



Lancaster Rural North News - Jan 24

Latest news from County Councillor Phillippa Williamson

Arkholme, Borwick, Capernwray, Carnforth, Crag Bank, The Kellets, Priest Hutton, Warton, The Yealands

Devolution Deal heralds new era for Lancashire

A landmark devolution deal, agreed by the Government, will mean more investment, opportunities and better services for local people and give local communities more say on the things that really matter.

Residents and businesses are being asked to have their say on the plans, which would create a new Combined County Authority.

Included in the deal are proposals on improving public transport, boosting economic prosperity and skills, with views also sought on 'net zero', culture and tourism and the county's digital future.

The deal, if given final approval, will drive investment, help attract new jobs and training opportunities, and allow Lancashire to have more say over how services are delivered locally.

The deal will not however change existing democratic structures across the county or mean a directly elected mayor is needed. It will also not cost residents a penny more in council tax.

The county council is keen to hear what residents think about the draft devolution proposal to make sure the deal meets the aspirations and priorities of the county.

The consultation will run until 26 January 2024 and you can find out more and share your views by visiting www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk/consultation.

If you prefer to complete a paper survey these are available at all libraries or by calling 0300 123 6782. Also, alternative versions such as braille or another language are available by emailing devolution@lancashire.gov.uk

In person public information sessions are also being held. More details on dates and venues can be found at: www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk

To keep up to date about the Lancashire devolution proposal you can sign up for the council's newsletter and follow official social media channels related to the devolution deal.



Have your say - the consultation closes on 26 January 2024.



County Council Leader & Jacob Young MP Minister for Devolution at the deal signing in Lancaster Castle.

Local policing news..

Chief Constable Chris Rowley announced his retirement after over 31 years in policing. Mr Rowley joined Lancashire in April 2021 and will retire at the end of March. The process to appoint a new Chief Constable is underway.

Nice2Share - If you have CCTV at your home or business, you can register with Nice2Share, Lancashire Constabulary's Community Portal to help them deter and solve crimes quicker.

The portal holds locations of potential video footage across the county which the police can ask to see to help their work and secure more prosecutions. The service is free and entirely voluntary and you can register at: www.lancashire.police.uk/contact-us/register-your-camera/nice2share.

The local Rural Task Force are tackling thefts of fuel, equestrian vehicles and equipment, and metals in our area.

Residents are asked to help deter fuel thieves by fitting anti-siphon devices in large vehicles and securing fuel tanks with close shackle padlocks. Horse owners are advised to keep equipment in a secure, lockable place and to have a 'tack' inventory to help tracing if it is stolen.

Theft of metals in the area has included lead/copper pipes, iron gates, manhole

covers, catalytic converters, lightening conductors and metal garden ornaments.

As part of Operation Warrior which is targeting serious and organised crime in Lancashire, police uncovered a cannabis farm in the former Barclays Bank in Morecambe. Cannabis farms bring crime, violence and intimidation into an area and police are asking residents to report any buildings where there is a distinctive smell of cannabis, signs of extensive lighting and ventilation kit, comings and goings at odd hours and blacked out windows.

Caring and Campaigning for our Community

Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund 'Crowdfund Lancashire'

Do you have an idea for a project to improve culture or sport in your community? The winter round for Crowdfund Lancashire applications is now open until 14 February 2024.

Crowdfund Lancashire gives local communities a chance to create and support the projects which matter most to them. It enables everyone to contribute - chipping in as little as £2 to help bring ideas to life with the County Council matching any funds raised by up to £20,000. Parish and Town Councils can take part too, with up to £5,000 available to match any projects. Also individuals or businesses with ideas which benefit their community could get £1,500 towards their crowdfunding campaigns.

Check your project idea is eligible for a pledge from the fund and find out more on the county council's website. If you need any help, email the crowdfund team at: lcsf@lancashire.gov.uk



Crowdfund Lancashire - supporting local communities deliver sport and cultural projects which matter most to them.

Lancashire 4 Communities Funding Portal

Looking for a source of funding for a local community project?

Potential grant funding opportunities can now be accessed on the new, free-to-use Lancashire County Council 4 Community online search tool. To register and find out more go to: <https://funding.idoxopen4community.co.uk/lancashirecc> where help and advice on making a funding application is available.

For additional information on local statistics to support any grant application visit: www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight

And for further advice or support with funding bids and community projects contact the county council's communities team on 01772 530650 or communitiesteam@lancashire.gov.uk

More news in brief



Warm & welcome at our local libraries

Enjoy a cuppa at your library whilst accessing the free computers and Wi-Fi, charging digital equipment, reading, as well as learning about local events and activities.

Aside from improving the services the libraries offer, this is part of a wider package of wellbeing support which you can learn more about at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/cost-of-living



National Databank – Free SIM Cards

Our libraries are also part of the National Databank scheme to promote digital inclusion. The scheme provides free SIM cards (loaded with mobile data, minutes and text) from Virgin Media, O2, Vodafone and Three.

The cards are subject to qualifying criteria, and more information is available at all libraries.



Greener future

The County Council looks after over 4000 miles of highway - much of which has trees growing along it. A new tree management plan means when trees reach the end of their natural life or are diseased, they can be replaced with new saplings in a suitable location. In addition, the council is investing a further £300,000 in woods, urban greenspaces and community orchards across the county.



Unique Volunteering Opportunities

Lancashire Volunteer Partnership has new opportunities to work at 'unique' county landmarks such as the Judges' Lodgings in Lancaster.

No experience or qualifications are needed, just enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. Find out more at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums/volunteering-at-lancashire-museums

Extra £3.6m on roads to kick off 2024

Pothole problems on local roads are set to be tackled thanks to a funding boost.

Lancashire County Council has been given £3.6m more by the government to spend on vital repairs to improve roads and drainage where they're most needed. Funding will also be allocated to replace aging streetlight columns and a roundabout resurfacing scheme.

So, remember to keep reporting any highways issues using the 'Love Clean Streets' App. Available from the App Store or Google Play Store, just set Lancashire County Council as your home

PHILLIPPA WILLIAMSON - YOUR LOCAL COUNTY COUNCILLOR

LANCASTER RURAL NORTH

I am proud to represent and support the residents and businesses across Lancaster Rural North.

Please get in touch if you have concerns about the roads, flooding, planning, our visitor economy, our environment and much more. I am happy to help if I can.

Also - if you would like to receive future copies of this newsletter by email, please just let me know.



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