

Around the ward

Double yellow lines - Pointer Court

Having reported that the double yellow lines on Pointer Court needed re-painting, Cllrs were pleased to see this done in June. Hopefully these will ease the parking issues in this spot.

A new bin for Aldcliffe

Cllr Tim Dant is delighted that at last a new waste bin has been installed on the Millennium Path, at the bottom of Aldcliffe Hall Lane.

Tim said: "Aldcliffe has been a very popular place for exercise during the pandemic and the bin has been well used."



Planning application for 55 houses on Ashton Rd

Cllrs Joanna Young and Abi Mills have objected to a planning application for 55 houses, just south of Pinewood Close. They argued that the location is not suitable due to sustainability issues. Cllr Tim Dant is a member of the Planning Committee that will consider the application, so cannot comment.

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

Cllr Tim Dant: 07429 990 048 tdant@lancaster.gov.uk
Cllr Abi Mills: 01524 389 069 amills@lancaster.gov.uk
Cllr Joanna Young: 07598 707 358 jyoung@lancaster.gov.uk
County Cllr Gina Dowding: gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/LancasterGreenCouncillors/



Dorrington Woods Pebble Art

During lockdown, it has been brilliant to see so many residents making use of our local green spaces. There were 'pebble fairies' in Dorrington Woods – many beautifully painted stones were placed around the woods for others to enjoy.

Cleaning of Meadowside

Residents of Meadowside were pleased to have the City Council Street Cleansing Team do a grand job of cleaning up the street, following Cllr Abi Mills' request. One resident said, "The road looks great - some neighbours who have lived here 40 years say they have never seen it look so good."

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."

Dorrington Road Play Park

Cllr Abi Mills (below) and her son, Hamish, did a litter pick in the play area, ready for the park to be re-opened.



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 Cllrs for Scotforth West Ward

Abi Mills >
Joanna Young >>
Tim Dant >>>





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. 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.

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



Cllr Gina Dowding at the Charter Market - temporarily in Dalton Square (on Weds & Sat) while social distancing is in place.

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."

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. Hamish and his mum, Cllr Abi Mills, called for donations of plants – and many people, allotment groups and the City Council responded.

Hamish said: "We have given over 650 plants to local residents. Groups like St Paul's Church and The City of Sanctuary 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."



Green volunteer Hamish Mills delivering plants



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.

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.



Marsh Ward

< Cllr Gina Dowding (also County Cllr for Lancaster Central)

Cllr Mandy Bannon >



Castle Ward

< Cllr Dave Brookes
Cabinet Member

Cllr Paul Stubbins >



Bulk Ward

< Cllr Caroline Jackson
Cabinet Member

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

