

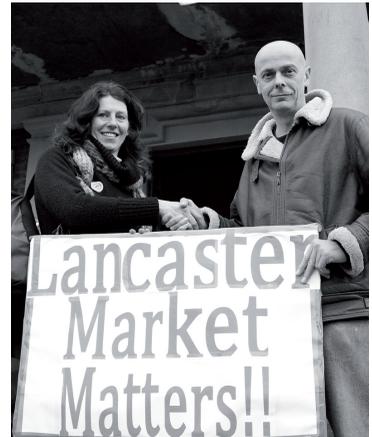
Green Motion Saves Council from Market Mess

A successful motion proposed by the Green Party resulted in the Council changing its proposal to spend well over £1 million to rent the market hall to a single trader, believed to be ASCO. Since the decision was made, ASCO has gone bust because of its debts.

If the Council had gone ahead with the deal with ASCO we would have had an empty building with nobody to occupy it.

Meanwhile the Council would still have had to pay the owners of Marketgate hundreds of thousands of pounds per year in rent.

The Council has now formed a working group, chaired by Castle Ward councillor Jon Barry, which aims to improve the market and to let more stalls. One idea that will be implemented soon is for the market office to move into an empty stall so that it is more visible for potential stallholders.



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 4th place 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/

Marsh Estate Drains

After pressure from Cllr Melanie Forrest, the County Council has placed an order for the gully grates on Cedar Road to all be replaced. There will then be a rolling programme of gully replacement for the rest of the estate, money permitting. The worst potholes in the roadways will also be repaired.

Marsh Community Centre

The Marsh Community Centre is looking for more funds because its 3-year lottery funding ends in November. Cllr Chris Coates said: *"In the current financial situation, new grants are becoming much harder to get. We have enough money to run reduced activities until March."*

Fairfield Orchard

The apple day event in Fairfield Orchard raised over £500 towards the upkeep of the orchard and the new urban nature reserve project.

Townley Close

A date of March 2011 has been set for the public inquiry into the right-of-way application for a footpath from Townley Close on Abraham Heights into the Millennium Orchard. Local councillors will speak in support of the application if needed.

Councillors go to Prison

Melanie Forrest and Jon Barry spent a morning being shown around Lancaster prison. They were highly impressed with the good work on education and programs for stopping drug addiction that is going on. Cllr Chris Coates said: *"Castle Ward councillors think that*

the castle should remain as a prison, especially with the number of local jobs at stake. The £30m cost of making the castle a tourist attraction is beyond public finances for the foreseeable future."

Canal Bin Wars

Until recently, British Waterways (BW) paid the City Council to empty bins on the canal towpath. However, BW has now said that they will deal with bins on the canal themselves (not that we think this is happening at the moment). This led to confusion and some bins were removed completely from the canal for a period. However, complaints from residents and action by local councillors led to the bins being replaced by the Council at two sites on Aldcliffe Road. However, bins are still missing in the town centre.

Boys and Girls Club

Dallas Road school is using gym facilities at the boys and girls club as well as the newly-mown field and playground.

Dallas Road Jet Wash

After complaints from residents about slippery conditions on Dallas Road pavements, councillors have asked for the area to be jet-washed to remove algae and slippery deposits from the trees.

Councillor contacts ...

Jon Barry 844113

jbarry@lancaster.gov.uk

Melanie Forrest 751717

mforrest@lancaster.gov.uk

Chris Coates 840530

ccoates@lancaster.gov.uk