

Around the city

Ridge food group works through pandemic

The Ridge FareShare Food group has continued to run throughout lockdown. Every Tuesday more than 30 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. It has been possible to give out larger bags recently because EggCup, the food redistribution centre, has given free milk, bread, and eggs for 3 months.

Did you know?

Paper-based takeaway coffee cups can be recycled with tetrapaks 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 processed yet



Overhanging shrubs

Some residents are finding that pavement space is shrinking due to overhanging shrubs from gardens. This makes it difficult for people with visual and mobility difficulties and pushchairs to pass safely. Cllr Abi Mills says: “Please could garden owners or tenants cut back any vegetation obstructing the pavement. Thank you.”

Sea beet & seaweed foraging

Join Green Party member, Jamie Melly, for an online event about how to sustainably harvest local seaweed and sea beet, and how to store and cook with them. Including Q&A!

Sunday 16 August 4pm- 5pm

To register, contact Jamie jamiemelly@cantab.net

How to contact us

JoG ward contact Jamie Melly 07516642902
jamiemelly@cantab.net

Green Castle Ward Cllr Paul Stubbins 01524 807175
pstubbins@lancaster.gov.uk

Green County Cllr Gina Dowding
Gina.Dowding@lancashire.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/LancasterGreenCouncillors/

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.

Lancaster & 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 some fun in the process. Activities include woodwork, painting, gardening and upcycling. For further information visit mensedlancaster.co.uk or contact David Munro on 07502 218063.



John O'Gaunt ward contact
Jamie Melly

Green View



Summer 2020

News and Views from the Green Party in John O'Gaunt Ward

New proposals for Canal Quarter

A mixture of housing, culture, office and retail uses are set out in a new draft planning document. The site, that currently has car parks and the old Mitchells brewery, will also include green spaces and community areas.



Green Councillors pushed for the removal of a multi-storey car park from the plans, and asked for greater consideration to be given to not having a through traffic route.

Cllr Tim Dant said: “Building both private and council housing so close to the city centre is what the area needs, and we need to give priority to walking and cycling.”

Space for local businesses – including the growing digital sector – is also a great improvement on the emphasis on shopping in previous plans. An arts hub will also build on the tradition of theatre, music and film in this part of Lancaster. Maintaining the biodiversity of the canal and its banks is important as the leisure possibilities are improved.

You can find out more at: www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/canal-quarter

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



To complete the survey, you can scan this QR code with your phone camera, call 01524 903701, or find the link at: www.northlancs.greenparty.org.uk



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

Nearly 300 people have responded so far, and results reveal a desire for a greener post-lockdown future, with the vast majority saying they want fewer cars on the roads, a closer relationship with nature, and the stronger sense of community spirit to continue.

Cllr Joanna Young said: “Coronavirus has been very worrying for all of us, but let's make some things change for the better as we pick up our lives. We'd love more residents to complete the survey to tell us what you think.”

Your ten local Green Councillors
(see also middle pages)

City Cllr for Castle Ward Paul Stubbins >

City Cllr for Marsh Ward Gina Dowding
(also County Cllr for Lancaster Central) >>





The view from Burrow Heights in the middle of the proposed 'Bailrigg Garden Village'

Greens' concern about Local Plan

Green Councillors have expressed concerns about Lancaster City Council's Local Plan, due to be voted on by the Council at the end of July. The Plan identifies sites for new housing across the district. The Plan says 10,440 new houses are needed from 2011 to 2031, an average of 522 houses a year. As brownfield sites have already been developed, this means building on green fields. South Lancaster is earmarked for the vast majority of new houses, with 3,500 homes in the new 'Bailrigg Garden Village', part of a total of over 8,800 between Hala and Galgate in the next 25 years or so. This requires a huge amount of new infrastructure, for which nowhere near enough funding has been identified.

This Local Plan has new policies on how specific planning applications are determined, covering issues like flood risk and drainage, walking and cycling, and low-carbon energy generation. But these policies are already not robust enough to reflect the Council's Climate Emergency target of zero carbon for 2030. Any attempt to review and raise housing standards will not be enforceable.

Cllr Gina Dowding said: "For many years, Green councillors have challenged the predictions of growth in population and numbers of jobs that underpin the housing numbers. We recognise that new homes need to be built, but this Plan is based on a vision of unrealistic growth in an unsustainable location. We are aware that refusing to adopt the Local Plan risks it being imposed by the Government or the task being given to the County Council, so this is no easy decision."

For more information: www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/about-local-plan

Plants for people in lockdown

During lockdown, local student and co-founder of Lancaster Youth for Environment, Hamish Mills, delivered free herbs and plants to those who were self-isolating. Over 650 plants were given to local residents, donated by individuals, allotment groups and the City Council. Groups like St Paul's Church and The City of Sanctuary helped distribute the plants.

Letting the grass grow?

During the pandemic with many Council workers involved in emergency work, there has been less frequent mowing in parks and public spaces. This is temporary, but the City Council is reviewing how it will cut grass in the future. A draft plan will be going out to consultation soon. It will include a range of management techniques, from frequent mowing to establishing native wildflower areas.

Pop-up cycle lane

The County Council made use of the Government's new Safer Active Travel fund to introduce a 'pop-up cycle lane' on South Road. Gina said: "We are pleased that County was quick to respond. The layout of the South Rd scheme has been tweaked to deal with problems of access for residents. I am looking forward to more measures in the city centre to make walking and cycling safer."

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



Cllr Joanna Young foraging for fruit

Fruit to pick in Greaves Forage Garden

The Forage Garden between Dorrington Road and Arcon House has an abundance of raspberries, blackcurrants and redcurrants. Cllrs Joanna and Abi plan to organise some work-party events in the Autumn so that the local community can help to look after this area. Come and take a look and forage!

Calmer speeds

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

Paul said: "A wider 20 mph speed limit will improve everyone's quality of life. Evidence shows that a lower speed limit adds little to journey times yet calms the traffic and creates smoother flow with less noise and pollution."

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

Coronavirus Help

The City Council worked with local voluntary groups to help vulnerable residents during and since the lock-down. At the peak, over 1,500 food parcels were being delivered each week.

Cllr Joanna Young, Chair of Trustees for Morecambe Food Bank, said: "The Council has pulled together with voluntary groups to ensure no-one experiencing hardship was forgotten."

The local response hub for Coronavirus help is still open
Tel: 01524 582000 or see: www.lancaster.gov.uk

Stay Safe - help stop the spread of the virus:

- Wash hands frequently;
- Keep a social distance;
- Wear masks where advised;
- Co-operate with test, trace and isolate scheme if contacted.



Scotforth West Ward

<<< Cllr Abi Mills
<< Cllr Joanna Young
< Cllr Tim Dant

Marsh Ward

Cllr Mandy Bannon >



Castle Ward

< Cllr Dave Brookes
Cabinet Member
Cabinet Member



Bulk Ward

< Cllr Caroline Jackson
Cabinet Member

Cllr Lucie Carrington >
Cllr Tim Hamilton Cox >>
Cabinet Member

