



**Sian Berry, Co-Leader of the Green Party**

## 'Green solutions to unaffordable housing'

**Monday 18 February  
7.30 pm in the Quaker Meeting House, LA1 1TX**

Sian is an elected member of the Greater London Assembly and chairs the GLA Housing Committee.

What needs to be done locally and nationally to provide more social housing, tackle homelessness, make better use of our housing stock, give more rights to tenants, and restrain housing costs? Come and hear about radical Green ideas for a fair and sustainable society.

*Everyone welcome!*

## CONTACT YOUR GREEN COUNCILLORS

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Please get in touch about any local issue, or if you can help deliver our newsletters.

Facebook: **Lancaster Green Councillors**  
Website: **northlancs.greenparty.org.uk**

## News in Brief

### ☺ MORE COMMUNITY POLICING.

Bulk Ward now has two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs): Gareth Davies and John Jackson.

Gareth was transferred to Bulk following a serious and sustained spate of criminal damage to vehicles in the De Vitre Street area.

Tim says: "A special word of thanks to residents in that area who campaigned for the extra policing."

To report a crime or incident call 101 (999 for emergencies), or go to [www.lancashire.police.uk](http://www.lancashire.police.uk)

### ☺ ULLSWATER ROAD SHOPS

There is a new Post Office branch at The Cornershop (2 Ullswater Road).

The owner of the former Post Office at no. 81 has said that he intends to refurbish it and open a new shop in 'early 2019'.

### ☺ RESURFACING OF RIDGE ROADS

Parts of Keswick Road and Patterdale Road and all of Thirlmere Road are due to be resurfaced in the second half of February – four years after the County Council initially committed to do this!

### ☺ TEN YEARS OF FLOWERS

Green Councillors have planted bulbs in Bulk Ward every autumn since 2008.

Most recently they planted tulips and daffodils near Eskdale Terrace on Langdale Road, Newton.

Tim said: "We started ten years ago near the bungalows on Ambleside Road, and that is still probably the best display in the ward".

### ☺ BULK WARD DROP-IN

Meet your Green Cllrs in the Gregson bar on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month, 3.00-4.30 pm. Confidential space available.

Promoted by Anne Chapman, 12A Derwent Rd, LA1 3ES, on behalf of the Green Party. Printed on recycled paper by University of Cumbria Print Unit, Bowerham Road, LA1 3JD.

**Bulk Ward**

**Green View**



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## GOOD NEWS FOR MUSICIANS' CO-OP

### No eviction - but future not yet secure

In November the City Council voted unanimously to cancel the eviction notice that had been issued to the Musicians' Co-op. The Council also agreed to fund major structural repairs to the Co-op building on Lodge Street, and to negotiate a long-term lease to enable the Co-op to remain there.

Green Councillors **Tim Hamilton-Cox** and **Caroline Jackson** have supported the Co-op in meetings with the Council and external advisers throughout this difficult time.



**Green Cllrs Tim Hamilton-Cox and Caroline Jackson at the Musicians' Co-op on Lodge St**

**Tim** said: "The Council's decision was a huge relief for the Co-op after 33 years of uncertainty over the Lodge Street building. So it was frustrating that just two weeks later the Labour leader backtracked on the Council's commitment. When another cabinet member did so at December's Full Council meeting, a storm of disapproval from Co-op supporters forced the Council's Chief Executive to withdraw the eviction notice, as a first step".

**Tim** added: "I'm pleased that a funding option to address the structural issues in the building has been included in the Council's draft 2019/20 budget. We have to get that approved then agree the long-term lease, at a rent which gives the Council a return on its investment but is affordable for the Co-op."



**Lucie Carrington**

## INTRODUCING LUCIE

### Local business-woman joins Green Team

**Lucie Carrington** will be standing as a Green Party candidate in Bulk Ward in the Lancaster City Council election this May, alongside **Caroline Jackson** and **Tim Hamilton-Cox**.

Lucie grew up in Lancaster and now runs the Herbarium café and yoga studio on Great John Street, as well as helping to run a local film-makers' co-operative.

# MEET YOUR GREENS

**Caroline Jackson** has represented Bulk Ward on the City Council since 2013, and is well known as an effective and hard-working councillor.

Green View's undercover reporter finds out more about what Caroline gets up to ...



**Green Councillor Caroline Jackson.**  
*(How does she find the time?!)*

## What did you do before you were a councillor?

I was an English teacher, then Deputy Head at Ripley and Skerton High Schools, and finally Headteacher at Hornby High. Despite fighting very hard to keep the school open, sadly it was closed in 2008 and I was made redundant.

## Tell us about the voluntary work you do on the Ridge.

Every week I do some reading with year 5 children at Ridge Primary School. I also help to organise the Ridge Food Club, which provides surplus supermarket food to people who need it. I look after the finances, and do some of the driving to collect the food from Preston. The effort put in by our fantastic community volunteers is amazing. Recently we found out that around 20 local children regularly went to school without breakfast. So now we support a daily breakfast club through the community centre.

## How did you become a land-owner on the Ridge?

I used all my redundancy money and savings to buy 29 acres of land at Claver Hill, next to Central Lancaster High School. 6 acres are used for community and educational use about growing food, and about 2 acres are under cultivation, including two polytunnels. The 'Spud Club' has about 40 volunteers who grow food together, mainly on Sundays. We have had all sorts of people from at least nine countries attending – including a refugee who used to be an agricultural consultant for the United Nations!

## What other local groups are you involved with?

I am secretary of the Friends of Williamson Park; secretary of 1step2step – a charity for children with cerebral palsy; chair of Global Link – an organisation that currently co-ordinates most of the support for refugees and asylum seekers in the district; a director of the Morecambe Bay Credit Union; member of the Poverty Truth Commission, and secretary of the Lune Valley Flood Forum.

## So is there any time to go out on the town?

I do go out on the town once a month as a senior street pastor! We patrol Lancaster City Centre between 10 pm and 3 am, to support people who are vulnerable because they are drunk or are homeless. We work closely with the police on this.

## THIS IS A CLIMATE EMERGENCY!

Green Councillors co-proposed a motion for the City Council to declare a 'climate emergency' at its Full Council meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January. Supported by petitions and expert speakers, the motion called on the City Council to eliminate its use of fossil fuels by 2030, and to drive similar change across the district.

The City Council's 2018-2022 Corporate Plan had not one single mention of climate change until Tim put pressure on the Labour cabinet to include it last summer! Labour then adopted a commitment to make the Council 'zero carbon' – but only by 2050. Disappointed with the lack of urgency, in December Tim proposed a motion to enforce better energy efficiency standards for all new homes, especially those built by the Council or on Council-owned land.

**Tim** said: *"Apart from Cllrs Frea and Kay, Labour Councillors voted not to make new-build homes warmer and cheaper to run, despite the fact that Councils like Cambridge and Norwich have already done what I was proposing! Labour simply cannot be trusted to take action on climate change."*



**Green Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox**

## TIM'S SUCCESS ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Tim** reports: *"As a result of my efforts to highlight this issue, the draft Local Plan now includes provision of some affordable housing on the Canal Quarter. Previously only student housing and market-value housing were included."*

## CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL LIKELY TO BECOME AN ACADEMY

It looks likely that Central Lancaster High School (CLHS) will soon be run by The Bay Learning Trust (BLT), a local charitable company which also runs Ripley and Carnforth High Schools. CLHS will be able to apply for funding for building improvements, which is only available to academies.

**Caroline** said: *"I wish CLHS every success, but I am sad and angry that the Government is starving schools of funding so that they are forced to become academies. The Green Party believes that schools should stay under the control of local councils as essential public services"*.

## GREEN VIEW ON NEW STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Bulk ward Green Councillors believe that new student accommodation should be purpose-built. We do not want to see yet more family housing being converted into student housing.

**Tim** said: *"The draft Local Plan policy is to concentrate new student accommodation within the city centre and on campus. Greens will also be proposing that a planning application is required for all changes of use to a House in Multiple Occupation. This matters particularly on streets where student housing is becoming dominant. We are also pressing for action on what have become permanent advertising signs for accommodation."*

**Your local GREEN team – working for you all year round**