



**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 radical Green ideas for a fair and sustainable society.

**Everyone welcome!**

## News in Brief

### Hedgerows and flooding

Having been alerted by local residents, Cllr Gina Dowding has asked the County Council to check that action by a Cockerham landowner which changed some field culverts is not increasing flood risk, and that removal of hedges does not contravene regulations on wildlife protection. This is now being following up.

### New sign for River View

Road signs are a City Council responsibility (despite the County Council being the highways authority!).

A sign is now on order for River View off Tithebarn Hill.

## Contact Gina

County Cllr Gina Dowding

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Cockerham & Thurnham

# Green View



February 2019

## A smoother road for Cockerham

The date for the re-surfacing of Main Street Cockerham has been rescheduled to start on 18<sup>th</sup> February, to tie in with the school holidays. Cllr Gina Dowding said: "I know this can't come soon enough for local residents who have put up with potholes and splashing from puddles for too long."

## Greens to speak at Planning Inquiry on Local Plan

The Planning Inquiry for the City Council Local Plan, which includes Bailrigg Garden Village and other greenfield housing developments in South Lancaster, is due to start on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

Green City Councillor Abi Mills says: "Green Councillors and residents' group CLOUD will present evidence that the Local Plan in its current form is neither sound nor justified."



## LUNE LITTER PICK

Another huge pile of plastic rubbish was collected along the estuary by around 25 volunteers in the second Big Lune Estuary Litter Pick, organised by the Green Party last Autumn.



**Tim Dant**

## Loadsa bikes - big thank you!

Following a request for unwanted bikes in the last Green View, Green Party member Tim Dant says: *“Thank you to all those generous readers who donated to the City of Sanctuary Project. Thirty bikes were quickly passed on to asylum seekers and refugees. A further 25 are awaiting checks and repairs. Bikes can be life changing, especially for people who don’t have enough money for bus fares. They can now more easily get to English language classes and shops etc.”*

## Museum to re-open

The Judges Lodgings museum in Lancaster hosted a Victorian Christmas weekend in December, and will formally re-open in late March 2019 every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until early November. Green Councillor Nick Wilkinson has worked hard with the Friends of the Judges Lodgings group to make this happen.

## Green success on affordable housing

Green City Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox 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.”*

## Catch 22 for potholes on West Quay

Despite badly needing resurfacing, West Quay in Glasson Dock, (which runs from the café and shops leading to the Dalton Arms), is an ‘unadopted’ road. County will not adopt it unless its in good condition and therefore will not take responsibility for its upkeep. Gina has helped facilitate discussion between the Parish Council and County highways officers to see what can be done.

## New vegan café

Lucie Carrington (right) opened The Herbarium last summer - a vegan café on Great John Street (the former gun and fishing tackle shop on the ring road in Lancaster!).

Lucie will also be standing as a Green candidate in the City Council elections this May.



**Green women at The Herbarium: former Green Party leader Natalie Bennett (middle), with Cllr Caroline Jackson and Lucie Carrington.**

## Climate Emergency motion at City Council

As Green View goes to press, Green Councillors are backing a petition for the council to declare a climate emergency at its Full Council meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January. The petition calls on the City Council to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Gina Dowding said: *“Its important that Councils turn words and national agreements into action at a local level. One example would be a co-ordinated programme for retrofitting old housing with decent insulation and energy efficiency measures.”*

## Fracking doesn’t fit with low carbon economy

Despite massive opposition, fracking for shale gas finally started at the Preston New Road site last October and within a few weeks fracking was linked to over 30 minor earthquakes in the local area. The Government minister has rejected calls by the industry to raise the safety threshold for fracking-related earth tremors.

Meanwhile the Government still continues with plans for removing fracking decisions from local authorities. If you think local people should continue to have a say please see the ‘Let Communities Decide’ campaign website.