

New Play Area for Green Street

Green Street is set for an innovative new 'Natural Play Area' after a survey by Bulk Green Party councillors showed over three quarters of people supported the proposals. The new facility will include a newly grassed area with a bin and bench plus a carefully arranged selection of large rocks and logs – all designed to



The current run-down play area on Green Street

encourage creative play. Councillor Sam Riches said:

"Play areas are incredibly important in densely populated areas of terraced streets and we will now work with the Council to deliver this new play area. We will also be looking to improve other play areas in the ward."

New recycling systems save £400,000 a year

From August, the new system will be: plastics, glass and tins together; paper and cardboard together.

New technology will allow these items to be separated at the recycling plant and will mean that they won't have to be separated by the recycling crew. This time-saving and getting rid of the separate plastics collection will save over £400,000 per year. A separate food waste collection is planned for the Autumn.

Council gets set for cuts

Whilst full details won't be available until the autumn, it is clear that Council services will be severely cut back in the coming years. Green Party councillor Chris Coates said:

"Obviously the country cannot keep on spending more than it receives. However, I am concerned that the Con-Dem coalition is trying to cut public services too much. I think we should be looking at some tax-raising measures such as increasing income tax to 50% for those who earn over £100,000."

"The Green Group will work hard to minimize the impact of Council cuts on vulnerable people. We want to protect money spent on important services such as the Citizens Advice Bureau. We supported a reduction in Council directors from 4 to 2 – which will eventually save well over £100,000 per year."



We couldn't resist this Lib-Dem election ad from the recent General Election.

Fairfield Urban Nature Reserve

Plans are still on track to begin work in the autumn on the proposed nature reserve between Aldcliffe Road, Fairfield and Abraham Heights. The Fairfield Association is also hoping to extend the area by raising money to buy nearby fields off Aldcliffe Road when they are auctioned in the autumn. People wanting to donate money should contact Mick Short on m.short@lancaster.ac.uk or 63890.

First Green MP

The Green Party won its first MP when Caroline Lucas was elected to the seat of Brighton Pavilion. Former green councillor Gina Dowding (right) was disappointed with her vote in Lancaster and Fleetwood – but still achieved the 8th best Green Party result nationally. Thank you to all who voted for her.



Gina Dowding

Canal Corridor Latest

It might not seem like it, but lots is going on at Lancaster's canal corridor! In January, Government inspectors rejected Centros' retail-led plans; in March, the brewery was listed – providing protection from demolition; and now the City Council is considering including the canal corridor site in a revised conservation area. Council officers have held meetings with Centros, Mitchell's and English Heritage but there have been no publicly available minutes or agendas for these meetings.

Bulk Ward Green Party councillor, John Whitelegg, said: "Centros left the Council in the lurch when it refused to support its own scheme at the public inquiry and they have made no efforts since then to engage with local residents about what should happen next. Centros should now be sacked and we should identify a community-oriented developer to come up with new plans that include affordable housing, green space, job opportunities and facilities for young people."

Missed bins, missing bins or fly-tipping can be reported to the City Council via Customer Services: 582491 or online at www.lancaster.gov.uk/a-to-z/f/flytipping/

New Ridge Allotments

Work is now well underway to create 38 new allotments on Ambleside Road. Contractors are installing an access track and security fencing. Polytunnels, tools storage and a compost toilet will then be added. The allotment project is run by Tom Fyson, based at 8 Ridge Square. Local residents wishing to be considered for a plot or wanting more information about the project should contact Tom on 01524 66100 or tom@lessuk.org.

Rose Tavern

The decision on the application to build four flats on the pub garden at the rear of the Rose Tavern was deferred at the June planning meeting for a site visit by the committee. Cllr John Whitelegg said, "I do not support this scheme. It does not improve the amenity of the area for Ullswater Rd. and Haylot Square residents, it will create parking and traffic problems and it does not meet the most pressing need which is for affordable family homes. There are many brownfield sites in Bulk on which I would be happy to see new housing for local families"

Homelessness

Over the last 6 months, John and Maia Whitelegg have been working with the Edward St homelessness centre and other agencies dealing with the homeless. Councillor Maia Whitelegg said "Contrary to official figures there is a real homelessness problem in Lancaster. When a count was carried out by homeless organisations in March this year, there were 60 individuals who had no accommodation. We are now looking at best practice to find ways to solve this problem"

Bulk 20 mph limits

Bulk Green councillors have welcomed the plan to implement a 20mph speed limit and traffic calming scheme on Quernmore Rd and East Road. However, they think that the scheme should have also included Derwent Road. Cllr Andy Kay said: "*We want a continuous 20mph limit from the Boy's Grammar, down Derwent Rd to LRGS playing fields and Christ Church and then onto the existing 20 mph limit on Keswick Rd.*" If you want to help with this or other local road safety issues, please contact John Whitelegg or Andrew Kay.

Councillor contacts ...

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