



Green Party

GREEN VIEW

SOUTH LANCASTER



Cllrs Tim Dant, Gina Dowding, Abi Mills & Joanna Young

NO. 90 - FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022

GET FIT IN DORRINGTON WOODS PARK!

Thanks to Cllr Abi Mills working with the Friends of Dorrington Woods & Play Park, there is a new outdoor gym in the park.

Cllr Abi Mills said:

“The 4 pieces of gym equipment are already really popular with adults and children. This, together with the volunteers who have been helping out with hedge laying and regular litter picking, is making the woods a lovely community space.”

New play area in Greaves Park

Cllr Abi Mills is organising a consultation in Greaves Park on 12th March from 11-2pm about the designs for a new play area.



Cllr Abi Mills tries out the gym in Dorrington Woods Park

STREET WEEDS

Green Cabinet Members presented the results of their residents' survey on weeds to City and County officers. Cllr Dave Brookes said:

“Our aim is to ensure that street weeds don't create problems, while minimising the use of chemical herbicides. Council officers are looking at prioritising high profile areas, and older pavements that let through more weeds. We are pleased that the County Council has proposed an increase in budget for this work.”

FUTURE OF DIRECT LONDON TO LANCASTER TRAINS

Cllr Gina Dowding reports:

“At a meeting with HS2 in Lancaster, some reassurance was given that direct London to Lancaster train services will remain after the high speed line opens. However, the West Coast Partnership will be key to the decision making.”

The City Council is launching an online survey of residents to collect evidence of the value of direct services, in case this will be required at a later stage.

HOPES FOR VIBRANT DALTON SQUARE



**Cllr Jack Lenox
in Dalton Square**

The Charter Market moved back to Market Square after consultation with market stallholders; and the County Council reversed the temporary ban on vehicles in Dalton Square.

Bulk ward Councillor, Jack Lenox, said:

“Green councillors support the City Council’s hopes for the square to be more widely used for public and community events. There would be great benefits to it being pedestrianised.”

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW: ADDRESSES CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Local Plan, which provides the standards required in developments and buildings has been reviewed by the City Council in light of the climate emergency. New developments should protect the environment, reduce the risk of flooding, support walking and cycling and include renewable energy.

Cllr Gina Dowding said:

“The most significant proposal is a ‘Fabric First’ approach to building. This means high levels of inbuilt energy efficiency – also reducing running costs. I hope that these high environmental standards are approved by the Planning Inspectorate.”

LANCASTER TRAVEL SURVEY

The County Council conducted a travel survey of Lancaster residents. Postcards were sent to 13,600 properties in January from the contracted company, Accent.

Cllr Gina Dowding said:

“As local councillors we were not informed in advance about this survey, nor its details. I’m also disappointed that County’s timetable for improving cycling and buses has slipped, and no new date is being given. It appears that road building is being prioritised over sustainable transport measures.”

Eden North...

...was granted planning permission for a visitor attraction and environmental project in Morecambe – a major milestone in this becoming a reality.

STODDAY PICNIC AREA TO GET A MAKEOVER

Aldcliffe with Stodday Parish Council, working with Scotforth West Cllr Tim Dant, has raised £5,000 for refurbishment of the picnic area on the Lune Estuary path at Stodday. The cash is from Lancaster University Wind Turbine Fund and Lancashire County Council.



Cllr Tim Dant at the Stodday picnic site

Meanwhile the surface of the cycle way from Aldcliffe Hall Lane to Conder Green is due to be improved by the County Council. The preliminary works clearing overgrowth have started.

COULD YOU BE A TREE WARDEN?

Thanks to a new Tree Warden scheme launched by the City Council, everyone can play an active role in planting and looking after trees and woods in our neighbourhoods.

City Cllr Abi Mills said:

"This is a great initiative and training is provided. Trees and woods provide huge benefits for the whole community."

To find out more or express an interest, email millontrees@lancaster.gov.uk.

PUBLIC MEETING

Can the Power of Money Change the World?

With former Green Party MEP and
green economist

Prof. Molly Scott-Cato

Tues 8 March, 7.30-8.30pm on Zoom

Free event: everyone welcome.

More info and register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/molly8march>

COUNCIL HOUSING UPGRADES

Twenty-five council houses in Skerton have been fully refurbished. Renovations include much higher levels of insulation and air tightness to hold heat for longer. Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said:

"Tenant feedback has praised the standard and results of the new work. The council is aiming to step up the retrofit project to include another 800 homes by 2030."

Councillors also voted through the first phase of plans to create modern, low-carbon housing on the Mainway site.

GREENS CALL FOR HELP WITH ENERGY COSTS

With energy bills due to increase by over 50% for some, hitting those on low incomes hardest, Green Cllr Joanna Young led the City Council in January to call for Government action to prevent serious hardship. Cllr Young said:



Cllr Joanna Young

“The recent measures announced by the Government of small council tax rebates and upfront loans for heating bills are just not enough for those on low incomes. Green Cabinet Members are now exploring how the Council can create an exceptional hardship fund to assist those most in need. A windfall tax on the soaring profits of energy companies would be a fair way for Government to raise the money.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

- ✓ Logs used as seats and to stop vehicles driving on to Royal Albert fields have been replaced, as they were rotting
- ✓ Road markings refreshed on Ashford Rd
- ✓ Bollard replaced on Toll Bar Garage
- ✓ The sign for accessible parking outside Lancaster Methodist Church re-instated
- ✓ Barriers on the snicket from Princess Ave to Graham Street are to be replaced with more suitable ones
- ✓ Working with the Police Community Support Officer to find solutions to illegal parking on Binyon Road
- ✓ Cllr Abi and her childminded youngsters are clearing local drains when it is wet!
- ✓ County unblocked drains on Ashton Rd

Blocked drains and gulleys can be logged online: www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/

GET IN TOUCH

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