



Keep Castle Ward Green

CASTLE WARD Green Party has announced its candidates for the City Council elections on May 5th. They are hoping to continue the success since 1999 when the Green Party first won all three seats in the ward.

Councillors Jon Barry and Melanie Forrest will be standing for re-election. However, there is a new face in 2011. Tracey Kennedy has replaced Chris Coates as Chris will be standing in Scotforth West ward.

Cllr Jon Barry said *“Local Councils are under severe pressure from Government funding cuts. So far, green councillors on the City Council have played a big part in ensuring that the cuts have had the minimum impact possible. But we also need to make sure that we don’t lose valuable businesses such as those in Lancaster indoor market.”*

“The recent announcement of the Fairfield Nature reserve is tremendous news but we also need to make sure that land behind Coronation Field on the Marsh has protection, and that vital services such as the Marsh Community Centre gain continued funding.”

“In Castle Ward, we need to ensure that the new residents’ parking schemes are working properly and that residents in Fairfield are consulted about whether they want their own scheme.”

“These elections are crucial for the future of Lancaster and Castle Ward. We want to keep our area special. Please help us to do that.”



Fairfield residents and Green councillors celebrate the agreement for the new Nature Reserve.



Is this the biggest pothole in Castle Ward? Green councillors have reported a number of potholes to the County Council, including those on Canon Hill and this monster on Marsh Street. Cllr Melanie Forrest said: *“many of the roads need properly resurfacing but, in the meantime, we are pressing for the potholes to be repaired.”*

Find out more about our candidates, achievements and policies at:

www.lancastergreenparty.org.uk

Your Castle Ward Green Party candidates



Melanie Forrest has lived for many years in Sibsey Street and Westbourne Road. She works as a mental health nurse – working with and caring for people in the community. She has been active in Castle Ward since 2003, and was elected to the City Council in a by-election in 2009. She has been a trustee of Lancaster Boys and Girls Club, is a governor of Willow Lane School and attends the Council’s tenant forum meetings. She is the main councillor contact with the local community police team.



Tracey Kennedy lives on Sunnyside Lane and works from home and at a clinic in Bentham as a Traditional Chinese Medical Practitioner. Her practice includes offering acupuncture and nutritional advice to clients. She has an allotment on Fairfield and is passionate about fresh, local food. Tracey is also very concerned about equality and diversity issues – including race, age and sexuality – and about supporting small businesses. She gets plenty of exercise by being taken for walks by her new puppy!



Jon Barry has served as a Councillor in Castle Ward for the last twelve years. He has worked hard behind the scenes on much of the fundraising that has made the centre possible. On the Council, Jon is responsible for waste and recycling and for successfully reducing the Council’s energy use. This year he has been very active in reducing the effects of Government cuts and setting a 0% Council Tax freeze. He keeps fit by frantically pedaling around Salt Ayre track in 10 mile cycling time trials.

Quay bollards

Local councillors are battling with the County Council to try to get bollards reinstated at the start of the cycle track on St George’s Quay. Cars are using the track as a route to Aldcliffe and there have been some very near misses of walkers and cyclists. The County Council claims that the bollards are the responsibility of the City Council.

Canal Benches

Two replacement benches are to be erected on the canal bank. One is being funded by Abbeyfield House, to replace the broken one between Haverbreaks and the railway bridge. The other bench is being paid for by a local resident in memory of her parents. This will be placed where the road to Aldcliffe bends away from the canal.

Residents’ Parking

Councillors have completed consultations of residents in the Aldcliffe Road and Blades Street areas. The main issues raised were about difficulties in obtaining visitors’ permits, and about allowing limited waiting in addition to residents’ parking in some areas. Green councillors will be trying to get the County and City councils to address these issues in reviews of the schemes.

B&Q

B&Q has kindly agreed to supply spare wood for patients to work with at Cancer Care on Slyne Road. This followed a request from a Marsh Estate resident to a local green councillor, who then wrote to B&Q.

About the elections ...

- ✓ Voting is from 7am to 10pm on Thursday May 5th. For questions about the elections ring 582905.
- ✓ You have 3 votes for 3 councillors in Castle Ward.
- ✓ Polling stations are at Lancaster Boys and Girls Club on Dallas Road, Marsh Community Centre and the Friends Meeting House.
- ✓ If you need a lift on polling day, want to help the Green Party or put up a poster, please ring 844113.
- ✓ There will also be a referendum on whether to change the voting system for Westminster elections to ‘AV’. The Green Party thinks that AV isn’t ideal but would be an improvement on the current system. AV would mean that your vote will never be ‘wasted’ – if your 1st choice does badly, your vote is given to your 2nd choice.

Green Achievements on the Council

For the past 4 years, Lancaster City Council has had 12 Green Councillors (out of 60). Most of the important decisions are made by a cabinet of 10 councillors from 5 different parties. The Greens have played a very active role on the cabinet, whereas the Conservatives have refused to take up their seats for the past 2 years. Here are a few examples of our recent achievements:

SAFER STREETS

- Green Councillors have worked hard for many years to get 20 mph speed limits on all residential streets. The County Council now plans to introduce these throughout the whole county from 2013.
- Greens also played their part in ensuring that community police officers (PCSOs) will continue to be funded.

FREEZING COUNCIL TAX

Green Councillors have played a big part in reducing spending by the Council, resulting in a freeze in Council Tax for this year and very few cuts in services.

For example:

- £400,000 was saved by changing the way recycling is collected;
- The number of highly-paid directors was reduced from four to two;
- Energy use has been reduced by 30% at Salt Ayre sports centre, saving us all money.

A HEALTHY SOCIETY

Green Councillors have played leading roles in many social and community projects. For example:

- Anne Chapman chairs the Friendship Centre – a meeting place for older people on Robert Street.
- Jude Towers chaired the local Women's Aid group;
- Chris Coates chairs the Marsh Community Centre;
- John Whitelegg chairs the Homelessness Forum – which is pushing the Council to be more active in sorting out the problems of homeless people.

MONEY AND JOBS INTO THE DISTRICT

Green Councillors Anne Chapman and Chris Coates helped to set up and run LESS – a not-for-profit organization that helps people reduce their energy use and produce their own food.

- LESS now employs 9 people and brought in nearly £300,000 for a new allotment site on the Ridge;
- Jon Barry helped to write the successful lottery bid for £285,000 to run the Marsh Community Centre. The centre now employs 18 people;
- Green Councillors worked hard to ensure that indoor market traders were not turfed out of the market hall to make way for ASCO - who were declared bankrupt just a few weeks later!

LITTER AND RECYCLING

Green Councillor Jon Barry has had responsibility for litter and recycling as part of his cabinet role.

- Recycling rates have risen from 25% in 2007 to around 40% in 2011;
- The introduction of barrow cleaners has kept streets cleaner in urban areas;
- Greens have cleaned up many grot spots, including Lancaster Canal;
- Unlike in many other areas, none of Lancashire's waste is incinerated – instead it is processed at new 'MBT' plants. These maximise the amount of waste that is recycled and composted, and generate electricity from the methane produced by the decomposition of the remaining waste.



Want to know more?

The Green Party is (as far as we know!) the only local party that publishes a local manifesto – so you can find out more about our principles, policies and future priorities.

Please ask us if you would like a copy, or read it online at:

www.lancastergreenparty.org.uk

Castle Ward: Lots done ...



These are just a few of the activities that your Green Party councillors have been involved in since the last elections in 2007.



Green councillors have been heavily involved in running the **Marsh Community Centre** and in raising money to keep it going. Melanie Forrest has been a trustee at **Dallas Road Boys and Girls Club**.



Green councillor, Jon Barry, helped **Fairfield allotments** to raise the £30,000 needed to extend the allotments by 22 half plots.



Green councillors have made small improvements in the area - such as the new benches on the **canal** and **Coronation Field** and the basketball hoop in **Blades Street**. And they persuaded SPAR to put a drop curb in so that mobility scooters could access the shops.



Green Councillors have supported the application for a footpath from **Townley Close** into the **Millennium Orchard**. The results of the public enquiry will be known in a few weeks.



Green councillors have organised regular litter picks with local residents - for example, at Quay Meadow, far bank of the Lune, Meadow Street, Willow Lane, and the 'pads' path.



Green councillors raised £9,000 from a local charity and £4,000 from nearby developers to fund new equipment and fencing on **Willow Lane / Cedar Road** play area.

Keeping you informed

- Since 1997 we have published 4 issues of our Green View newsletter per year, every year.
- We let you know what is happening in your local area and in the city.
- Other political parties only publish their leaflets at election time. We work hard all year, every year.

Lots to do ... We will continue to

- Fight to protect the green land behind Coronation Field and the Lune industrial estate from development.
- Sort out problems with the existing residents' parking schemes and try to speed up the consultation about whether Fairfield wants its own scheme or not.
- Ensure that Castle Ward has some of the best play areas in the district.
- Consult residents on issues that affect them and make amends if things don't go according to plan.
- Work to ensure the continuation of the Marsh Community Centre if the new lottery bid is unsuccessful.
- Liaise with the community police to reduce problems of anti-social behaviour.
- Support the new Fairfield nature reserve and help to solve any difficulties that arise.
- Carry out litter picks to keep our ward looking clean and green!
- Lobby for repairs to road surfaces such as those on the Marsh and Westbourne Road.