



County Councillor Philippa Williamson
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,

More news from across the area in this month's update. I hope you find this of interest and helpful.



Warton Mires - The Warton Mires project is led by the RSPB with support from Lancashire County Council, Lancaster City Council, Natural England, the AONB, and the Environment Agency.

The project is planning a nature-based solution to improve the resilience of a local community and reverse the fortunes of threatened habitats and species in a protected landscape. This will involve constructing flood alleviation infrastructure, creating a wetland habitat, and upgrading the footpath on the site which connects Warton and Millhead.

The project team is currently finalising a detailed design of the wetland habitat which will include a lagoon, islands, scrapes, foot drains, a low bund, sluices, and planting.

Throughout the project, the project team has been liaising with the Warton Flood Action Group and members of Warton Parish Council about the plans. Wider consultation with the village community is planned and to support this engagement a virtual model of Warton Mires is being developed.

Planning permission and funding for the scheme is being sought and depending on how these progress it is estimated that construction of the wetland could start in 2024. Due to the ground conditions on the site, construction can only take place during the summer months.

If you would like to know more about the project, please contact Jane Birch, Senior Project Manager, RSPB: jane.birch@rspb.org.uk



Great British Rail HQ - Despite widespread community support, unfortunately, Carnforth's bid to become the national headquarters for Great British Railways has not been shortlisted and will not be progressing further in the national competition which attracted 42 entries. The confirmed shortlisted towns and cities are Birmingham, Crewe, Derby, Doncaster, Newcastle upon Tyne, and York.

As part the Department of Transport's commitment to delivering rail reform to the places and communities the railway serves, the information provided as part of the bid will be used in future planning. So, the work that went into the bid and the publicity it received will ensure that Carnforth is best placed to take any future opportunities to promote rail and rail heritage in the area.

Problem Parking - Lancashire County Council's parking team is available to address parking issues across the county. The parking team have been carrying out some targeted work over the last few weeks to crack down on problem parking near Carnforth Railway Station as residents recently reported to the council that vehicles parked on double yellow lines on the bridge over the railway on Warton Road were causing a safety problem, particularly due to the reduced visibility as drivers negotiate the hump-backed bridge.

This has led to an increase in enforcement of the double yellow lines, including during the evening, with penalties being issued to a small number of vehicles. The action appears to have had the desired deterrent effect with fewer problems now being noted, however the county council is due to keep up enforcement to help get the message across to everyone that this is not a safe place to leave your vehicle.

You can report concerns (and photographs are welcome) to: Parkingenforcement@lancashire.gov.uk or via the website at: <https://clickquestion.lancashire.gov.uk/runQuestionnaire.asp>



Report it on the go - Remember you can now report highways issues on your mobile phone using the new Love Clean Streets App. Initially the app is only able to accept reports for potholes, streetlights, and flooding/blocked drains. Other issues, can be reported on the [Report It website](#), and will be added to the app in the coming months.

The app is easy to use and your issue can be logged in seconds. The reports come to County Highways in the usual way, but you will be able to report issues on-the-go on your mobile whilst you're out and about. You will also be able to keep up to date on progress of your report via the app. The app is free to download. Simply search for '**Love Clean Streets**' on the App Store or Google Play Store on your mobile phone and set Lancashire County Council as your home authority.

The Lancashire Choir of the Year competition – There is still time to enter this free competition to find the best community choir in Lancashire.

The deadline for entries is 31 July 2022 and the competition is open to any community choir based within the postcode boundaries of Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackpool Council. Entry is also open to school choirs whose members are all aged 12 and over. The full terms and conditions are at: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/choir-of-the-year/terms> and if you have any questions - please email: ChoirOfTheYear@lancashire.gov.uk



Homes For Ukraine Helpline - Over 700 people across Lancashire have opened their homes to Ukrainian guests. Lancashire County Council's Refugee Integration Team operate a helpline to supplement the support they provide. The helpline number is 0300 123 6718 and is open from 9am until 5pm, Monday to Friday. The helpline is accessible to Sponsors and Guests in English and Ukrainian. Several of the new team are Ukrainian themselves and have come through the scheme.

To find out more about the 'Homes for Ukraine scheme' and how else you can help the people of Ukraine, visit: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/ukraine/>

Financial Support Calculator - You will have seen and heard in the news about additional financial support available to help with the current cost of living increases. You can see what financial support you might be eligible for with a new calculator published on the government's website. Just follow this link: <https://www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support>

Scams: Staying Safe - Trading Standards are highlighting a number of text and email scams relating to the energy regulator Ofgem. The text/email message claiming to be from Ofgem provides a link to follow to enable recipients 'application to be completed' for the £400 government scheme refund. Clicking on the link brings you to a scam Ofgem branded page and you are asked for personal details to set up a direct debit.

This is a phishing scam designed to steal your personal and financial information. The government refund scheme will be applied automatically to energy bills in October. You do not have to apply for it or claim it and Customers with pre-payment meters will have the money applied to their meter or paid via a voucher.

Further information about current scams can be found on Lancashire Trading Standards Facebook page, www.facebook.com/St StanleyDards/ and if you wish to report any details of phishing scams, they can be forwarded to the National Cyber Security Centre at report@phishing.gov.uk

Lancashire and South Cumbria Health and Care Partnership - On 1 July, a new era for health and care services across Lancashire and South Cumbria began with the creation of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Health and Care Partnership.

For years, services such as social care, GP practices, hospitals and public health were run by separate organisations with different objectives. However, Local authorities and health services will now come together more formally as part of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Health and Care Partnership.

The partnership will be led by Lancashire and Cumbria's local authorities with the key goals of providing better health services in the heart of our communities, relieving pressure on the NHS, ensuring services are not duplicated by different organisations and delivering better health outcomes. The partnership will also have huge input from the Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise Sector.

Eight NHS clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) that have been responsible for overseeing local NHS services for more than a decade are being formally shut down. They are being replaced as part of the changes, by the 'NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)' also known as 'NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria'. This new organisation will be responsible for NHS spending and the day-to-day running of the NHS in Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Consultation on Pan-Lancashire draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022 - Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a statement of the needs for pharmaceutical services of the population in their area.

This is referred to as a pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) and describes the needs for pharmacy services across Lancashire. It includes information on:

- pharmacies across Lancashire and the services they currently provide, including a map of providers.
- pharmaceutical contractors in neighbouring areas.
- potential gaps in provision and likely future needs for the population.
- opportunities for existing pharmacies to provide local public health services.



In accordance with national regulations, the PNA must be updated every three years. The 2022 PNA has now been prepared for formal consultation and the consultation will run from **Friday 1 July 2022 to Thursday 1 September 2022**.



Each month the County Council's Cabinet meets to make decisions on a range of projects which affect residents and businesses across Lancashire.

Some decisions impact everyone in Lancashire, others are local to specific localities. Those which will be of interest to our area are outlined here:

- **Morecambe Road School in Lancaster** - This is a decision to approve the expansion of Morecambe Road School following the completion of a formal consultation. The move is part of a wider strategy to improve provision for children with SEN across Lancashire. Read more here: <https://gloo.to/6G9y>
- **New increased allowances for fostering and adoption panel members** - To help the county council recruit skilled and experienced fostering and adoption panel members, new increased allowances are set to be introduced. These panels have an absolutely crucial role to play in ensuring children and young people have the best start in life and through into adulthood. The allowances have not been revisited for several years and it is crucial to attract and keep members who have specialist knowledge in the field.
- **New 'Staying Put' arrangements** - These will ensure financial support for people who have been foster carers remains in place for the first year in the event a young person continues to live with them after the foster placement has ended. Many young people stay with carers who have fostered them after they turn 18. They are family and it is important these ties are nurtured. The reviewed financial arrangements ensure carers and those being cared for have continuity in the familiar family setting, so that support for each young person can continue into adulthood.



Policing - Anti-Social Behaviour Survey - Police and Crime Commissioner Andrew Snowden has launched a county wide anti-social behaviour (ASB) survey.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) can take many forms including intimidating and aggressive groups, drug dealing in residential areas, damage, graffiti, and the anti-social use of vehicles. What they all have in common is that they are a blight on communities and make people feel unsafe in their homes and on the streets.

The aim of this survey is to get a full picture of the scale and types of anti-social behaviour, to identify hotspots and look at how the police and local partners can work better together to keep communities safe. Resident's answers will help to ensure that the right resources can be targeted to the areas where they are needed and that all Lancashire residents receive the support and policing service they deserve.

You can share your views at www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour-survey or follow this link to have your say: <https://consultation.lancashire.gov.uk/responses/response.asp?ID=431>

Street Safe - Lancashire Constabulary are also supporting the Government's StreetSafe online tool that lets people anonymously pinpoint on a map a location where they don't feel safe.

The tool is available on the Police UK website: www.police.uk/streetsafe

StreetSafe has been introduced to tackle violence against women and girls and identify areas where there are fears caused by other things such as anti-social behaviour and environmental issues.

Anyone who has concerns about a location is encouraged to flag it through the easy-to-use tool which includes a short series of sections to complete, with guidance every step of the way. To pinpoint the area of concern, you can place a pin in the online map or enter the location.

The information reported will be considered alongside the extensive evidence base already gathered by police forces and used to inform the community safety activities of police and partner agencies such as the County Council and other local authorities.

No crime needs to have been committed to enable you to indicate where you feel unsafe, and it is important to remember that the StreetSafe tool should not be used to report crimes. In an emergency, where lives are in immediate danger or a crime is in progress, please dial [999](tel:999).



A Life Less Ordinary - An adoption campaign to find parents for children who face the greatest delays in finding a permanent home has launched. These include children aged 5 or over, children with additional and/or complex needs, brother and sister groups, and those from an ethnic minority background.

The most recent figures show that children from these groups represent 63% of the 270 children currently waiting to be placed with a family in the North West, with over 100 children from these groups waiting for 18 months or longer to be placed.

Most potential adopters already have the skills and attributes they need to change the course of these children's lives. While it might not always be easy, support is available, and adoption is so rewarding. For more information about A Life Less Ordinary, and to view a short film about the campaign visit www.adoptionlancashireblackpool.org.uk/a-life-less-ordinary/

And finally, as ever please keep in touch. If I can be of help or if you would like to receive a copy of my monthly parish update directly, please just let me know.

Phillippa Williamson
July 2022