

Coronavirus Help

The City Council worked with local voluntary groups to help vulnerable residents during and since the lock down. At the peak, over 1500 food parcels were being delivered. Cllr Joanna Young, Chair of Trustees for Morecambe Food Bank, says: *"The Council has pulled together with voluntary groups to ensure no-one in any hardship was forgotten."*

Local response hub for Coronavirus help enquiries

01524 582000 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.

Towneley path new handrail

The long-awaited handrail has now been installed after a request from residents. Fairfield Association raised over £960, and after contact made by Cllr Dowding, Lancashire County Council contributed £800 and fitted the rail.



Cllr Gina Dowding

House-fire The community rallied round at lightning speed to help the people affected by the devastating house fire on the Marsh Estate in May, raising £4,500 in a crowdfunder within days. Cllr Gina Dowding said: *"Everyone's thoughts are with the residents affected. Huge thanks to everyone who contributed, and to the emergency services and City Council staff who reacted so swiftly to help re-house the residents and clear up the area."*

How to contact us

www.northlancs.greenparty.org.uk

Lancaster Green Councillors

City Cllr Mandy Bannon

07813 334018

mbannon@lancaster.gov.uk

County and City Cllr Gina Dowding

07838 793674

gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk

Freeman's Wood

Town Green status looks truly secure, as the deadline for appealing against it has passed. Before lock-down, Friends of Freeman's Wood had planned a celebration event and community consultations. Please look out for future plans on posters, social media and on our soon-to-be installed notice board on Coronation Field.

Cllr Mandy Bannon says: *"Many thanks if you've been litter picking in the woods or other parts of the ward during lockdown. If you'd like to borrow litter pickers and need Council purple bin bags, please contact me."*

Protecting rare birds

Cllr Mandy Bannon worked with local birdwatchers to protect kestrels nesting in a building about to be demolished. As a result, landowners postponed the works until the young birds had fledged.

Bulldozed trees

Friends of Freeman's Wood has pushed for enforcement action after trees were removed from the woods' border. Cllr Mandy Bannon said: *"We were shocked by the devastation caused during the bird nesting season. I hope the necessary action will be taken."*

Japanese knotweed

is being treated along the banks of Lucy Brook in Coronation Field. Please don't touch the dying plants as glyphosate has been used, which is harmful to humans and animals.

Roads patched

Highways have finally patched the uneven junction of New Quay Rd/Lune Rd and the huge hole on the corner of Willow Lane/Denmark Street. Cllr Dowding will keep requesting re-surfacing of Willow Lane and other roads.

Lancaster Cricket Club

has helped ease congested parking along New Quay Road by letting construction workers park in their Lune Road ground. It is hoped that the student blocks on the quay will be completed by September.

Green View



No. 84
Summer 2020

News and Views from the Green Party in Marsh Ward

Better is possible!

Survey backs 'greener' future after lockdown

Lancaster's Green councillors set up an online survey in order to hear back from residents during lock down. Nearly 300 people have responded so far and results reveal a desire for a greener post-lockdown 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%). A vast majority say they would like to carry on working from home and want the appreciation of key workers to continue. Most people want the Council to tackle the climate crisis and keep supporting local businesses by buying goods and services locally and helping people get skills in sustainable building and growing food locally. |



Cllr Gina Dowding says: *"While Covid 19 and lockdown has had a worrying impact on us all, it's clear many people experienced some positives and want them to continue. As your local councillors, we will push to ensure the good things continue. Thank you to everyone who filled in the survey and for all your suggestions. We'd love to hear from more people."*



To complete this short survey by the end of August, see our website (on back page), call 01524 903701 or scan the QR code >

Marsh Community Centre launches appeal

Marsh Community Centre trustees are hoping to raise £500 per month from new supporters. Trustee Karin Olsson said: *"By raising £500 per month through standing orders, we can ensure that the Centre has the financial stability to continue to serve as a vital hub of the Marsh. Donations can be from as little as £2 per month. In return, we'll update you on how your contribution has aided our work. Your help will be greatly appreciated."*

To contribute please contact Karin on LongLiveMarshCC@gmail.com

Since lockdown, the Centre has provided essential food and toiletry parcels to vulnerable local people as well as clothes and household appliances. Youth Workers have engaged young people through social media. The allotment is flourishing – thanks to volunteer Martin Sill. The manager has kept these services going via social media, mobile phone and by meeting people outside at the centre.



Volunteer Martin Sill with Cllr Mandy Bannon

Your local Green Councillors (see also middle pages)

City Cllr Dave Brookes >
Castle ward
Cabinet Member



< City Cllr Mandy Bannon, Marsh Ward

City and County Cllr
Gina Dowding >
Marsh Ward &
Lancaster Central



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 'Bairrigg 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, and planners propose a Galgate bypass and a new bridge under or over the West Coast railway. The Government has now allocated £140m towards this, but that does not cover anywhere near the total costs.

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. Green Cllr Gina Dowding said:

"For many years, local 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 also 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 see: www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/about-local-plan

Letting the grass grow

During the pandemic, many City Council workers were diverted to emergency work. So grass has been allowed to grow in parks and public spaces, with only paths being mown for people to walk in for exercise. This is temporary, but the Council is reviewing how it will cut grass in the future, looking at different techniques from 'prestige mowing' to establishing wildflower areas. Meanwhile the City Council has stopped using the weed-killer glyphosate, apart from to suppress invasive species on its land. The responsibility for pavement weeds has passed back to the County Council. Cllr Gina Dowding has asked that problems with weeds are able to be logged via the County's online 'Report It' system.

The Charter Market is temporarily relocated in Dalton Square (on Weds and Sat) while social distancing measures are in place.



Can you help? Overhanging shrubs

Some residents are finding that pavement space is shrinking due to overhanging shrubs and hedges 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 and tenants cut back any vegetation obstructing the pavement. Thank you."*

When's bin day?

The City Council has not hand-delivered bin calendars this year due to the pandemic. Instead, the calendars can be downloaded from www.lancaster.gov.uk/bins. A guide to what can be recycled can be found at www.lancaster.gov.uk/recycling. If you need help please contact one of your councillors.

Plans for better Canal Quarter

A mixture of housing, culture, office and retail uses is set to be approved as a draft plan by the City Council. The Canal Quarter, which currently contains car parks and the old Mitchells Brewery, will also include green and community areas.

Green Cllr Tim Dant said: *"Greens encouraged the removal of a multi storey car park and asked for a no-through traffic route to be considered. We welcome the opportunity to build both private and council housing so close to the city centre."*

Space for local businesses, including the growing digital sector, replaces 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. There will be a final opportunity for the public to comment on the plan.

For more information, see: www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/canal-quarter



Pop-up cycle lanes

Lancashire County Council used the Government's Safer Active Travel fund to introduce a 'pop-up cycle lane' on South Road. County Cllr Gina Dowding said: *"We're pleased that County was quick to use this funding. The South Road scheme has been tweaked to deal with problems of access for residents and the temporary posts. I'm looking forward to more measures in the city centre to make walking and cycling safer."*

Calmer speeds

City Cllr Paul Stubbins led a call by Green councillors to expand the current residential roads' 20 mph limit to include main roads such as the A6, where shops, local businesses and pedestrians mix. Cllr Stubbins said: *"A wider 20 mph 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 County to consider this.

Plants for people

During lockdown, local student Hamish Mills delivered free herbs and plants to those who were self-isolating. Hamish and his mum, Cllr Abi Mills, called for donations of plants – and many people, allotment groups and the City Council responded. Hamish said: *"So far we've given over 650 plants to local residents. Churches, and groups like Marsh Community Centre and the Memorial Village helped distribute the plants. We've had lovely feedback from residents. Thanks, everyone, who helped us bring some colour and joy into people's homes."*

< City Cllr Abi Mills
Scotforth West Ward

City Cllr Joanna Young >
Scotforth West Ward

< City Cllr Tim Dant
Scotforth West Ward

City Cllr Paul Stubbins >
Castle Ward

< City Cllr Caroline Jackson
Bulk Ward. Cabinet Member

City Cllr Lucie Carrington >
City Cllr Tim Hamilton Cox >
Bulk Ward. Cabinet Member