

## Council house rents to go up by a massive 6.9%

At the meeting of Cabinet on 18th January the two green party cabinet members tried to stop a proposed council house rent increase. The vote went in favour of the increase because Lib Dem and Independents voted for it and Labour councillors abstained. Labour could have voted with the Greens but they sat on their hands.



## Halloween Survey

Back in October, Bulk Ward activists agreed to trial a 'Trick or Treat: Please Don't Knock' poster produced by the Lancashire police, as a result of concerns from some local residents who found it intimidating or annoying to have repeated knocks on the door from Trick or Treaters. We delivered the poster and a letter of explanation to a couple of streets in the ward, then went back a few weeks later and surveyed residents about their views. A clear majority thought the poster was a good idea, even if they had not used it themselves, and lots of suggestions were made about how to improve it. We aim to work with the police next autumn to produce a better poster, to be distributed through local shops and community centres, so that anyone who wants to display a poster can do so and Trick or Treaters can be sure that they are not causing annoyance or distress.

## Greens oppose nuclear new-build

At the December council meeting, Green Cllr John Whitelegg proposed that the city council opposes a new nuclear power station at Heysham on the grounds that it is costly, high risk and takes us away from renewable options especially wave energy and offshore wind that would create far more jobs than the nuclear option. The motion was heavily defeated by Labour, Lib Dem and Conservative councillors.

## Bulk ward Green councillor contact details

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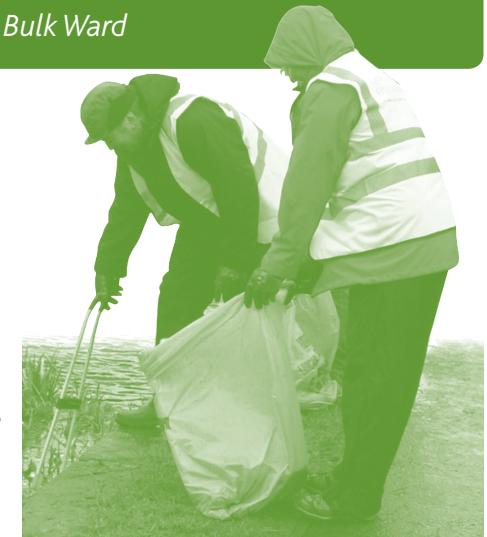
# Green View

News and Views from the Green Party in Bulk Ward

January 2011

## Big canal clean up

On Saturday 15th January, 25 local residents turned out on a cold, wet, windy morning to clean up the canal tow-path and to collect as much rubbish from the water as could be reached. The clean-up was organised by Green Cllr Andrew Kay, with help from the city council. Both he and Cllr John Whitelegg joined in the fun cleaning up a very grubby canal, and want to thank all the volunteers for the splendid turn-out.



## Centros and the canal corridor

In June 2009 the public inquiry into the Centros development plans for the canal corridor collapsed. Centros had already refused to take part and present evidence in favour of its plan and the city council did the job for them and wasted £60,000 of your money in the process. In December 2009 the government announced that all the planning applications were rejected. Green councillors have consistently argued that a community-centred development is needed for this site and that means working with the community rather than dismissing its views. The whole saga to date reflects very badly on Centros and the city council.

The period since June 2009 has seen no activity at all by Centros or the city council to start meaningful discussions with local residents about what kind of development is desirable for this site. On 18th January, and still with no attempt to take on board the views of local residents, the cabinet of Lancaster City Council agreed to carry on with Centros as the preferred developer and to deliver a Centros-designed scheme. Cllr Whitelegg and Ridge resident Tim Hamilton-Cox addressed the cabinet meeting and asked for a genuinely community-based development, working with residents as partners, and this suggestion was rejected. Green councillors will continue to argue for a development that delivers affordable homes, community and youth facilities, workshops and green space.

## County council service cuts threat

Green councillors are very concerned indeed about the possibility of cuts in frontline services and in grants to external bodies that are used by low income groups or those experiencing housing or other difficulties. Fine detail is not yet available, but at the moment it looks like services and grants provided by the City Council's budget will not be very badly affected this year.

But this may well not be the case with the County Council's budget. At the time of writing, spending reductions of £40m are needed to balance the county's budget in the next financial year – with more reductions required in future years. The County Council provides education, care for the elderly, adult social services, child protection services and much more. They are the sort of frontline services which need to be maintained, not cut. Green councillors are determined to do whatever they can to protect vulnerable citizens in this national frenzy of cuts.

## Former Rose Tavern pub garden unsold at auction

Having secured planning permission to build four flats on the site in the face of local opposition, Mitchell's put the former pub garden into auction on 9th December. The guide price was £150,000 but the bidding stopped at £97,500 and the land was withdrawn unsold.

## Low Carbon Lancaster

Tuesday 8th March, Friends Meeting House, (next to station), Lancaster. Come and hear about the range of low carbon technology projects already underway in Lancaster. 7.30pm start. All welcome.

## £50,000 sought for new play area

Owing to the recent closure of play areas in the ward, Green councillors in Bulk are looking at ways to get funding for new play facilities in the local area. Green councillor Maia Whitelegg has written a bid for £50,000 from the Community Chest fund. If successful, the money would provide play facilities geared towards young people over the age of 8 years. Consultation on potential sites for the play area in Bulk will begin over the next few weeks. This will be done via a 60-second survey to households in the ward and through consultation with local schools.

*If you want to get involved with this project, please contact Cllr Maia Whitelegg on 01524 66342 or [mwhitelegg@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:mwhitelegg@lancaster.gov.uk).*

## £150 for trees for Ridge young people

Bulk Green councillors have been involved in a project to 'green' Ridge Primary School during the past year. The project is designed by local resident and garden designer Jennifer Lauruol at Carpe Diem with the support of Children's Centre manager Sarah Hargreaves and Sue Fitt, headteacher at Ridge School.

Green councillors recently funded 16 dwarf orchard trees. (They only grow 6-8 feet tall so as to not obscure the view.) The

trees are apples, pears, cherries and plums to add to the existing ones in the Children's Centre garden. There are two trees per class plus two for each nurture group. This brings the total number of fruit trees at the site to over 50. Green Cllr Maia Whitelegg said, "The idea is to protect the children from the wind, give them shelter and create an important food source for the Ridge School and the neighbourhood as a whole."

*If you want to grow food in your own garden, LESS - which has its office at No.8 Ridge Square – will be keen to help you.*



Year 6 pupils at Ridge primary school plant fruit trees in the school grounds, with Ridge resident Tim Hamilton-Cox.

Picture by local photographer Richard Gibbaens.

## Will you struggle to pay your bills this winter?

A free LESS Home Energy Survey could help you reduce your energy use and save you money.

Contact Kathy on 01524 66100 or [kathy@lessuk.org](mailto:kathy@lessuk.org) for more information.



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