

This is a climate emergency!

A motion for the City Council to declare a 'climate emergency' was passed unanimously at its meeting on 30th January. The motion, which was co-proposed by Green Councillors, called on the City Council to eliminate its use of fossil fuels by 2030, and to drive similar change across the district. This should mark the start of a much more progressive approach to tackling climate change, and requires the council to set up a Climate Change Cabinet Liaison group, involving councillors, residents, young people and academics.

The City Council's 2018-2022 Corporate Plan had not one single mention of climate change - until Greens put pressure on the Labour cabinet to include it last summer.

In December, Greens proposed a motion to enforce better energy efficiency standards for all new homes, especially those built by the Council or on Council-owned land. However, almost all Labour Councillors voted not to make new-build homes cosier and cheaper to heat.



**Volunteers Peter Whittle & Ben Cooper
at the new seating area in Scotch Quarry**

Scotch Quarry Park

The park now has a seating area in the new wildflower meadow, and an extra compost bay in the garden.

A new 'Scotch Quarry Village Green' project has been launched. Find us on Facebook or email: scotchquarrycommunitygarden@gmail.com to join in the fun!

Aldi decision delayed

A decision on a planning application to demolish the B&Q store on Aldcliffe Rd and replace with an Aldi, is now expected to be made in March at the earliest.

Aldi have been asked to address concerns about the appearance of the proposed building, pedestrian connectivity, noise from refrigeration units, drainage, and the layout of the car park.

Town Centre cycle racks

Cllr Jon Barry is trying to get the cycle racks replaced on Common Garden Street. The previous ones looked like they had been hit by a very large bus!

Chancellor's Wharf

The University's plan to place gates at both ends of Chancellor's Wharf, by the canal, has been rejected by the City Council's planning committee.

How to contact us

John O'Gaunt Ward Contact
Paul Stubbins 01524 33506
paul@paulstubbins.co.uk

Scotforth West Cllr Abi Mills
01524 389069
amills@lancaster.gov.uk

CLHS academy plan

It looks likely that Central Lancaster High School (CLHS) will be joining The Bay Learning Trust (BLT), a local charitable company which also runs Ripley and Carnforth High Schools.

CLHS will then be able to apply for funding for building improvements, which is only available to academies.

Bulk Ward Green Cllr Caroline Jackson 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".

Vegan café and meeting space in town

The former gun and fishing tackle shop on Great John Street (on the one-way system) was transformed into a vegan café last summer.

The Herbarium is a multifunctional space which now offers facilities for talks, workshops, exhibitions and meetings, in addition to being a cafe, yoga studio and bar.

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.



Sian Berry, co-leader of the Green Party will give a talk on:

‘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!

Make it affordable

After lobbying from Green Councillors in Bulk Ward, the draft Local Plan for the Canal Quarter site off St Leonardsgate now includes provision of some affordable housing. Previously, only student housing and market-value housing were included.

Save Freeman’s Wood

Green Cllr Jon Barry says he will fight ‘tooth and nail’ to oppose a planning application to build 250 houses on Freeman’s Wood (adjacent to the Lune Industrial Estate on New Quay Road).

Jon said: *“I am already involved in two court cases to try to stop Satnam’s plans. It is vital that local residents object to this planning application too. Freeman’s Wood should remain as a green lung for the Marsh.”*

You can view and comment on the planning application (ref: 18/01520/OUT) on the City Council’s website. Reasons for opposing the application could include extra traffic, lack of buses, and the fact that the area is designated as a local green space. Write to the Planning Department at PO Box 4, Town Hall, LA1 1QR or dcconsultation@lancaster.gov.uk.

Look after our historic city

Green Cllr Nick Wilkinson is trying to persuade the County Council to ‘up its game’ when carrying out repair works in the City Centre Conservation Area.

Nick said: *“The quality of our city centre is being undermined by inappropriate tarmac patch repairs. We need the County Council to work with us to preserve the city’s historic feel.”*



Green Cllr Nick Wilkinson on a tarmac-patched corner of Penny Street

Bowerham bowling green planning application

A revised planning application for student flats on the bowling green was submitted in December. In essence little has changed from the previous plan, besides some re-styling of the design and increasing the number of parking spaces allocated for shop customers.

There is nothing in the new submission to mitigate the concerns raised previously about the potential impact on parking of 53 new residences, as well as highway safety and other concerns about how it will affect the character of the area. Well over 100 objections had been submitted by local residents as Green View went to print. A decision is expected in March.

Good news for Musicians’ Co-op

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 Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox, who worked hard with the Co-op to get the decision approved 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.”*