, are available for insulation, low carbon heating, upgrading windows and doors. Local energy advice service, Green Rose, can help and find suitable local contractors. Call 0800 7022528 or visit [www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk](http://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk)

## Greens Invite Discussion on Transport Proposals

The County Council has sent all households a letter about its proposal for new roads in south Lancaster. The consultation document presents six possible road options and highlights the huge swathe of land designated as a new housing area. There are also proposals for redesigning the City Centre and to get rid of the one-way system

County Councillor Gina Dowding said, *“Building new roads is not the way to switch to low carbon transport. Changes to the one way system could help us to create good quality public transport, safe pleasant walking and segregated cycling, but it just a pity that these proposals go hand in hand with more road building.”*



County Councillor  
Gina Dowding

## Bowerham Garage Demolition

The eye-sore building on the old garage site on Bowerham Road is finally being demolished. The Council issued an Enforcement Notice to the owner saying that the building had to be taken down.

Green ward rep Jamie Melly said, *“It is a relief that a decision has been made about this site and that the situation will move forward. We will let residents know about any future proposals for the site when we hear them’.*

### Salt Ayre Leisure Centre Goes Green

The City Council has applied for funds to expand the solar array already planned for Salt Ayre. If successful it will include a new ground source heating system, a buildings retrofit, and battery storage, aiming to make the leisure centre energy self-sufficient.

## Councils to Reorganise?

The City Council is working on a proposal to merge with South Lakeland and Barrow councils to form a new Morecambe Bay ‘unitary’ council, which would provide the services currently provided by the county and district councils. Green County Councillor Gina Dowding said:

*“There are both potential benefits and significant risks of becoming a unitary, but it’s a terrible time to be considering this given the key role councils have in supporting residents through the pandemic, and the need to address the climate emergency.”*