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Leader of Lancashire County Council

Lancaster Rural North - *Arkholme, Borwick, Capernwray, Carnforth, Docker, Millhead, the Kellets, Priest Hutton, Silverdale, Warton, the Yealands.*

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Hello,

This is my first update of 2022 and January has flown by. Please get in touch if you would like to know more about any of the items covered in this update or you would like to receive a copy of the updates directly.

New Deal for a Greater Lancashire - For months, Council Leaders across Lancashire have been working together to develop a County Deal proposal to present to government that is bold, ambitious and will benefit all parts of Lancashire.

For the first time, all of Lancashire's 15 Council leaders have agreed there is a need to create a formal body so there is a collective voice to make the case for more powers for Lancashire.



This body will develop a bold and clear set of proposals that will see powers and funding devolved to Lancashire, giving us more control over key areas including economic growth and investment, transport and infrastructure, education, skills and employment, and environment and housing.

Each of these areas for investment will deliver tangible, real world results that residents will be able to see, understand and share the benefits of and leaders will be seeking substantial additional funding to deliver these themes.

What are the new governance arrangements? There is an agreement amongst leaders to develop a new, formal body to help drive forward the plans. The body they create will adhere to a set of clear agreed principles and bring them together in a genuine partnership for the benefit of residents so that everyone has their say.

What this is not - It is important to be clear on what these proposals do **not** represent.

- This isn't about one area having a bigger voice than others – **it's about the county, unitary and district councils coming together with one, unified voice.**
- This isn't about merging or abolishing councils – **each local authority will remain as is.**
- This isn't about imposing a specific model of governance – **it is about looking at all the options and reaching consensus on what is best for Lancashire.**
- It's not about reducing local decision-making – **it's about devolving decision-making from Whitehall to Lancashire – and local councils will still be the decision makers on the delivery of statutory and non-statutory/discretionary services.**

To find out more visit <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/newdeal>



Lancashire County Council Local Member Grants - As your County Councillor I have access to a grant of £2000 per annum to support local community projects in my area. Groups wishing to apply can find an application form and guidance here: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/.../local-member-grants.../>

The process is quick and straightforward but for any queries you can email: LPTlocalmembergrants@lancashire.gov.uk or phone: 01772 530078

Flood Mitigation work in Carnforth - On 20 January 2021, Lancashire County Council's cabinet approved investment in 10 new projects to tackle problems with flooding across the county. One of the schemes involves investing £100,000 to look at resizing a culvert that runs from Back Lane through to Kellet Road in Carnforth. We know all too well the devastating impact which flooding can have, and flood mitigation work is often complex and time-consuming. No solution can completely remove the risk of flooding, nevertheless this investment will make a significant difference to residents.



The Flood Hub website at www.thefloodhub.co.uk is a joint initiative developed by the Environment Agency, United Utilities, and the Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, and Cheshire Strategic Flood Partnerships. The website is full of useful information about their work, wider research on flooding, as well as practical information and support. They also issue a regular newsletter which may be of interest.

If you are affected by flooding at any time – here are some useful emergency links and contacts:

- **Lancashire Police: 999** If there is an immediate risk to life call the police, otherwise 101 is the non-emergency number
- **Environment Agency Incident Hotline: 0800 80 70 60**
- **Environment Agency Floodline: 0345 988 1188** To report a flood or if your property is at risk of flooding
- **United Utilities - 0345 6723 723** If flooding is from sewers or burst water mains
- **Power cuts: 105** Call this number to report a power cut or get updates when your electricity has been cut off. You can find more [flooding advice](#) from **Electricity Northwest** and their [priority services register](#) for customers who may need extra support during a power cut.
- **Lancashire County Council: 0300 123 6780** If flooding is from highway drainage, surface water, groundwater, or watercourses
- **Lancaster City Council** will be able to give you advice on any government support or flood resilience grants available to homeowners and businesses affected by flooding.
- You can also sign up to flood warnings: www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

Post Office Outreach Service at the Village Hall, Church Bank, Over Kellet - The Post Office have introduced a new permanent Post Office Outreach Service at Over Kellet Village Hall, Church Bank, Over Kellet, Carnforth, LA6 1DT. The weekly service will begin on Tuesday 15 February 2022 from 2pm – 4pm.

There will be a dedicated Post Office serving position located within Over Kellet Village Hall and a range of Post Office products and services will be available for this weekly service.

Your views - Whilst the decision has already been made to re-open the Over Kellet Post Office Outreach service, the post office would still like views on access and the service offer at the village hall. They have launched an online survey which can be found here: <https://www.postofficeviews.co.uk/national-consultation-team/over-kellet-la6-1bu-195418/consultation/intro/>

Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan - Lancaster City Council is consulting on the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan for six weeks from 4 February 2022 to 18 March 2022. Once this has ended, Lancaster City Council will submit the plan and all associated comments to an independent planning inspectorate. Full details on the City Council's website here: <https://keepconnected.lancaster.gov.uk/carnforth-neighbourhood-plan-consultation> Please do take this opportunity to have your say.



Do something incredible! Every day foster carers are doing something incredible by making a difference to the lives of children and young people.

With around 20 new children coming into care in Lancashire each week, the County Council are always keen to recruit new foster carers. Could you help a young person reach their full potential? If so, get in touch: www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering/can-i-foster/ or call 0300 123 6723.

There is no typical foster carer, and you don't need any special qualifications. It is personal qualities that count such as patience, flexibility, understanding, determination, and willingness to learn. So, whatever your race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age, and employment status, to be eligible to foster, you just have to be over 21, have a spare room, for the sole use of a child you look after, have lived in the UK for the last 6 months and speak, read, and write English fluently, or be willing to develop this.

More care workers urgently being recruited across Lancashire

- A campaign to urgently recruit temporary care workers for older people and adults with disabilities has launched across Lancashire. The aim is to employ more paid workers to support people throughout the current wave of Covid cases sparked by the Omicron variant.

The rise in cases caused by Omicron has had an enormous impact on health and social care across Lancashire, and the sheer number of staff having to self-isolate is reducing the staff available.

Jobs on offer include a variety of roles at the council and independent care providers. Workers will be needed throughout January and February, and possibly beyond. People who have previously worked in social care and those with no previous experience in the sector can apply and must be fully vaccinated (with at least two doses of the vaccine). Find out more information on Lancashire County Council's website.



Avian Flu - You may be aware from the national media about the spread of Avian Flu across the country with the highest numbers of outbreaks on record in a year.

This has led to the declaration of an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) on the 3 November 2021 which means that it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers across the UK (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) to keep their birds indoors and follow strict biosecurity measures.

Lancashire County Council's Trading Standards team are responsible for enforcing the active declarations and the national Avian Influenza Prevention Zone controls across the county. They are dealing with daily complaints and intelligence reports on non-compliance with the requirements to house all poultry and captive birds and have bio-security controls in place.

There have been 5 cases of Avian Flu identified in Lancashire so far - the first two were at Salwick and Kirkham and have now been dealt with and all surveillance activities completed. The three ongoing cases are at premises in Clitheroe, Preesall, and Upholland. In each case all the birds on the infected premises have been humanely culled and a 3km Protection Zone and 10km Surveillance Zone put in place around the premises for a specific time period. **You can access the Animal Plant and Health Agency Interactive Disease Map showing these sites through the following link, which gives a visual picture of the current zones:** [APHA Interactive Disease Map](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/living-well-with-ms-in-lancashire-tickets-230766417567).

The risk to the wider public from avian flu continues to be very low. However, to protect yourself, you should not touch sick or dead birds.



Living Well with MS - Are you recently diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis or need more information on living well and what services and support are available?

Saturday 12 February 2022 from 10.30am to 2.45pm

A virtual event via Zoom – free of charge – book your place now by following this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/living-well-with-ms-in-lancashire-tickets-230766417567> or ring 020 8438 0753

The MS Society groups across Lancashire invite you to join this free event where they will be exploring topics such as managing fatigue, finance, and the benefits of both nutrition and exercise.

The Lancaster Morecambe and District MS Group subsidise a talking therapy service; provide an MS support team who are available for a chat and advice and on Monday afternoons 13.00pm -15.00pm hold a neuro physio exercise class followed by drinks and a chat.

For further information call **07944892073 / 03003657554** or email lancastermorecambe@mssociety.org.uk

Or call the MS Helpline: 0808 800 8000 (Freephone); helpline@mssociety.org.uk - www.mssociety.org.uk

Highways... M6 Junction 36 Resurfacing - You may have noticed that National Highways are currently repairing sections of the M6 carriageway at junction 36 southbound. These repairs include surfacing and replacing the road markings and road studs. Work started on 10 January and will run for around five weeks between 8pm and 6am. There are signed diversion routes in place and if you have any queries on this work, you can contact National Highways on 0300 123 5000 or email info@highwaysengland.co.uk.

Safer roads initiative A683 between M6 Junction 34 and A65 Bentinck Drive - In 2021, work was undertaken to deliver new high reflective road markings and solar powered LED studs along the length of the A683. Unfortunately, due to global supply chain issues not all the LED studs could be installed, so a second visit is needed to finish the work. This will start on the 28 February 2022 (weather permitting) and will take around 3 weeks to complete. A temporary road closure will be in place nightly Monday to Friday between 8pm and 6am for the duration of the work.

The scheme is part of the Safer Roads Programme, a £7.9m investment to improve safety on five A-roads identified by the Department for Transport as Lancashire's historically most dangerous routes.

Winter Maintenance... For the latest updates on:

- **Gritting** – go to:
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter/gritting/updates>
- **Traffic** – go to: <http://www.trafficengland.com>
- Also, follow #LancsWinter on twitter

And let Highways know if you spot a pothole, your grit bin is running empty, or you want to ask for a new bin. Just go to:

- **Request a grit bin or report an empty bin** at:
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter/gritting/grit-bins>
- **Report a pothole** at: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/pothole>



Some policing news.... Working with Rural Communities Event - Friday 11th February 2022 from 9am – 1pm at the Lancaster House Hotel, Lancaster. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Lancashire Constabulary in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and the Lancashire Partnership Against Crime are hosting an event to officially introduce their Rural Task Force. They will discuss how they plan to police rural Lancashire tackling rural, wildlife and heritage crime with the support of local communities over the next 12 months. Places are limited – so to book your FREE delegate place and register visit www.lanpac.co.uk

StreetSafe - This is a new online tool launched by the Home Office and the National Police Chiefs' Council, which is now available in Lancashire as part of a pilot project scheduled to run until March 2022.

StreetSafe is not a crime reporting tool but aims to identify areas that need improving or where there are fears about anti-social behaviour or other issues which may contribute to making an area feel unsafe. The new online tool is easy to use and includes a short series of questions which Lancashire residents can anonymously complete online. For further information visit www.lancashire.police.uk/help-advice/personal-safety/street-safe/.



Operation Snap - This is a new initiative to target dangerous drivers by introducing a new dashcam submission system to enable members of the public to send in video evidence to Lancashire Police to help investigations, reduce dangerous driving and increase road safety.

The new tool means residents who have witnessed an incident, which is not a collision and therefore often not reported, can submit footage that they believe evidences a moving traffic offence.

The police are taking a phased approach to the rollout across the county, so watch this space for news of the roll out in our area.

I hope you found this update interesting and helpful. Please keep in touch and stay safe and well.

Best wishes,

Phillippa Williamson
February 2022