

# Green View Autumn 2010

*News and Views from  
the Green Party in  
Bulk Ward*

## County officials listen to traffic safety concerns



Problems for pedestrians at Bulk Rd./Ridge Lane junction

Green councillors were delighted that two top people from County Council Highways visited Bulk Ward in September following an invitation by County Councillor Sam Riches. The officials looked at the speeding and congestion problems on Derwent Rd, the large number of schoolchildren using this road and the difficulties caused by the build-outs. They met local councillors and residents as well as the head teacher at Christ Church School and were given a very strong message that councillors want this road sorted out and a 20mph speed limit.

The officials also walked down to the junction between Ridge Lane and Bulk Road where Bulk Green councillors have been pressing for improved safety for all those residents who walk from Newton into town. Green councillor John Whitelegg said: *“The current junction is far too wide which results in cars taking the corner from Bulk Rd into Ridge Lane very fast - making crossing difficult.”*

**Stop Press:** County officials have agreed that the pavement outside the former Salvation Army centre will be built-out to reduce the width of the junction during next year.

## Green Christmas Fair

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November  
10am - 4pm at the  
Quaker Meeting House  
(next to Lancaster rail station)



With lots of stalls, live music,  
green café & Santa's grotto.  
Admission 50p (kids free)

# Grit bins to be ready for winter

In case there's another very cold winter, the City and County Councils have been working together to try and mitigate the effects of ice and snow in the district. County Councillor Sam Riches (pictured right) said: *"New grit bins are starting to appear in various locations across Bulk ward, and I am chasing up arrangements for filling them. The county councillor in charge of highways has indicated that two additional grit bins should be provided to Bath Mill, as a result of discussions with Bulk ward Green councillors."*



*Before the winter sets in, grit bins will be filled with a mix of rock salt and sand and will have new instructions on them with the best way to use the mixture and a contact number to arrange re-fills when bins are empty.*

*We are still awaiting a statement from the government on an individual's liability if they clear snow from in-front of their home or business. Green councillors are calling for common-sense and community spirit to prevail so that everyone can do their bit without fear of being sued!"*

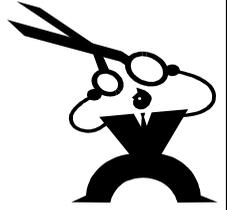
## Green St. play area

Work is now underway on the new Green St play area. The City Council removed the swings earlier this year on safety concerns and your councillors have pressed the need for a replacement play area and public open space for residents of Green St, Ridge St, Albion St and Hinde St. Green councillor Andrew Kay said: *"Greens did a survey of residents and more than 75% said that a play area was wanted. We have agreed with the council that it will provide a newly grassed area, natural play facilities and a bench."*

## Dog waste bins on the canal

A few weeks ago the waste bins on the canal tow path were removed by the city council and we received complaints about this. This was because British Waterways had ended the agreement that the council should supply and empty them. British Waterways had said they would service bins themselves. Green councillors have taken the matter up with British Waterways and received assurances that the bins will be put back. In the meantime the council has relocated as many bins as possible on council land near the canal so that waste facilities are available again.

# Greens comment on the banks and the cuts



- Reckless lending by financial institutions was the major cause of the recession and the resulting deficit. One change that should be made is to separate retail banking (what most of us use) from investment banking - and for the government then not to bail out any investment banks which fail in the future.
- The deficit has to be tackled. The question is how, and how quickly, it should be tackled. Greens favour a mix of cuts to “socially useless” expenditure such as on war and armaments (including cancelling the Trident missile system); and higher taxes on land and property which are aimed at those richest 10% of people who control 50% of the country’s wealth. We would also like to see income tax of 50% on earnings over £100,000 per year and a crack-down on tax avoidance.
- The Con-Dem government has just announced big reductions in public spending which are bound to affect local services and jobs.
- Greens are particularly opposed to cuts that affect vulnerable groups (e.g. the mentally ill) and which threaten the social fabric of our society (e.g. provision for young people, Citizen Advice Bureaux).
- In the city council we will continue to look for imaginative ways to save money, such as spending less on energy (much already achieved), on consultants, computer software and on formulating planning policy.

Green councillor Andrew Kay adds: *“A local group, Lancaster and Morecambe Against the Cuts (LMATC), has been set up to oppose wider cuts to benefits and services; and to propose alternative ways of reducing the deficit.”*

## ‘The Debt Generation’



**Weds 24th November  
7.30 pm, at the Gregson  
Centre, Moor Lane.**

*Award-winning filmmaker and BBC presenter David Malone will talk about his new book, ‘The Debt Generation’ - a scathing but highly entertaining look at why we all shouldn't be made to suffer in order to bail out the banks.*

# Bulk Rd. dereliction

*Bulk Ward green campaigner Tim Hamilton-Cox (pictured) investigates the failed development on Bulk Road.*

“Anybody who has to look out on, or collect the dust from, the heaps of spoil on Bulk Rd. has our sympathy. A local company took over the site in 2007, got planning permission for a big hotel, shops and offices and then made the site even more of a mess than it was before. The company went bust early this year. It’s typical of what’s happened widely. Bank of Scotland (now part of Lloyds Banking Group, 41 % owned by the taxpayer) loaned over £7.5m to the developer and another lender (also now bust) chipped in £1m on top. The failed developer estimates that the site is now worth £2m. It’s been put up for sale and the administrators forecast that Lloyds will make a significant loss on any deal.

If the price for the site were realistic, Bulk Greens think that the council should borrow the cash, buy the site and build affordable housing on it, using local firms and creating badly-needed construction jobs.”



Bulk Road excavation waste.

## A smoother ride

Bulk councillors have expressed delight that Dalton Rd has been resurfaced. Cllr Maia Whitelegg said: *“We have requested this work several times over the last 4 years. But we kept up the pressure and we are grateful to the council staff for the superb job that they’ve done.”*



**John Whitelegg**  
[jwhitelegg@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:jwhitelegg@lancaster.gov.uk)  
☎ 63175



**Andrew Kay**  
[akay@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:akay@lancaster.gov.uk)  
☎ 62788



**Maia Whitelegg**  
[mwhitelegg@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:mwhitelegg@lancaster.gov.uk)  
☎ 66342