



City does Better in the Big Freeze!

Green castle ward councillors are pleased that gritting of pavements this winter, particularly around the city centre, was better than last winter (though still room for improvement!). Following a successful Council resolution calling for more grit bins and more pavement gritting by Cllr Melanie Forrest, city and county officers were more prepared for the icy weather.

The City Council's contribution was to provide six workers a day to grit pavements (these workers were provided from services such as grounds maintenance where it was impossible to work); the County Council provided the grit and some new grit bins. In the west of the city these were at Jackson Close and High Street.



Even the Lune was frozen!

Lancaster Prison

Green Councillors have condemned the Government's decision to close Lancaster Castle prison. Cllr Melanie Forrest said:

"We would of course like to see many fewer people in prison – but the best way to do this is to make sure that prisoners are given education and training to minimize re-offending. This is something that Lancaster Castle is excellent at."

Save our Forests

The government is planning a massive sell off of our national forests. They could be auctioned and fenced off, run down, logged or turned into golf courses and holiday villages. The Government says it wants to raise £3 billion by selling off 748,000 hectares of forest by 2020. Green Cllr Jude Towers said:

“One-off sales like this don’t do anything to help the ongoing budget deficit. This is simply selling off a tremendous national asset. The forestry commission not only harvests wood but it also take part in nature conservation schemes and is very good at allowing access for citizens.”

It’s Cheaper by Bus!

Green Cllr Emily Heath is a community representative on Lancaster University’s Transport Working Group. She said *“I’m pleased to report that the University has put a lot of resources into travel planning over the last few years, and has succeeded in encouraging a high proportion of staff and students to travel to campus by bus, foot, cycle or shared cars - meaning less traffic on the A6.*

For example, the cost of annual parking permits for staff recently increased from £52 to £150, and this helped to fund a reduction in the cost of bus passes from £284 to £65 pa (or free for staff on the lowest pay grades).”

More than 13% of staff now have a bus pass and around 15% of staff cycle to work (despite being out of town and up a hill!). Cllr Heath has been pushing for student bus fares to be subsidised as well. Green Councillors have

What you can do ... look at <http://saveourforests.co.uk>

Write to your MP at:

Eric Ollerenshaw, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
eric.ollerenshaw.mp@parliament.uk

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 for more information.



proposed that the City Council should implement a Green Travel Plan for its own workforce, but other councillors have always voted against this.

Renewable Energy at Halton

Lancaster Co-housing now has planning permission for a development on the Luneside Engineering site at Halton (see artist’s impression). The houses are expected to use less than a third of the energy of a house built to current UK building regulations. 34 homes will be part of the cohousing project and 6 will be sold privately. For more details see www.lancastercohousing.org.uk.

There are also plans to install 120 photo-voltaic solar panels on an adjacent industrial building, as well as a proposed Hydropower project on the nearby Forge Weir.



Help for Hackneys

Green councillors John Whitelegg and Chris Coates have been working to solve a number of problems that are making life difficult for hackney taxi drivers. Hackney taxis are allowed to pick people up from taxi ranks or if flagged down in the street. The councillors are trying to speed up the process of providing extra ranks for hackneys at the top end of town (e.g. between Common Garden St and the top of Penny St).

Greens Oppose Nuclear New-build

At the December Council meeting, Green councillor 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 way 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.

Willow Lane Litter Pick

During the recent cold spell, Cllrs Jon Barry and Melanie Forrest joined hardy citizens of Abraham Heights in a litter pick of the wooded area of Willow Lane, near the junction with Westbourne Road. A further litter pick is planned for Quay Meadow and the cycle track

Townley Footpath Inquiry

This is on March 15th, 10.00, Friends Meeting House. If you support the application please turn up and tell the inspector your views.

Residents' Parking

Residents' parking schemes in the Dallas Road, Blades Street and Aldcliffe Road areas of the ward, are starting on February 1st. If there are specific problems that cannot be sorted out by council officers, please contact your local councillors.

Fairfield Orchard

Winter working parties in the orchard are on the second Saturday of the month from 10 to 1. New volunteers are always welcome.

Luneside East Redevelopment

Council officers are hoping for progress on this scheme soon. As a first step, they are negotiating with a developer to develop the front part of the site, bordering on to the Quay. Local residents will be consulted again on how the rest of the site should look. Local councillors have

confirmed their view that the embankment on Long Marsh Lane should remain.

Buoymasters' Rail



Cllr Melanie Forrest (above) has tried to get a handrail installed on a slippery area leading from St George's Quay up to Vicarage Terrace. The County Council has installed one on the steps, but says that the gradient at the bottom is not steep enough for them to pay the costs. They have, however, agreed to jet-wash the area.

Low Carbon Lancaster

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

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